

THE COLORADO COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

presents

Duo Francois

Ron Francois, *violin*
Silvana Santinelli, *piano*

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

7:30 p.m.

Packard Hall

Program

One After One in Time: Fourth Sonata for Violin and Piano Op. 83

Andrew Paul MacDonald

1. Bounce – Agitato

(b. 1958)

2. Beatitudes – Adagio

3. Variation Choruses – Maestoso – Allegro Vivace

Commissioned by the Duo Francois

Intermission

Sonata #1 in D Minor Op. 75

Camille Saint-Saens

1. Allegro Agitato – Adagio

(1835-1921)

2. Allegretto Moderato

3. Allegro Molto

Please refrain from using electronic devices during the concert

About the Artists

Ron Francois, *violin*

Ron Francois' performances as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician has consistently won the acclaim of notable musicians. "...A fantastic violinist...a big talent" said Abram Shtern concertmaster of the Kiev state Opera and professor at the Kiev Conservatory. Others proclaim Francois' playing as "...extremely musical...Francois plays with great sensitivity and warmth" said Concert violinist Daniel Heifetz"... "A wonderful musician...sensitive ensemble player and a brilliant violinist," said Michael Tree from the Guarneri String Quartet.

A recipient of the Quebec Arts Council Grant, Francois began his career under the tutelage of concert violinist Daniel Heifetz. Francois concertized with Heifetz as soloist and as a member of his "Classical Band". Consequently, Francois has performed several major solo works with orchestras in Canada and throughout the United States.

As a Chamber musician Ron Francois' experience is far reaching. As a former member of the internationally acclaimed chamber Ensemble "I Musici" de Montreal, Francois toured extensively and recorded two CD's with this ensemble on the Naxos Label.

For five years, Francois served as the violinist for the beloved Mendelssohn Trio based in Colorado. With this group he recently performed in Germany and Austria.

Having collaborated with musicians from the world's great orchestras including Boris Garlitsky, Arkady Fomin and James Werhman in chamber music concerts, Francois also collaborates regularly with music faculty at CSU.

Founder of the "Duo Francois" with pianist Silvana Santinelli, Ron Francois has performed extensively in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico.

Recently, the award winning composer Andrew MacDonald completed his 4th sonata commissioned by the Duo Francois. Award winning composer James David will also be writing a sonata for the duo and these works are scheduled for world premieres in fall 2013.

In addition to his performance activities, Ron Francois serves as Head of the String Division at Colorado State University in Fort Collins Colorado where he has been on the faculty since 2002.

Silvana Santinelli, *piano*

Silvana Santinelli was born in Mexico. At the age of eight years old, Silvana won first prize at the "XVI Competencia Nacional y Cultural para la Ninez" in Mexico City. A year later she won a scholarship to study with Maestro Robert Avalon, in the United States.

In 1998, under the sponsorship of the Mexican Cultural Institute, Ms. Santinelli toured some of the main cities in Mexico. In addition to her performances in Mexico and the United States, Ms. Santinelli has performed in Russia, the Czech Republic, France, and Switzerland. She is the first prize winner of the Mexican National Piano Competition, the San Antonio Symphony Young Artist Award Competition, the Ulrich Piano Competition, in Maryland, the French International Piano Festival Competition in Paris and the Josef Hoffman International Piano Competition. Prize winner in the Corpus Christi International Concerto and Piano Solo Contest, the Kingsville International Young Performers Competition, the Mid-Texas Symphony Society Young Artist Contest, and the Five Towns Music and Art Foundation. Semifinalist in the San Antonio International Piano Competition, the Missouri International Piano Competition, and the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

Ms. Santinelli holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; a Master in Music Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio; and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park. Ms. Santinelli has recently completed a two CD set of piano music by Mexican composer Rodolfo Halffter and is presently in negotiations with Centaur Records for future release. Her major instructors include Santiago Rodriguez, Andre Watts, Alexander Alexandrov, Valerie Grokhovski and Robert Avalon.

Besides her role in the Duo Francois with violinist Ron Francois, Santinelli is on the piano faculty at CSU since 2005.