

## CULTURAL ARTS SERIES 2010 – 2011 (Schedule)

Where the Stars are Within Reach

Oklahoma City Community College

Artist	Performance Date
<b>Azmeh, Wijeratne, Mayookh TRIO</b> – Clarinet, piano, and tabla trio present World, Jazz, Contemporary, and Classical fusions.	Tues. Sept. 28, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Franc D'Ambrosio</b> – <i>Songs From The Great White Way</i> , Franc's favorite Broadway songs.	Tues. Oct. 12, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas</b> – Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador and renowned cellist.	Tues. Nov. 9, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Odeum Theatre</b> – <i>It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play</i> , with sound effects.	Thurs. Dec. 9, 7:00 P.M.
<b>K.C. Clifford</b> – Oklahoma singer/songwriter presents songs from her heart about the life around her.	Tues. Jan. 18, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Trio Cavatina</b> – Piano, violin, and cello trio performs Schumann, Thomas, and Brahms.	Tues. Feb. 8, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Dallas Brass</b> – Brass ensemble and full percussion present works from multiple genres.	Tues. Mar. 1, 7:00 P.M.
<b>Bearfoot</b> – Twin fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass, and vocal Bluegrass ensemble.	Tues. Apr. 12, 7:00 P.M.

### NEW & NOTABLE (Additional to the Cultural Arts Series)

**Childsplay** – *Ferdinand the Bull* – Musical Play for children and the young at heart.

- Evening Performance Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater, \$8.00 – General Admission
- Daytime Performances (2), Wednesday, March 30, Times TBD, OCCC Bruce Owen Theater, Prices to TBD

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### Azmeh, Wijeratne, Mayookh TRIO

- **Educational Presentation** – OSSM mini-performance, Monday, September 27
- **Performance** – Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Piano, clarinet, and tabla trio present World, Jazz, Contemporary, and Classical fusions.

(Short)

Piano, clarinet, and tabla trio present World, Jazz, Contemporary, and Classical fusions.

(Medium)

Kinan Azmeh, clarinet, Dinuk Wijeratne, piano, and Mayookh Bhaumik, tabla present fusions of World, Jazz, Contemporary, and Classical music that transcend traditional musical boundaries to create a haunting, exhilarating, and rich sonic experience.

(Long)

**Kinan Azmeh** (Clarinet, Composer)

Hailed as a “virtuoso” by the *New York Times*, with a “unique sound” by the *Daily Star* and

“engagingly flamboyant” by the *L.A. Times*, Kinan Azmeh is one of Syria’s rising stars. His utterly distinctive sound is now fast gaining international recognition.

Born in Damascus, Kinan was the first Arab to win the premier prize at the 1997 Nicolai Rubinstein International Competition, Moscow. A graduate of New York's Juilliard school, and of both the High Institute of Music and Damascus University’s School of Electrical Engineering, Kinan is currently a doctoral music student of Charles Neidich at The City University of New York.

Kinan has appeared worldwide as a soloist and composer. Notable appearances include: Opera Bastille, Paris; Tchaikovsky Grand Hall, Moscow; Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, New York; the Royal Albert Hall, London; Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires; der Philharmonie, Berlin; the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC; and the opening concert of the Damascus Opera House. He has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, and the Kiev Camerata under such reputed conductors as Solhi al-Wadi and Daniel Barenboim. He has shared the stage with Marcel Khalife, Francois Rabbath, Mari Kimura, Elliott Sharp, Katia Tchamberdji, Kani Karaca, and members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

Compositions include several works for solo, orchestra, and chamber music; film, live illustration, and electronics. His multimedia work *Gilgamesh* with visual Artist Kevork Mourad has been touring the US and the Middle East since 2006. His recordings include three albums with his ensemble HEWAR, a duo album with Sri Lankan-Canadian pianist Dinuk Wijeratne, and several soundtracks for film and dance. He serves on the advisory board of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra, and is artistic director of the Damascus Festival Chamber Music Ensemble, with whom he released an album of new music written especially for the ensemble by various Arab composers.

### **Dinuk Wijeratne** (Pianist, Composer)

A truly versatile artist, Sri Lankan-born Dinuk Wijeratne divides his time between composing, conducting, and piano performance.

Dinuk made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2004 as a conductor, composer, and pianist, performing with Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. A second Carnegie appearance followed in 2009, alongside tabla legend Zakir Hussain. Dinuk has composed for almost all of the artists and ensembles with whom he has performed; to name a few: Tim Garland, John Dankworth, Nikki Iles, Julian Argüelles, Victor Mendoza, Ed Thigpen, Pandit Ramesh Misra, Adrian Spillett, David Jalbert, Kevork Mourad, Mayookh Bhaumik, Christina Curtin, MIR, the Apollo Saxophone Quartet, 4-Mality Percussion Quartet, the NY Kathak Ensemble, the New Juilliard Ensemble, Onelight Theatre, and Symphony Nova Scotia.

Dinuk grew up in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, before taking up composition studies at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), Manchester, UK. In 2001, he was invited by composer John Corigliano to join his studio at New York's Juilliard School. Dinuk's Chamber Concerto *About Sankhara* (2003) was commissioned by the New Juilliard Ensemble and was the first work by a Sri Lankan composer to be performed at Lincoln Center. Dinuk was also composition fellow at the 2002 Pacific Music Festival, Sapporo, Japan, and was appointed Artist-in-Residence by the Performing Arts Foundation at International House for the 2003-2004 season. Conducting studies followed at New York's Mannes College of Music. A firm believer in the universality of music, Dinuk founded the cutting-edge NYC-based multimedia group NEOLEXICA in 2003 together with Turkish DJ Umut Gokcen, Armenian Kevork Mourad of the Silk Road Ensemble, and Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh (a soloist with Daniel Barenboim's Divan Orchestra for Arabs and Israelis). The quartet synesthetically combine live illustration with a uniquely multinational blend of acoustic and electronic music.

With appearances this season across North America and the Middle East, Dinuk and Kinan, clarinet, are currently releasing their debut album entitled *Complex Stories, Simple Sounds*, a collaboration of original works.

Dinuk is returning for his fourth season as Music Director of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. He has conducted the National Arts Centre Orchestra and appeared many times with Symphony Nova Scotia during his 3-year appointment as Conductor-in-Residence. The Canada Council for the Arts recently awarded Dinuk the 2008 Jean-Marie Beaudet award for orchestral conducting. He is also the recipient of Juilliard and Mannes scholarships, two Countess of Munster composition grants, the Sema Jazz Improvisation Prize, the Soroptimist International Award for Composer-Conductors, and the Sir John Manduell Prize, the RNCM's highest student honor. His music and collaborative work embrace the great diversity of his international background and influences.

**Mayookh Bhaumik** was born on November 14, 1977 in New Jersey. In 1981, at the age of four, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan acknowledged him as a child prodigy. He began performing on television, radio, and various stages at the age of five. At seven, he won the NY State Under 18 Science Award for creating an original string instrument.

Mayookh returned to India to train under Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh and is currently training under Ustad Sabir Khan of the Farukhabad Gharana. He also studies under Kathak legend Padmabhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj.

Mayookh entered the music industry very early and was a studio musician by age twelve. He has played with various artistes of global repute including: Ustad Vilayat Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Sabir Khan, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit V.G. Jog, Pandit Monilal Nag, Pandit Ramesh Mishra, Tarun Bhattacharya, Siddharth Chaudhuri, Mani Shankar, Niladri Kumar, Farukh Fateh Ali Khan, and Jean Michel Pilc.

Currently managed as a recording artist by Jon Waxman Associates, he is a nominated associate of the Grammy Awards Committee (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences - NARAS) being the youngest Asian on the board to date.

He is featured on over fifteen released and internationally marketed albums, including his own solo album *The Beginning* on Gathani Records, and also with Pandit V.G. Jog, Smt. Purnima Chaudhuri, Ustad Sabir Khan, Pandit Ramesh Mishra, Siddharth Chaudhuri, and Mani Shankar.

In August of 2000, Mayookh and brother Mainak, a noted filmmaker of Calcutta, founded Black Coffee Productions, a grassroots organization that brings classical arts to the youth of India through open public performances, a first in the history of the Indian classical music scene.

He has also composed music for films and ads in India and the United States including *Vola's Ticket* and *Aashi*.

Websites: <http://www.dinukwijeratne.com/live/>, <http://www.kinanazmeh.com/>, and <http://www.musiccircle.org/Bhaumik.html>

## **Franc D'Ambrosio**

- **Educational Presentation** – Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Franc will hold a master class for the six finalists of the Christine and Raoul competition; from which one Christine and Raoul will be chosen to sing with Franc during his Tuesday performance.
- **Performance** – Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater.

*Songs From The Great White Way*, Franc D'Ambrosio's favorite Broadway songs.

(Short)

*Songs From The Great White Way*, Franc D'Ambrosio's favorite Broadway songs.

(Medium)

"The World's Longest Running Phantom of the Opera" weaves and illustrates personal stories with the marvelous songs from your favorite Broadway shows in this production of *FRANC D'AMBROSIO'S BROADWAY - Songs From The Great White Way*.

(Long)

Franc D'Ambrosio is best known as the "Phantom" in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award winning Musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Affectionately known as "The Iron Man of The Mask" Franc D'Ambrosio was awarded the distinction as the "World's Longest Running Phantom". This accomplishment was immortalized in a cemented hand ceremony and Franc retained this title for over a decade.

D'Ambrosio's resume also includes an Academy Award Nominated film, an Emmy Award Nominated television show, four time Tony nominated Broadway show, Two Grammy Considerations, and a National Theatre Award Nomination.

Early in D'Ambrosio's career, Paramount Pictures sent five talent scouts on an exhausting two year international search. That search ended when they discovered D'Ambrosio in the chorus of his first Broadway show. Francis Ford Coppola immediately cast D'Ambrosio as Anthony Corleone, the opera singing son of Al Pacino in Coppola's seven time Academy Award nominated film *Godfather III*. Franc had the honor of starring in the film and also singing the Academy Award winning theme song, *Speak Softly Love (Brucia la Terra)* both in the film and on the Original Motion Picture Soundtrack. This performance of the award winning song so impressed the late Luciano Pavarotti that it led to an invitation - which was quickly accepted - for him to study with the legendary tenor at his home in Italy.

So began Franc's varied and impressive career.

After his impressive run as "The Phantom of the Opera" D'Ambrosio caught the eye of Barry Manilow, who personally selected him to create and star as the male lead, "Tony", in the pre-Broadway tour of *Copacabana*. The show enjoyed a successful yearlong tour. His performance earned D'Ambrosio his National Theatre Award nomination for Best Male Performer in a Musical.

Mr. D'Ambrosio has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and South America with his critically acclaimed one man shows: *FRANC D'AMBROSIO'S BROADWAY- Songs of The Great White Way*, (debut 2004) and *FRANC D'AMBROSIO'S HOLLYWOOD - Songs of The Silver Screen*. (debut 2007). Mr. D'Ambrosio is also a frequent guest artist with many major American orchestras and symphonies (Pop Series). With the success of his national and international tours, D'Ambrosio has joined the ranks of the famed Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman as only a handful of Phantom alumni to successfully crossover to solo careers.

Recognized for his vibrant voice and legato singing, D'Ambrosio was invited by the Olympic Champion Brian Boitano to perform as a Special Musical Guest in the skater's NBC special *Brian Boitano's Skating Spectacular*. The TV special starred D'Ambrosio and *American Idol* runner-up Diana De Garmo. D'Ambrosio also joined Boitano in his next TV special, *The 2005 Tribute to Movies on Ice*. Franc starred as Special Musical Guest with Michael Bolton and *American Idol* Kimberly

Locke. His performance of *Music of the Night* skated to by Boitano, received the evening's only standing ovation .

While continuously touring with his popular one man shows, D'Ambrosio found time in 2008 to co-star with Dorothy Hamill in the critically acclaimed *Broadway On Ice*, produced by Bietak Productions, Inc. D'Ambrosio rounded out the busy year (2008) starring with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra in a spectacular New Years Eve performance.

As D'Ambrosio enters 2009, in the midst of his full touring schedule, he is currently working on a new show: *Franc D'Ambrosio - Songs From The Greatest Generation*. The show will feature more stories from Franc's colorful family and popular war songs from 1939-1946. The show is expected to debut in early 2010.

Franc D'Ambrosio is also involved in teaching his craft to young artists. In addition to spending summers in Italy, lecturing for the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (at their famed Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca, Italy) he also works with the Cherubini Music Conservatory, Florence, Italy and American University, Washington, DC. Franc also participates in numerous lecture series for such prestigious institutions as the New Conservatory Theater, San Francisco and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York City. While touring the country, D'Ambrosio makes himself available to local school outreach programs across the US and Europe. He offers both lecture and master class formats.

Website: <http://francdambrosio.com/>

### **Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas**

- **Educational Presentation** – OSSM mini-performance, Wednesday, November 10
- **Performance** – Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador and renowned cellist.

(Short)

Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, Alasdair Fraser, and renowned cellist Natalie Haas, present an evening of Scottish fiddle and cello music.

(Medium)

Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador Alasdair Fraser and vanguard Juilliard School of Music cellist Natalie Haas present the traditional Scottish duo of violin and cello; a combination that will "make the wee hairs on the back of your neck stand up."

(Long)

The musical partnership between Alasdair Fraser, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and the sizzingly-talented young California cellist Natalie Haas may not seem an obvious one. Fraser, acclaimed by the San Francisco Examiner as "the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling," has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (*Last of the Mohicans*, *Titanic*). Fraser has been sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland's music internationally, and received the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions.

Natalie Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, wasn't even born when Alasdair was winning national fiddle competitions on the other side of the Atlantic. But this seemingly unlikely pairing is the fulfillment of a long-standing musical dream for Fraser, whose cutting-edge musical explorations took him full circle to find a cellist who could help him return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music.

"Going back to the 1700s, and as late as the early 20th century," Fraser says, "fiddle and cello made up the dance band of choice in Scotland, with the cellist bowing bass lines and driving the rhythm. Pianos and accordions elbowed out the cello, relegating it to an orchestral setting. I've been pushing to get the cello back into the traditional music scene for years, always on the lookout for a cellist with whom I could have a strong musical conversation, one that incorporated not just the cello's gorgeous melodic tones, but also the gristly bits—the rhythmic, percussive energy that makes the wee hairs on the back of the neck stand up."

Natalie Haas was just 11 when she first attended Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School, California. She responded to Fraser's challenge to find and release the cello's rhythmic soul, and four years later, when Natalie was just 15, Fraser and Haas played their first gig together. Now regularly touring with Fraser and creating a buzz at festivals and in concert halls throughout Europe and North America, Natalie is in the vanguard of young cellists who are redefining the role of the cello in traditional music.

The duo represented Scotland at the Smithsonian Museum's Folklife Festival, have been featured on nationally broadcast *Performance Today*, *The Thistle & Shamrock*, and *Mountain Stage*. They both teach at Fraser's popular annual summer fiddle courses (Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School and Sierra Fiddle Camp, California, and at Sabhal Mor Ostaig Gaelic College, Scotland), and Natalie is on the faculty of Berklee College of Music, Boston.

"Cellists are coming out of the woodwork to study with Natalie, to learn how she creates a groove and a whole chunky rhythm section," says Fraser. "It's inspiring to hear the cello unleashed from its orchestral shackles!"

One of the inspirations is the duo's debut recording, *Fire & Grace*, which displays dazzling teamwork, driving, dancing rhythms, and the duo's shared passion for improvising on the melody and the groove of Scottish tunes. The two instruments duck and dive around each other, swapping melodic and harmonic lines, and trading rhythmic riffs. The recording won not only critical acclaim, but also the coveted Scots Trad Music "Album of the Year" award, the Scottish equivalent of a Grammy. *Fire & Grace*, and the duo's new CD *In the Moment*, and Fraser's many other recordings are on his own Culburnie Records label.

### **Workshops, Master Classes, and Residency Activities**

Through two summer programs that he founded nearly two decades ago, the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School, California and a week-long course on the Isle of Skye, Alasdair has inspired hundreds of aspiring and accomplished musicians.

Alasdair is available for master classes and workshops for performers of all ages, with an emphasis on the tradition and techniques of Scottish fiddle music. The classes can be for fiddlers only, or can include musicians playing any stringed instrument, with special focus on playing by ear, improvising, and learning to play as part of an ensemble. Alasdair can present classes for music teachers and students that emphasize music as a voyage of discovery and finding the individual voice. For schools, he and Natalie can present both educational performances and bus-in performances in conjunction with evening concerts at performing arts centers.

" ... you would think they'd been playing together for centuries. While his fiddle dances, her cello throbs darkly or plucks puckishly. Then [Haas] opens her cello's throat, joining Fraser in soaring sustains, windswept refrains, and sudden, jazzy explosions. Their sound is as urbane as a Manhattan midnight, and as wild as a Clakmannan [Scotland] winter."— *Boston Globe*

"Fraser, one of the most respected of all exponents of the Scots fiddle, would look long and hard to find a more appropriate cellist as a partner. Haas can switch just as effortlessly as Fraser from a gentle singing tone to driving, dancing melody. A positive joy."— *The Scotsman*

Website: <http://www.mikegreenassociates.com/index.php?page=bio&display=42&show=bio>

## **Odeum Theatre Company and Choregus Productions - *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play***

- **Educational Presentation – TBA**
- **Performance – Thursday, December 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater.**  
*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, with sound effects.

(Short)

A handful of Odeum Theatre Company members will present *It's A Wonderful Life* as a radio play with sound effects.

(Medium)

Turn the clock back to the 1940s and tune the dial to holiday nostalgia, as a handful of Odeum Theatre Company members present the holiday classic *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, complete with sound effects!

(Long)

Odeum Theatre Company and Choregus Productions proudly present an amazing twist on a cinematic classic!, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Turn the clock back to the 1940s and tune the dial to holiday nostalgia, when families gathered together for inspirational broadcasts and wholesome entertainment.

A handful of Odeum Theatre Company members will perform the dozens of characters and multiple sound effects in this adaptation of Angel Clarence's mission to earn his wings. Joe Landry's adaptation of the classic American film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is perfect for the whole family. Renew your acquaintance with George Bailey, Mr. Potter, the loveable Zuzu, and myriad others in this vibrant celebration of goodwill, charity, and cheer in the face of hardship.

"*It's A Wonderful Life* is indeed wonderful! This instant must-see show has ascended to the top of the pyramid of holiday productions - the best of an already glorious tradition. The story" is presented "as a 1940s radio program, with the spectators as the studio audience," giving "the show an extra veneer of nostalgia," enabling "it to convey more dramatic power than the movie." - *Lake County News-Sun*

"One of the best holiday shows around. Fresh and inventive. Highly recommended." - *The Chicago Sun-Times*

Website: <http://www.odeumtheatrecompany.com/>

## **K.C. Clifford**

- **Educational Presentation** – OSSM mini-performance, Wednesday, January 19, 2011.
- **Performance** – Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater.  
Oklahoma singer/songwriter presents songs from her heart about the life around her.

(Short)

Oklahoman K.C. Clifford shares the songs of her life with grace and ease, eliciting laughter and tears, as well as robust applause from her audiences.

(Medium)

Oklahoman K.C. Clifford, three-time Woody Guthrie Award-winning singer-songwriter, expresses her strengths and insecurities as her powerful voice shares the songs of her life with grace and ease, eliciting laughter and tears, as well as robust applause from her audiences.

(Long)

K.C. Clifford is a three-time Woody Guthrie Award-winning folk singer-songwriter from Oklahoma City known for her powerful voice, stage presence, and courageous lyrical style. *Orchid*, her fourth independently produced album, was released in March, 2010.

Music has always been a guiding force in K.C.'s life, and her talent and love of performing on stage revealed itself at an early age. She was two when she first sang in public and composed her first song at age seven. Early musical influences included artists such as Paul Simon, Carole King, The Beach Boys, and the popular bluegrass band Mountain Smoke, founded by her father in the late 1960s.

A life-long battle with weight loss and depression began with her first diet when she was eight, following a family crisis. K.C. was bulimic, and lived with the disease for 12 years before being diagnosed and hospitalized during her junior year at Indiana University, where she was training for a career in opera.

After a lengthy recovery, she refocused her life, transferred to Belmont University in Nashville – a school she says she found serendipitously – and completed a degree in vocal performance. She found her voice in folk music during this time, and wrote and released her first full-length album: *Times Like These* (2000) to critical acclaim.

As K.C.'s career continued to bloom with the release of her second album, *Teeth-marks on my Tongue* (2004), health threatening food issues resurfaced, this time in the form of overeating. By 2007 she had become morbidly obese, tipping the scales at 278 lbs. With the help of friends and family, she began a fight for her life.

Her story was the focus of a special segment on the NBC reality television show *The Biggest Loser* in March 2009. During the previous year she had lost more than 100 pounds on her own, and wrote a powerful song about hunger for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma called *Raise Your Voice*. The experience has led to a series of performances at food banks across the country.

Overcoming personal demons has fueled a prolific 10-year career marked by a long list of awards and achievements, and a devoted fan base, which she treats more like an extended family. K.C.'s family of fans financed *Orchid* by donating to her internet-based "Be My Record Label" campaign.



Those who have experienced one of K.C.'s live shows know this is where she shines brightest. Laying bare every bit of strength and insecurity, she sings the songs of her life with grace and ease – and a disarming smile – bringing audiences to laughter and tears often enough that she has considered making handkerchiefs a permanent fixture at concerts.

“It is hard not to imagine every female singer currently promoted by Nashville begging to record them, but these are the kind of songs that are best brought forward by the person who wrote them. ...this songwriter's lyrical approach is direct and personal, and her melodies are instantly memorable, never falling into pattern or formula. It certainly doesn't hurt that she has an extraordinary voice, but the songs themselves steal the show.” – George Lang, *The Oklahoman*.

Website: <http://www.kcclifford.com/>

## **Trio Cavatina**

- **Educational Presentation** – TBA
- **Performance** – Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater.  
Piano, violin, and cello trio performs Schumann, Thomas, and Brahms.

(Short)

2009 Naumburg Chamber Music competition winners share their potent, intense interpretations of works by Schumann, Thomas, and Brahms.

(Medium)

2009 Naumburg Chamber Music competition winners Harumi Rhodes, violin, Ieva Jokubaviciute, piano, and Priscilla Lee, cello, share their potent, intense interpretations of works by Clara Schumann, Augusta Read Thomas, and Johannes Brahms.

(Long)

Trio Cavatina—winner of the 2009 Naumburg Chamber Music competition—is rapidly emerging as one of today's outstanding chamber ensembles. Deeply rooted in a strong sense of shared musical values, they met and formed in 2005 during the renowned Marlboro Music Festival. Harris Goldsmith described the trio, in his 2008 article for *Chamber Music America*, as offering, “potent, intense interpretations”.

As winners of the 2009 Naumburg Chamber Music Competition, Trio Cavatina made its Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Hall in May 2010, which included the world premiere of a composition written for them by Richard Danielpour. They also made their San Francisco debut earlier this year at Herbst Theater, as well as their Philadelphia debut as one of the youngest ensembles to perform on the prestigious Philadelphia Chamber Music Society concert series.

Within two years of their formation, Trio Cavatina gave notable debut appearances on Kneisel Hall's Emerging Artists Series, Maine, at Union College, Schenectady, New York, and at the Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival, Maryland. They were selected to perform at the closing concert of the Chamber Music America Conference, New York City.

Season highlights in 2006-2007 included New York City and Boston debut concerts at the New School's Schneider Concert Series and at Jordan Hall. Trio Cavatina also appeared at Merkin Hall, New York City, at the Brattleboro Music Center, and on the concert series Performers of Westchester. Garnering critical acclaim and enthusiastic responses from audiences and presenters wherever they perform, the trio has also received immediate re-engagements, most notably at Union College, Schenectady, NY, where they returned in the fall of 2008 in a performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for*

*the End of Time* with clarinetist Alex Fiterstein and twice in the 2009-2010 season to celebrate the anniversaries of Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Chopin. The 2007-2008 season also brought the trio their first international tour that included performances in Lithuania on stages in Vilnius and Kaunas.

In addition to the classical and romantic repertoire, Trio Cavatina is committed to collaborating with living composers and performing the 20th century repertoire. They have worked closely with American composer Leon Kirchner.

Trio Cavatina completed the New England Conservatory's Professional Piano Trio Training Program in 2006-2007.

"...each player, in her way, made a compelling argument—Lee with her probing phrasing, violinist Rhodes in some charismatic moments of triumph, and Jokubaviciute with a big personality communicated through a sound of great refinement and presence." - *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Trio Cavatina seems to have found their path to that equality of voices... One might say that this was an ensemble that put the 'chamber' back in chamber music." - *San Francisco Examiner*

Website: <http://www.triocavatina.com/index.html>

## **Dallas Brass**

- **Educational Presentation** – TBD; Likely to be a collaboration with Western Heights HS Band program.
- **Performance** – Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater. Brass ensemble and full percussion present multiple genre works.

(Short)

Brass ensemble and full percussion present works from multiple genres.

(Medium)

The Dallas Brass, one of America's foremost musical ensembles, with accompanying full percussion, will present a concert of Classical, Dixieland, Swing, Broadway, Hollywood, and Patriotic music that will appeal to and delight audiences of all ages.

(Long)

Since its founding in 1983 by Michael Levine, the Dallas Brass has become one of America's foremost musical ensembles. The group has established a unique blend of traditional brass instruments with a full complement of drums and percussion, which creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges. The Dallas Brass repertoire includes classical masterpieces, Dixieland, Swing, Broadway, Hollywood, and Patriotic music.

According to Mr. Levine, "a Dallas Brass concert is intended for the entire family. Our ideal audience has a range in ages from 5 to 95. Our goal is to entertain and enrich by playing great music, while showing our audience how much we enjoy what we do."

In addition to their solo engagements, the Dallas Brass appears with symphony orchestras nationwide. Symphonic credits include the Cincinnati Pops conducted by Erich Kunzel, New York Pops conducted by Skitch Henderson, and the Philly Pops conducted by Peter Nero. The Dallas Brass has performed at Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, and has toured overseas to Europe and the Far East. They have shared the stage with the late Bob Hope, have performed for Presidents

Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, have appeared on the CBS *Early Show*, and their music has been used numerous times on the television show, *The Young and the Restless*.

The ensemble has released six recordings: *Debut*, *Dallas Brass II*, *A Merry Christmas with Brass*, *Windborne*, *Nutcracker*, and *American Musical Journey*. The Dallas Brass has a strong dedication to working with young musicians, frequently going into the public schools to present clinics and workshops for students of all ages

**Michael Levine** (Director, Trombone)

Founder and Director of the Dallas Brass, Michael is originally from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. He first attended the University of Minnesota and then The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music Degree.

For three years he held the position of Assistant Principal Trombone in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. Michael founded the Dallas Brass in 1983, and serves as the ensemble's trombonist, Master of Ceremonies, and Artistic Director.

As an arranger, he has made significant contributions to the Dallas Brass library. Michael has invented a device called the WindMaster, to help wind players develop their breathing technique. It is being marketed nationally and in conjunction with Dallas Brass breathing clinics.

**Daniel Rosenboom** (Trumpet)

Daniel is a native of California currently residing in Los Angeles. As a trumpet player, composer, improviser, record producer, and creative artist, Daniel enjoys a diverse career performing and recording in many different styles and settings.

He has performed with groups such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Collage Dance Theatre, the California E.A.R. Unit, the Vinny Golia Large Ensemble and Sextet, and the Grande Mothers of Invention, and has collaborated and performed with such composers as John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Thomas Adès, Anne LeBaron, Nick Didkovsky, Vinny Golia, and many more.

In 2006, he released his debut solo CD, featuring entirely world-premiere recordings of new works for trumpet. As a composer, he has received grants from ASCAP, the American Composer's Forum, and the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music.

Daniel received his training at the Eastman School of Music, California Institute of the Arts, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

**D.J. Barraclough** (Trumpet/Alto Horn)

Having begun his musical studies on the trombone and continuing with it through high school, D.J. didn't actually begin playing the trumpet until his third year in college.

Originally from southern Utah, he attended Dixie State College (DSC), St. George. While attending DSC, he served as principal trumpet in the Utah Intercollegiate Band three consecutive years. His solo honors include first prize in the Intercollegiate Solo Competition, held in Denver, CO. This prize earned him a solo performance in Denver with the Arapahoe Philharmonic.

Professionally, D.J. has performed with such organizations as the Utah Symphony, the Lex De Azevedo Orchestra, and the Lawrence Welk Orchestra.

When not performing, D.J. enjoys working as a brass clinician, and through the use of the Smart Music Studio software by Coda Music Technologies, he helps young students learn to make practice more effective and fun. D.J. is also an accomplished instrument repair technician. His other interests include

hiking, camping, and various forms of meditation. D.J. presently lives in southern Utah with his wife, Kristine, and their six children

### **Charles Porter** (Trumpets, Alto Horn)

Charles received his classical training at The Juilliard School, New York City, followed by a year of study abroad as a Fulbright Scholar at the Paris Conservatory.

Shortly after winning the Juilliard trumpet competition as a freshman, Charlie was the first ever to win 1st Prize in the National Trumpet Competition in both Jazz and Classical divisions. He later completed his jazz studies at the Manhattan School of Music. In 2007, under the auspices of Jazz @ Lincoln Center and The US State Department, Charlie performed as a Jazz Ambassador with his quartet throughout West Africa, India, and China.

As a composer, Charlie has been commissioned by Chamber Music America and The Doris Duke Foundation. In addition to the Dallas Brass, he has been a core member of The Absolute Ensemble since 1997 and has worked with noted musicians such as Paquito D'Rivera and Joe Zawinul.

### **De'Marcus Walker** (Tuba)

Originally from Tyler, TX, De'Marcus began his musical journey playing the drum set, bass guitar, and keyboard in church, and he performs regularly throughout the East Texas region with his family's Gospel group — The Walker Family.

He attends the University of North Texas (UNT), where he studies tuba with Donald Little and performs with the UNT Symphonic Band and Seven O'clock Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and is on the UNT President's List.

On tuba, De'Marcus has been a regular participant in the Texas 5A All-State Symphonic Band and the Texas 5A All-State Jazz Band on the bass guitar. Out of the approximately 22,000 musicians at Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest each year, De'Marcus received three consecutive Most Outstanding Performer Medallions.

### **Jeff Handel** (Drums and Percussion)

Jeff was born in Indianapolis, IN. He received his Performer's Certificate and Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, where he also served as Associate Instructor of Percussion.

Jeff has been a percussion instructor for the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps and at numerous high schools throughout Indiana and South Carolina.

His diverse musical abilities have led to performances with symphony orchestras, jazz ensembles, rock bands, and percussion ensembles. He been a member of the Blue Coats Drum and Bugle Corps and performed in Star of Indiana's Brass Theatre.

Prior to joining Dallas Brass, Jeff toured North America and Japan for four years as a featured percussionist in the Tony and Emmy Award winning Broadway show, *Blast!*

Jeff presently resides in Charleston, SC, with his beautiful and talented wife, Cameron.

Jeff plays Sabian Cymbals, Evans Drumheads, and Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets exclusively.

Website: <http://www.dallasbrass.com/index.html>

## **Bearfoot**

- **Educational Presentation** – OSSM mini-performance, Wednesday, April 13 (before 3).
- **Performance** – Tuesday, April 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater.  
Twin fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass, and vocal Bluegrass ensemble

(Short)

These Nashville-based Telluride Band Contest winners feature twin fiddles, fast-picking mandolin and guitar, upright bass, and beautiful vocals in their acoustic bluegrass music.

(Medium)

Bearfoot's fresh approach to acoustic music features twin fiddles, fast-picking mandolin and guitar, upright bass, and beautiful harmony vocals. Whether performing their original Americana/bluegrass songs, freshly arranged traditionals, or covers of contemporary tunes, Bearfoot's exuberant stage presence bridges generations.

(Long)

Call it "new-timey," call it "post-bluegrass," call it "string band music for the 21st century"—whatever the name, there's a revolution under way where string band traditions meet youthful creativity; look right to its center, and that's where you'll find Bearfoot. The quintet, originally formed in Alaska, has already made a mark with four strong releases, including their 2009 Compass Records debut, *Doors and Windows*. Now, as they enter their second decade with a new Nashville home and a new lineup, the members of Bearfoot have taken their place among the best and brightest of a new generation of musicians reshaping American roots music.

By the time work began on *Doors and Windows*, they'd already said goodbye to one member and welcomed another as their path led them—both literally and figuratively—away from their more traditional origins. *Doors and Windows*, which debuted at the top of Billboard's Bluegrass Albums chart in the spring of 2009, served as a turning point, and by the end of the year, Bearfoot was ready to relocate outside of Alaska in favor of mostly Nashville residence; to launch itself completely onto the musical territory it had already begun to explore, and to seal the deal with the acquisition of two new members already making names for themselves as spectacularly gifted young players.

Pride of place in any account of Bearfoot must go to the two remaining founders, fiddler Angela Oudean and mandolin player Jason Norris. The former served as an advance guard of sorts, moving to Tennessee when she enrolled in the pioneering Bluegrass and Country Music program at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), graduating in 2006 with a B.S. degree that included a minor in bluegrass. By then she'd performed and recorded with the acclaimed ETSU Bluegrass Pride Band and International Bluegrass Music Association award winners, the Daughters of Bluegrass, but also showed more wide-ranging sensibilities through performances and recordings with Americana artists like The Everybodyfields and singer/songwriter/guitarist Megan McCormick. Norris, in the meantime, headed for Nashville at a slower pace, spending time in Colorado's "jamgrass" scene and working up his own distinctive style on the fiddle to complement his mandolin work with the band.

Singer and fiddler Odessa Jorgenson joined Bearfoot shortly before work on *Doors and Windows* began. Fresh from a two year stint with the North Carolina-based Biscuit Burners, she helped the group focus more on vocals, though she also has a strong fiddle resume that extends back to classical training and extensive performance in her native California, where she played in youth symphony and chamber orchestras. An energetic performer, Jorgenson was also responsible for much of the band-generated

material that appeared on their Compass debut, and she continues to emphasize songwriting as a main contribution to Bearfoot's distinctive sound.

Joining the three veteran members are two young new recruits to Bearfoot's ranks. Georgia native Jake Stargel is probably best known for a multi-year stint as guitarist with The Greencards, where he served in a chair that had previously been occupied mostly by considerably older players—no surprise, really, for a player who won the Georgia state flatpicking competition in his teen years. Another new welcomed addition is acclaimed bassist Samson Grisman, a resident of Boston and omnipresent figure in that city's thriving roots music scene who began his career even earlier, joining his father's David Grisman Bluegrass Experience at 11. A freewheeling stylist who nonetheless has unmistakable traditional chops, Grisman expertly rounds out the Bearfoot lineup and provides the perfect foundation for a group headed straight into the future.

Website: <http://www.bearfootband.com/>

## **NEW AND NOTABLE**

**Childsplay** – *Ferdinand the Bull* – Musical Play for children and the young at heart

- Evening Performance Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:00 p.m., OCCC Bruce Owen Theater, \$8.00 General Admission
- Daytime Performances (2), Wednesday, March 30, Times TBD, OCCC Bruce Owen Theater, Prices to TBD

(Short)

Meet Ferdinand, a flower picking bull and Danilo the reluctant matador whose father has big dreams for him. You'll cheer for Ferdinand and Danilo, who refuse to go along with the crowd, striking blows for individuality and celebrating differences.

(Medium)

Meet Ferdinand, an unusual bull who prefers picking flowers to joining the bullfighters in the ring, and Danilo, a young nobleman whose father Duque Dodo has big dreams for him. Watch what happens when Danilo, the reluctant matador, meets Ferdinand in the bullring. You'll cheer for them as they refuse to go along with the crowd and strike a blow for individuality and celebrating our differences.

(Long)

Meet Ferdinand, an unusual bull who prefers picking flowers to joining the bullfighters in the ring, and Danilo, a young nobleman whose father Duque Dodo has big dreams for him. Watch what happens when Danilo, the reluctant matador, meets Ferdinand in the bullring. You'll cheer for them as they refuse to go along with the crowd and strike a blow for individuality and celebrating our differences. This production integrates Spanish, flamenco dancing and original music to create a memorable theatrical experience perfect for young audiences and their families.

This musical adaptation, based on Munro Leaf's beloved storybook, is written by award winning playwright Karen Zacarias (author of *Chasing George Washington: A White House Adventure*, *Einstein Is a Dummy*, *The Magical Piñata*, and *Cinderella Eats Rice And Beans: A Salsa Musical*). Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma.

## **About Childsplay**

Founded in 1977 in Tempe, Arizona, Childsplay's mission is "to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love, and respect for the art form thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future."

Childsplay is a resident professional company of adult actors who teach and perform for young audiences and families. The company has performed for more than 4 million children and adults and has grown to serve an average annual audience of 250,000 children, teachers, and families. Childsplay's 2007-2008 tour of *Tomás and the Library Lady* visited 39 cities, and in the fall of 2009 the company embarked on a 7 week tour of *Peter and the Wolf*.

Childsplay has developed both a strong community presence and a national reputation for excellence under the guidance of Founder and Artistic Director, David Saar. In the April 2000 cover story of *American Theatre* magazine, Childsplay was listed as one of the top theatre companies for young audiences in the United States. All productions are performed by Childsplay's ensemble of resident professional adult actors, whose tenures with the company range from three to twenty years.

**Website:** <http://www.holdenarts.org/ferdinand.htm>

### **Cultural Arts Series Tickets, Funding, and Contact Information**

Season tickets to the 8 performances of the 2010 – 2011 Cultural Arts Series – Where the Stars are Within Reach are:  
\$118 for a General Admission Season Ticket,  
\$94 for a Senior, Faculty, Staff or Alumni Association Member Season Ticket,  
\$60 for an OCCC Student Season Ticket, or a Child's (17 and under) Season Ticket.

Season tickets are available on line at [www.occc.edu/cas](http://www.occc.edu/cas) and the Cultural Programs Office, 1G1 (A), Main Building.

**Season tickets are not available after September 28, 2010.**

Individual performance tickets are<sup>+</sup>:  
\$24.50\* for a General Admission ticket,  
\$19.50\* for a Senior, Faculty, Staff or Alumni Association Member ticket,  
\$12.50\* for an OCCC Student ticket or a Child's (17 and under) ticket.

\*Prices include Ticketing and Facilities Usage Fee of \$2.50 per ticket.  
+Ferdinand The Bull – Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> performance, \$8.00 General Admission

Individual tickets are available on line at [www.occc.edu/cas](http://www.occc.edu/cas) and at the Cultural Programs Office, 1G1 (A), Main Building.

Support for these presentations has been provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Ad Astra Foundation, KCSC Radio, Four Points by Sheraton Oklahoma City Airport, and Oklahoma City Community College.

All performances and educational presentations are subject to change or cancellation without notice. For an up-to-date listing of Cultural Arts Series performances, consult the Cultural Programs' webpage at [www.occc.edu/cas](http://www.occc.edu/cas).

To be placed on our mailing list, please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail to:  
Cultural Programs  
Oklahoma City Community College  
7777 S. May Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-4444  
Phone 405-682-7576  
Email [stigert@occc.edu](mailto:stigert@occc.edu)