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PLACITAS ARTISTS SERIES PRESENTS *DISCOVERING THE MUSIC OF PAINTINGS*

**June 9, 2024 3:00 p.m.
Las Placitas Presbyterian Church**

MAY 17, 2024 – What do you get when you assemble a trio of improvising musicians, a creative conductor, an abstract painting and a participatory audience all together on a Sunday afternoon in Placitas?

Interested individuals can find out by attending *Discovering the Music of Paintings*, an upcoming fundraiser presented by the Placitas Artists Series. The interactive program will feature conductor and arts educator Oliver Prezant, violinist Carla Kountoupes, clarinetist Jerry Weimer, and cellist Katie Harlow. The event will take place in the fellowship hall of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, with a pre-event reception beginning at 2 p.m. The church is located at 7 Paseo De San Antonio Rd. in Placitas.

The painting that participants will be exploring together is a large and colorful abstract work by well-known Placitas artist Dianna Shomaker, who has won numerous awards and has been designated a “Local Treasure” and “Living Legend.”

The event is structured in a way that allows Prezant to elicit audience impressions of the painting as he guides their attention to various aspects of the work, exploring the expressive implications of line, shape, color, texture and mood. Prezant and the musicians listen to the audience’s observations and develop musical ideas based on that input.

“Our focus is on the audience’s relationship to the work of art, so musical style is not the first consideration,” Prezant said. “Ultimately, the painting becomes a ‘musical score’ that I can conduct from, and everyone has been a part of the creative process.”

“We’re very excited to be able to present this program in Placitas – and to be working with one of Dianna Shomaker’s vibrant, expressive, abstract paintings,” Prezant continued. “Art and music are always a part of Placitas Artists Series events, so this *Discovering the Music of Paintings* program, which brings art, music and the audience together, seems like a natural fit.”

Wendy Wilkins, PAS board president, has attended several of Prezant’s *Discovering* programs, which featured the music of Bach, Mozart and other composers. “Audience members, whether seasoned or novice concert-goers, come away with a new and deeper understanding of musical artistry, Wilkins said. “And now, with the addition of a visual art component, the ‘discovery’ encompasses a new and exciting dimension of creative work.”

The cost to attend this fundraising event is \$75 per person, which includes \$35 in tax-deductible donation to the PAS endowment fund.

For tickets and additional details, go to the PAS website at placitasarts.org.

For more about other programs with Oliver Prezant and selected musicians, artists and poets, visit the Opus OP website at oliverprezant.com.

For more about Dianna Shomaker and her art, visit her website at diannashomaker.com.

Musician Bios:

Conductor and arts educator **Oliver Prezant** was the music director and conductor of the Santa Fe Community Orchestra for 20 years and has taught at College of Santa Fe and Santa Fe University of Art and Design. He has presented lectures and education programs for the Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Albuquerque and the National Hispanic Cultural Center, as well as programs on art and music for the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, and the New Mexico Museum of Art.

Carla Kountoupes, violinist, is a member of the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Arizona Opera Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, and Piazzolla da Camera Piano Trio. Carla has toured and performed professionally with orchestras and chamber ensembles in Central America, Taiwan, Germany, and all over the United States, including as a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco and the Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys performing and recording many genres in addition to classical, including Latin/world, alt-rock/pop, and jazz. A dedicated music educator, Carla is on the faculty at the New Mexico School for the Arts. She is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory (Violin

Performance) and Oberlin College (English Literature). Carla's violin was made in the 1740s and was inherited from her grandfather.

Jerry Weimer is a composer and clarinetist who has been a part of the Santa Fe music scene since 2001. Known for his unique sound, stylistic versatility, and compelling improvisations, Jerry is a regular presence in the Jazz and Latin music communities of Northern New Mexico and was a featured soloist with the Santa Fe Community Orchestra in Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 1. He has collaborated with many local artists, including Nacha Mendez, Joaquin Gallegos, Jono Manson, Nosotros, Rumelia, John Rangel, the Shiners Club Jazz Band, Revózo, and Victor Alvarez's SAVOR. Recent performances include Le Carnaval des Animaux with the National Dance Institute, and Amane, with Joe Hay, Words in the Wind, with Melanie Monsour, and Zozobra in 2021. Jerry is a graduate of the College of Santa Fe where he studied with Eddie Daniels.

Katie Harlow, cellist, has performed on cello, mandolin, accordion, and viola da gamba in numerous symphonic, chamber, early, folk, and improvised music ensembles, including the Santa Fe Symphony, the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, New Music New Mexico, the New Mexico Women Composer's Guild, Opera Southwest, the early music groups Three Bass Blondes and the Boxwood Consort, the improvising music ensembles Out of Context and Playroom, the Bill Horvitz Band (jazz and new music), Cicadas, a mandolin ensemble, the folk music groups Bailiwick and Caledonia, and the band Basement Dancing. In addition, she has created arrangements and compositions for concerts, recordings, and theater productions. Katie holds a Bachelors in Cello Pedagogy and a Masters in Music Education from the University of New Mexico, and was on the faculty of Albuquerque Academy for many years.

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