

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Grammy nominated pianist and Steinway Artist **STEVE BARTA**, has stayed true to his creative path as a composer, recording artist, producer, author and educator. He has performed his original works as a solo artist, with jazz ensembles and symphony orchestras. As a member of *Herbie Mann and Jasil Brazz featuring Steve Barta*, he recorded his widely acclaimed *Blue River* – a collection of Brazilian compositions. His contribution to the world of music includes 15 recordings that reflect his many influences, particularly Brazilian, jazz and classical.

He has also worked with an extensive list of artists, including Al Jarreau, Hubert Laws, Herbie Mann, Dori Caymmi, B.B. King, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Paulinho da Costa, guitarist Ricardo Silveria and many more. In 2012, Barta was nominated for a Grammy award for *Jumpin; Jazz Kids* – an original storyline and collection of jazz compositions written for jazz ensemble and orchestra, along with his co-writer Mark Oblinger. He has written several works for symphony orchestra that have been performed worldwide.

Barta is a music educator with over thirty years of experience teaching intermediate to advanced students, educators and professional musicians. He is the author of *The Source* (Hal Leonard Publishing) and has published several books of his arrangements. Hal Leonard Publishing also requested him to arrange several Beatles compositions for solo piano in their well-known, *Beatles Songbook*. He currently teaches private piano studies, as well as jazz theory, arranging and composition at Colorado College.

MONICA DING hails from Mount Prospect, IL. She attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland on a full scholarship where she received a B.M. degree in 1996. Monica then attended Northwestern University, where she graduated in 1997 with a M.M. degree in oboe performance. She has performed with the Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra in Mexico, the Tamaulipas Music Festival Orchestra, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, the Chicago Philharmonic, and the International Chamber Music Festival in Prague, and has been Professor of Oboe at the Zacatecas University in Zacatecas, Mexico. Her teachers have been Ray Still, Sara Watkins and Carl Sonik. She joined the USAF of the Golden West in 2002 and has been a member of the Academy Band since 2007, holding the rank of Technical Sergeant, and currently performs with the Concert Band, Rampart Winds, and the Marching Band. She teaches oboe lessons at Colorado College and is the newest member of the Colorado College Woodwind Quintet.

Grammy nominated pianist and Steinway Artist, **SUSAN GRACE** has performed solo and chamber recitals, and has appeared as soloist with orchestras in the United States, Europe, the former Soviet Union, Korea, India and China. She has also performed in the Aspekte Festival in Salzburg, St Paul Chamber Orchestra's new-music series Engine 408, Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., the Grand Teton Festival, the Cape Cod Music Festival, Festival Mozaic, Concordia Chamber Players, Music at Oxford, and the Helmsley Festival in England. She is a member of *Quattro Mani*, an internationally acclaimed two-piano ensemble with NY pianist Steven Beck. Recent performances include CUNY Graduate Center, Bargemusic, National Sawdust, Subculture and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall in NY, La Laboratoire Cambridge, Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and the Alabama and Austin Symphonies. Grace has recorded for Bridge Records, the Belgium National Radio, WFMT in Chicago, the Society of Composers, Wilson Audio, Klavier International and Klavier Music Productions. Her recording on the Bridge label of Stefan Wolpe's violin and piano music was listed in the *London Sunday Times* as one of the top ten Contemporary recordings of 2015 and was also included

on the *Fanfare* “Critics Want List 2016”. Bridge Records recently released 4 new CDs by *Quattro Mani* featuring American and European composers; *Lounge Lizards* and *Re-Structures* in 2018 as well as Stefan Wolpe’s music for two pianos and the Poul Ruders Edition, Volume 15 released in 2019, all to critical acclaim. Grace was awarded 2020 Gresham Riley Award, Alumni Association's highest honor for service to Colorado College.

Grace is associate chair, artist-in-residence and senior lecturer in music at Colorado College. She is also music director of the renowned Colorado College Summer Music Festival, now in its 37th season. She was awarded the Christine S. Johnson Professorship of Music from 2014-16. In June 2014, Mayor Steve Bach and the city of Colorado Springs presented Ms. Grace with the *Spirit of the Springs* award for her work with the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Grace was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Small Ensemble Performance category.

Known for her versatility and intense musical interpretation, Colorado harpist **JENNA HUNT** brings a fresh perspective to being a professional musician in today’s culture. Her talents combine a jazz and classical background from receiving her bachelor’s degree in jazz at University of Northern Colorado (2015) and her master’s degree in Harp Performance at University of Denver Lamont School of Music (2020). While at University of Denver’s Lamont School of Music, she was a finalist in the University’s concerto competition performing the final movement to Ginastera's Harp Concerto. She has studied under such legendary harpists as Ann Marie Liss, Grace Browning and Kathy Bundock-Moore. Ms. Hunt routinely performs with local orchestras, chamber ensembles and as a soloist, and has performed at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, The Sydney Opera House, Shanghai Performing Arts Center and Lincoln Center. In addition to performing, Jenna teaches private lessons to aspiring harpists of all ages. She is currently the harp instructor at Colorado College, and holds office as the Vice President to the Mile High Chapter of the American Harp Society.

Looking forward to 2021, Jenna is collaborating with other Colorado musicians to present new formats of classical and jazz concerts.

JERILYN JORGENSEN is a member of the performance faculty of Colorado College and has been adjunct faculty in violin and chamber music at the Lamont School of Music of the University of Denver and Visiting Assistant Professor of Violin at the State University of New York in Potsdam, NY. From 1980-2004 she was first violinist of the Da Vinci Quartet, and as a member of that ensemble she has performed throughout the United States, been a prizewinner in the Shostakovich International String Quartet Competition and finalist in the Naumburg Chamber Music Competition, and appeared on PBS’s *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer. Her recordings appear on the Naxos label. Her performances with the quartet have been praised as “...abundant in feeling and fire” (Milwaukee Journal), “taut, confident playing, brimming with thrust and color” (Los Angeles Times), and as exhibiting “ease, authority, and thoroughgoing excellence” (San Francisco Chronicle).

Concerts from 2014-2018 included the complete Beethoven Sonatas in Colorado Springs and Denver with pianist Cullan Bryant, as well as appearances in New Mexico, Potsdam, NY, Boston, Ann Arbor, MI and elsewhere in Colorado. As a performer of historically informed concerts on original instruments, she has appeared with Mr. Bryant at the Frederick Collection of Historic Pianos in Ashburnham, MA and at the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota. She and Mr. Bryant are currently at work recording the complete Beethoven sonata on period instruments at the Frederick Collection, and were featured artists at the Historic Keyboard Society of North America’s annual conference in May 2018.

Ms. Jorgensen has given master classes in violin and chamber music at the University of California at Davis, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Sam Houston State University, Kansas State University, Simon's Rock College, the University of Northern Colorado, and Colorado State University. She is in demand as a pre-college teacher, counting among her present and past students several winners of regional competitions, including the MTNA senior string competition. She is on the faculty of the Lamont Pre-College Academy summer program and is the Artistic Development Coordinator for the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association, where her responsibilities have included curriculum design and teacher training for the Mozart Strings Project and sectional coaching and coaching oversight for four orchestras. She is currently director of chamber music for the organization, managing coaching and community performances throughout the year for student chamber ensembles.

Ms. Jorgensen holds bachelor of music degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School, and a master of music degree from Juilliard. Her major teachers have included Zvi Zeitlin, Joseph Fuchs, and Leonard Sorkin. She has also worked with Burton Kaplan. Ms. Jorgensen plays a beautiful violin from 1728 made by Sanctus Serafin.

PAUL NAGEM has been principal flute for the Colorado Springs Symphony/Philharmonic since 1994. A native of San Diego, he studied flute with Damian Bursill-Hall, then principal flute of the San Diego Symphony and now with the Pittsburgh Symphony. He received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Lois Schaefer of the Boston Symphony. Mr. Nagem is the instructor of flute at Colorado College. He has performed with the San Diego Symphony, the Colorado Symphony and the Singapore Symphony. Nagem plays Straubinger flutes.

ALEJANDRO VIEIRA earned his master of music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a bachelor of music degree from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Vieira joined the Colorado Springs Symphony, now the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, in January 2001. His teachers include William Winstead, Linda Harwell, Phillip Kolker, Denis Michel, Manuel Zegler, and David Fedderly.

Alejandro is also a member of the United States Air Force Academy Band, and currently serves as principal bassoonist of the Concert Band and of the Academy Winds woodwind quintet. Vieira has been featured as a soloist with the Concert Band and the Academy Winds as well as a featured recitalist in the band's Chamber Recital Series. He maintains an active teaching studio in Colorado Springs and is currently the bassoon instructor at Colorado College.