

THE PRAIRIE WINDS

Since 1996, The Prairie Winds have been known for the unique talent of presenting concert programs which not only educate but entertain. Spiced with humor, members of the ensemble share from the stage a blend of intriguing background information combined with masterful musical technique. Their playing may be revisited on Albany Records.

Music festivals have been an important part of the group's musical life: the Ravinia, the Juneau Jazz and Classics and the Britt in Oregon, where The Prairie Winds served as quintet-in-residence for four years. The ensemble has been part of Chamber Music

America's Education and Residency Institute, and, in 2003, they began an annual residency at Madeline Island Music Festival in Wisconsin, a chamber music program for college wind players. Full length concerts for Chicago's WFMT-FM "Live from Studio One" have formed an active radio performance schedule as well as those for Minnesota Public Radio.

The Prairie Winds encourage a love of music in tomorrow's audiences with workshops that enhance the concert experience. The quintet will stay with us for such a workshop tomorrow at Proctor High School.



For this concert, we are without the program notes usually supplied for each CMSU performance. This information will be given to us from the stage during the concert by members of The Prairie Winds. There is always interest in the professional backgrounds which the artists bring to the performing ensemble and so, as space permits, we will use this unusual opportunity to share this information with you.



THE ARTISTS

Jonathan Keeble (flute) has been described in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle as having an "engaging, vibrant sound." He is past winner of the Coleman Chamber Music Competition and recipient of the prized Eastman School of Music Performer's Certificate.

Mr. Keeble's passion for teaching led to his position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has also worked as the Associate Professor of Flute at Oklahoma State University, as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the SUNY at Fedonia and as a teacher at the Eastman School of Music. A graduate of Eastman and Northwestern University, he includes among his former teachers Bonita Boyd, Walfrid Kujala and Frances Risdon.

Jelena Dirks (oboe) is the third generation of

professional women musicians in her family. She was appointed by Daniel Barenboim to the oboe section of the Chicago Symphony where her mother, Karen Dirks, is violist.

Ms. Dirks began study of violin at age three, piano at four and began playing chamber music with her mother by the time she was ten. The following year she began study of the oboe. She has two Bachelors degrees from St. Olaf College and two Masters degrees from the University of Michigan, one of each in piano performance and oboe performance. She is a two time winner of the Musical Merit Foundation Scholarship Competition. Ms. Dirks is on the woodwind faculty of the Madeline Island Music Festival.

Susan Warner (clarinet) is a member of the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra and principal

clarinetist of Concertante di Chicago. You have probably heard the sometimes jazzy notes of her instrument on many TV commercials for beverages cooling in your fridge or cleaning products under your sink.

Through the community relations department of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Warner designed a series of arts integrated workshops that were credited with making a meaningful and lasting impact on hundreds of inner-city school children. While pursuing her Masters degree at the Eastman School of Music, she was a founding faculty member of the New Horizons Band, an award-winning program for senior citizen beginning instrumentalists. Ms. Warner has been a faculty member at Wheaton College, the Eastman School, Ithaca College and the University of Rochester.

David Griffin (horn) is a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and has served as acting principal of its renowned horn section at the request of Music Director Daniel Barenboim. Following his graduation from Northwestern University, he joined the Rochester Philharmonic and followed with positions in the orchestras of Montreal and Houston before joining the Chicago Symphony in 1995.

Mr. Griffin has appeared with Chicago Pro Musica, the Allegra Chamber Players and Les Chambristes de Montreal. He has been on the faculties of McGill and Northwestern Universities.

Timothy McGovern (bassoon) is currently Professor of Bassoon at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and Principal Bassoonist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. Mr. McGovern has performed with the Chicago, Boston, Montreal and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. A critic in the New York Times has described him as “an extraordinary talent with expressive warmth and amazing agility.”

Mr. McGovern was the winner of the Performers of Connecticut Solo Competition which led him to be heard on WQXR’s “Rising Stars” series. As winner of the East/West Artists Solo Competition, he performed at Weill Hall and at Carnegie Hall. He has recorded approximately 30 CDs, including several Grammy and Juno winners, of orchestral and chamber music for London/Decca, Zephyr, Arabesque, Albany, Boston and the CBC.

Biographical information has been supplied by The Prairie Winds and edited by Dorothy Deimel.

Please visit our website: www.uticachambermusic.org where you will find program notes prior to each concert.



Our next concert, will be on Sunday, 11 April 2010 at 2:30 PM presenting the **Penderecki String Quartet**, performing works by Haydn, Schulhoff and Beethoven.



PLAYERS OF UTICA will present (the womens version) of **THE ODD COUPLE** by Neil Simon, directed by Win Haslam at the Kirkland Arts Center, on April 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2010. Ph: 724-7624 www.playersofutica.org



THE UTICA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will present **A SALUTE TO BROADWAY AND RICHARD RODGERS** on Saturday, 10 April 2010 at 8:00 PM at the Stanley Center for the Arts **AND** on Sunday, 11 April 2010 at 3:00 PM at Rome Free Academy. PH: 724-4000 www.uticasymphony.net



THE B# MUSICAL CLUB will present performances by **Judith Marchione, Irina Popov, Arthur Durando** and **Peter Costianes** on Wednesday, 10 March 2010 at 11:30 AM at MWPAI Auditorium. Performances by **Peter Loftus, Jenna Wratten, Charles Schneider, Michele O’Neil** and **Beverly Nelson** will be presented on Saturday, 10 April 2010 at 7:30 PM at Plymouth Bethesda Church. PH: 735-6974 www.bsharpncy.org