

Artist Biographies

SECOND CITY CHAMBER SERIES

2008-2009: THE THIRTY-SECOND SEASON

“TALES OF TWO CITIES”

Artistic Directors

SVEND RØNNING, *Artistic Director*, is one of the most active musicians in the Puget Sound, serving as Chair of the Faculty of Stringed Instruments at Pacific Lutheran University and Concertmaster of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra. As soloist, he has appeared with various orchestras, including the Charlottesville Symphony, the Prague Radio Symphony and Orchestra Seattle and has served as Concertmaster for several orchestras around the country, including the Charlottesville Symphony, the San Jose Symphony, and the Tacoma Opera. Dr. Rønning has an extensive experience in chamber music, having founded the Rivanna String Quartet at the University of Virginia and currently serving as violinist with the Regency String Quartet at PLU. His performances at Second City number over a dozen. Dr. Rønning graduated from Pacific Lutheran University where he was mentored by violinist Ann Tremaine and SCCS Artistic Director Emeritus Jerry Kracht, and has worked with a number of other distinguished teachers including Syoko Aki, Sidney Harth, Jaap Schröder and members of the Tokyo String Quartet. He is a former faculty member of the University of Virginia and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University. This is Svend Rønning's second year as Artistic Director of the Second City Chamber Series.

JERRY KRACHT, *Artistic Director Emeritus*, served as Second City Chamber Series artistic director for twenty-five years—from 1982 to 2007—and as frequent clarinetist on the Series from its inception in 1977 through the close of the 2006-2007 season. During that time he oversaw the programming and production of nearly 150 concerts, performing on some 80 of them himself.

Under his leadership, Series offerings were more than doubled over the years, with venues added at Lakewold Gardens and First Lutheran Church in addition to the original Annie Wright School—all of which are still home to the Series. He also led the Series to awards for artistic excellence by both the Tacoma Arts Commission and the Pierce County Arts Commission and established an educational adjunct for young musicians, the Young Chamber Players.

Dr. Kracht taught clarinet and conducted the University Symphony Orchestra at Pacific Lutheran University for over thirty years. He is now emeritus professor of music there, where he was also a founding member of the Camas Wind Quintet and the Regency Concert Series. In addition to his many performances in the Northwest—both for Second City Chamber Series and Pacific Lutheran University—he has performed in Canada, Japan, The Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong, Australia, Norway and Germany. He begins his new advisory role as artistic director emeritus at Second City Chamber Series in 2007.

Artists

Lakewold I: NEW YORK and SAN FRANCISCO

CINDY RENANDER, *clarinetist*, has served as Visiting Professor of Music at Lander University in South Carolina where she was also an active orchestral musician. A native Tacoman, she was principal clarinetist of the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Tacoma Opera and was a member of Orchestra Seattle. She is currently teaching at Tacoma Community College, is founding the Pierce County Clarinet Society, and she is pursuing the Doctor of Music degree at Florida State University. She holds degrees from FSU and New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Her teachers and mentors include Frank Kowalsky, William Wrzesien, and Tacoma educators Diana Craig, Rex Turner, Jack Lloyd and Harry Davidson. She resides in University Place with husband John Falskow, and toddlers Karl and Dana. This is Cindy Renander's fourth appearance on the Second City Chamber Series.

LAURA KOBAYASHI, *violinist*, leads a varied career as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, adjudicator and teacher. As a performer, Kobayashi has participated in numerous music festivals in the United States and abroad and has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle and Spokane Symphonies, Grand Junction Symphony and

the Northwest Chamber Orchestra. Currently a free-lance violinist and private teacher in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Kobayashi has served on the faculties at West Virginia University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the University of Georgia, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as performed as a member of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Kobayashi has studied violin with Dorothy DeLay, Andrew Jennings, Paul Kantor and Denes Zsigmondy and has performed in the master classes of Nathan Milstein, Ruggiero Ricci, Arthur Grumiaux, and Gyorgy Pauk. Chamber music studies have been with members of the Juilliard, Tokyo and American String Quartets as well as with collaborative pianists, Robert McDonald and Samuel Sanders. Kobayashi earned degrees from The Juilliard School and Yale University and the Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of Michigan. This season is Dr. Kobayashi's debut on the Second City Chamber Series.

SUSAN KEITH GRAY, *pianist*, is in demand as pianist, teacher, adjudicator and clinician. Acclaimed as a specialist in collaborative playing, she has performed in recital with a number of artists throughout the United States and abroad and served on the Instrumental Accompanying Faculty at the Music Academy of the West for three summers. As a member of the University of South Dakota music faculty and its Rawlins Piano Trio since 1995, Gray has recorded two CD's of American piano trios on the Albany Records label and has twice performed the complete cycle of Beethoven piano trios. Other recordings include song cycles by American women composers and African-American composers. Awards include prizes in the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition, and solo appearances with the Spartanburg, Savannah, Cherokee and Huron Symphonies. Gray holds degrees from Converse College, the University of Illinois and The University of Michigan. She has studied piano with George Lucktenberg, Ian Hobson, Theodore Lettvin, and Louis Nagel, collaborative piano with Martin Katz and Eckart Sellheim, fortepiano with Penelope Crawford and harpsichord with Edward Parmentier. Tonight is Susan Keith Gray's first performance on the Second City Chamber Series.

Lakewold II: DURHAM and LONDON

BRYAN BOUGHTEN, *violinist*, is currently a member of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and is an Affiliate Artist at Pacific Lutheran University where he serves as a member of the Regency String Quartet. Previously he held the position of principal Second Violinist of the Spokane Symphony and also performed as a member of the Spokane String Quartet, which is in residence at Eastern Washington University. For many years he was a member of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared as soloist with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, the Peter Britt Festival Orchestra, the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, and the Thalia Symphony Orchestra. Teachers include Emanuel Zetlin, Denes Zsigmondy, Manuel Compinsky, Ruggiero Ricci, Veda Reynolds and Marilyn Garner. Tonight marks Bryan Boughten's ninth appearance on the Second City Chamber Series.

SVEND RØNNING, *violinist*, is Artistic Director of the Second City Chamber Series, Chair of the Faculty of Stringed Instruments at Pacific Lutheran University, and Concertmaster of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Rønning graduated from Pacific Lutheran University where he was mentored by violinist Ann Tremaine and SCCS Artistic Director Emeritus Jerry Kracht. He is a former faculty member of the University of Virginia and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University. This is Svend Rønning's sixteenth appearance on the Series.

BETTY AGENT, *violinist*, is instructor of viola at Pacific Lutheran University and serves as violist of the Regency String Quartet. She has been a member of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra and served as viola coach for the Seattle Youth Symphony. An active recitalist, chamber player and free-lance musician, Ms. Agent has performed in the Arts West Chamber Music Series and the Governor's Chamber Music Festival. She is currently Assistant Principal Violist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and Principal Violist of the Auburn Symphony. She is also a faculty member of the Max Aronoff Viola Institute and a regular on the Aronoff Chamber Music Series. Ms. Agent is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder and Eastern Washington University. Betty Agent makes her ninth appearance on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

RICHARD TREAT, *cellist*, joined the Regency String Quartet and the string faculty of Pacific Lutheran University in September, 2006. A native of Los Angeles, Richard earned both Bachelors and Masters Degrees from California State University at Los Angeles, where he studied with Stephen De'ak, Eleonore Schoenfeld, and Lucien LaPorte. Mr. Treat has worked with several orchestras in greater Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the Pasadena, Long Beach, and

Glendale Symphonies. In addition, Richard has been principal cellist of the Santa Barbara and South Coast Symphonies, the Mozart Camerata, and the Pasadena Chamber Orchestra and played for many years with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra and the Deodara String Quartet. He is now a member of the Max Aronoff Institute faculty in Kenmore, and is regularly featured in performances of solo and chamber music in the Northwest. This is Mr. Treat's second performance on the Second City Chamber Series.

Masterpiece I: BERLIN and LEIPZIG

JAMES BROWN, *tenor*, is an active proponent of both early and new music. James is the Chair of Vocal Studies at Pacific Lutheran University where he oversees a large and diverse voice program. As the director of that school's Opera Workshop, he has been the recipient of several grants including a Regency Scholarship Grant and a Production Grant from the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music in New York. Praised for his "generous tenor" voice by Early Music America, Brown has sung with such opera companies and presenters as New York City Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Bronx Opera, Rogue Opera (Oregon), Chautauqua Opera, Seattle Early Music Guild, Skylight Opera Theatre (Milwaukee), Aspen Opera Theater and The Spoleto Festival in Spoleto, Italy. As a concert soloist, James has appeared at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Seattle's Town Hall, Harris Concert Hall at the Aspen Festival, The Ravinia Festival in Chicago and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California. James Brown holds a Bachelor's Degree in voice performance from Loyola University/ New Orleans, a Master of Music degree in voice from the Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He makes his debut on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

MARY MANNING, *violin*, is a freelance performer and teacher in the Pacific Northwest. A Tacoma native, she is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio where she studied both modern and baroque violin performance. Her extensive work as a baroque orchestral musician has included being a member of the Seattle, Portland, and Pacific (Vancouver BC) Baroque Orchestras as well as appearing with San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Washington DC's Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, and the Carmel Bach Festival in California. Her performance of chamber music on baroque instruments includes many appearances on the Gallery Concerts Series in Seattle, the classical instrument Tomasini String Quartet, and the Puget Sound Consort. She has recorded for Wildboar, Centaur, and Virgin Veritas. On modern violin Mary has played with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony, and the Tacoma Symphony. She served as Concertmaster for the Northwest Sinfonietta during the 2005-2006 Season. She also served as Concertmaster for Seattle Pro Musica's performance of the Mozart Orchestra in 2005. She is currently Principal Second Violin with the Northwest Sinfonietta and the Tacoma Opera Orchestra. She is a member of the Northwest Sinfonietta String Quartet and Chinook Trio. This is Mary Manning's fourth appearance with the Second City Chamber Series.

SHARON PORTER SHULL, *harpsichord*, is Minister of Music at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor, Washington. Mrs. Shull earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and a Master of Arts in Church Music degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. She studied organ with M. Wayne Eich, Fenner Douglass, and William Porter and harpsichord with William Porter and Lisa Crawford. Prior to moving to Tacoma in 2005 she was Organist/Minister of Music at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton, Virginia for eighteen years where she played the Taylor & Boody organ, Opus 24 and was Assistant Professor of Organ at Mary Baldwin College. Mrs. Shull is a founding member of the Northwest Camerata chamber ensemble. She has performed organ concerts and chamber music concerts in Washington and several states on the east coast and has been heard on Pipedreams on National Public Radio. This is Sharon Porter Shull's debut on the Second City Chamber Series.

JENNIFER RHYNE, *flute*, serves as Affiliate Artist and Lecturer in Flute at Pacific Lutheran University where she teaches flute, directs the Sølrvinden flute choir, and performs frequently as a soloist and in chamber music. Before joining the faculty of PLU, she taught at Fort Hays State University in Kansas. The North Carolina native earned a DMA at the State University of New York at Stony Brook as a student of Carol Wincenc. Her previous teachers include Kathleen Chastain and Michel Debost at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Lorna McGhee at the University of Michigan, and Pierre-Yves Artaud at the École Normale de Musique in Paris. She has been a prize winner in competitions sponsored by the National Flute Association, the Texas Flute Society, the Albuquerque Flute Association, and the Washington, DC Flute Society and has performed at Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden in New York. Rhyme performs regularly in the Puget Sound region

with ensembles such as the Tacoma and Federal Way Symphonies, the Camas Woodwind Quintet, and the Icicle Creek Piano Trio. As a baroque flutist, she has performed and recorded with the Seattle Trumpet Consort, Choral Arts and members of the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, and on the Walla Walla Baroque concert series. This is Dr. Rhyne's first appearance with the Second City Chamber Series.

NATHAN WHITTAKER, *baroque cello*, received his first cello at age eight and pursued study at the Georgia Academy of Music where he won the Alice B. Williams Award. Mr. Whittaker holds Bachelor of Music, *cum laude*, and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University. His private instructors have included Helga Winold, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Stanley Ritchie, Peter Wiley and Robert Marsh. For five seasons, he has performed in the Bloomington Early Music Festival and was twice appointed cellist at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Mr. Whittaker is a recognized baroque cellist and has performed both as a soloist and a continuo cellist with such artists as Stanley Ritchie, Alison Edberg, Ingrid Matthews, Marc Destrubé, and Rachel Barton Pine. He is a member of the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, and regularly performs with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, Yakima Symphony, Bellevue Philharmonic, Pacific Baroque Orchestra (B.C.), and Concerto Baroque. He is also nearing completion of a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Washington and teaches cello privately and at the Chopin Academy of Music in Issaquah. Mr. Whittaker makes his first appearance on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

Spotlight I: PARIS and RIO DI JANIERO

DARRIN THAVES, *flutist*, is an honors graduate of the University of Puget Sound with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a 1999 Deans List Graduate of California State University of Long Beach with a Masters in Flute Performance. He is currently principal flute with the Northwest Sinfonietta and co-director for the Long Beach Flute Institute and Northwest Flute Collegium Summer Camps. Darrin was the winner of the 2005 National Flute Association Convention Performers Competition and the 2000 Seattle Ladies Music Club Young Artist Competition. He is the coordinator of the annual CSULB Flute Competitions and past-coordinator for the NFA High School Soloist Competition. Darrin is Instructor of Flute at California State University, Long Beach, as well as maintaining a private studio and conducting the Pacific Flute Ensemble in Long Beach, CA. This season will be Mr. Thaves' second appearance on the Second City Chamber Series.

SANDRA BLEIWEISS, *pianist*, is well known to audiences for her sensitive artistry as a performer of both vocal and instrumental chamber music. A native of the Pacific Northwest, she appears often with the Region's major vocal and instrumental ensembles. Ms. Bleiweiss is also the official accompanist for the Northwest Metropolitan Opera auditions and has appeared throughout the U.S. in recital with Metropolitan Opera heldentenor, Gary Lakes. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Whitman College with additional studies at Washington University in St. Louis, the Institute of Vocal Studies in Paris, and the Mozarteum Conservatory in Salzburg. Ms. Bleiweiss makes her fourth appearance on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

Masterpiece II: BUDAPEST and VIENNA

GWEN TAYLOR, *violinist*, is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory where she studied modern and baroque performance on violin and viola. Currently she is Assistant Concertmaster of the Tacoma Symphony and a member of the Northwest Sinfonietta. In addition to a busy freelance and teaching schedule in the classical world Gwen is also active in the Celtic music scene. She has been a faculty member of the Irish Music Academy of Cleveland and the Ohio Scottish Arts School as teacher and performer. Her teachers have included Almita and Roland Vamos, Greg Fulkerson, Marilyn McDonald and Walter Schwede. A native of the Pacific Northwest she lives in Bremerton with her two collies, Claudius and Fergus. Gwen Taylor makes her debut on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

THANE LEWIS, *violinist*, is Principal Violist of the Tacoma Symphony and Assistant Principal Violist of the Northwest Sinfonietta. Mr. Lewis has appeared as soloist with the Lake Union Civic Orchestra in Seattle's Town Hall and with the Eastside Symphony, and with the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra. He has also recorded orchestral works for the Sonic Window, Immortal Classics, and First Impression Music labels. Mr. Lewis is an active chamber musician around the Puget Sound and has performed on the Second City Chamber Series, the Cascadia Sounds of Summer, Jacobsen, Mostly Nordic, Seattle Symphony Young Composers and Governor's Mansion Chamber Series. In addition, Mr. Lewis has written a biography of violinist Steven Staryk, *Fiddling with*

Life, published by Mosaic Press of Toronto. Thane Lewis makes his third appearance with the Second City Chamber Series this season.

STUART HAKE, *cellist*, received degrees in cello performance from the University of Arizona and Rutgers University, studying with Gordon Epperson and Bernard Greenhouse. A resident of the South Sound since 1995, he has performed extensively as recitalist and chamber musician throughout the region. Along with his background in classical music he has also had the opportunity to tour as an electric rock cellist. He is Principal Cello of the Tacoma Opera and has been assistant principal cello of the Tacoma Symphony and faculty cellist at Pacific Lutheran University. He now directs the strings and instrumental music program at Annie Wright School and maintains teaching studios in Lakewood, Gig Harbor and Olympia. This will be Stuart's sixth performance with Second City Chamber Series.

Masterpiece III: PARIS and PRAGUE

In 2003, three award-winning musicians began working as a self-promoted group with the name, **FINISTERRA** and quickly gained an enthusiastic and growing following. Current members of Finisterra are:

KWAN BIN PARK, *violinist*, was born in South Korea and by age eleven attended the Juilliard pre-college program. Since then, his teachers have included Gabriel Banat, Denes Zsigmondy, Joseph Fuchs, Stephen Clapp, Ron Patterson and Ruggiero Ricci. He received a Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from the Juilliard School. He has performed as soloist with the Princeton Youth Orchestra and the Philadelphia College Symphony. A recipient of the William Randolph Hearst Award and the Dorothy Delay Violin Awards he has attended the Meadowmount Institute, the Kneisal Hall Chamber Music School, and has performed in the Torre Mountgri Chamber Music Festival, the Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series and the Seattle Chamber Music Festival. He was a founding member of the Corelliard Chamber Orchestra and has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Spain, Germany, Canada, South Korea and the United States. Mr. Park appears on the Second City Chamber Series for the second time this season.

KEVIN KRENTZ, *cellist*, is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He studied with Gary Hardie at Baylor University and with Florian Kitt of the Hochschule in Vienna, before earning a Master's degree in cello performance with Owen Carman, at Michigan State University. Mr. Krentz has also studied at the Meadowmount School for Strings, and was assistant to Toby Saks at the University of Washington. Kevin Krentz has performed throughout the U.S. as well as Austria, Italy, Canada and Great Britain as recitalist and soloist. In addition to his chamber music credits Kevin has also won several concerto competitions and the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle Award/Tour Competition. He has been featured on NPR as well as KING FM's "Live! By George" program and has performed throughout the U.S. to critical acclaim. Kevin is very active as a recording studio session player in Seattle where he can be heard on many major films, as well as commercials, video games, and CD's from Dave Matthews Band to Evanescence. Kevin is also the Artistic Director of the Methow Music Festival and makes his second appearance on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

TANYA STAMBUK, *pianist*, has been called "a player with a powerful technique, ideas of her own, and considerable promise" by the New York Times. Her concert career has taken her across the United States and throughout Western and Eastern Europe to perform with such ensembles as the Orchestre of Toulouse in France, the Virginia Symphony, the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic, the Lake Charles Symphony and Rapides Symphony Orchestra in Louisiana, Washington's Olympia Symphony and Oregon's Rogue Valley Symphony.

Tanya Stambuk has recorded the piano works of Norman Dello Joio on the Centaur label and has appeared on the television program, "In Praise of Women Pianists." She holds her B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Juilliard School, and a D.M.A. from Rutgers University. She credits Robert Turner, Sasha Gorodnitzki, and Ilana Vered as her major mentors in learning the art of piano performance. Dr. Stambuk is Professor of Piano at the University of Puget Sound. She makes her second Second City Chamber Series appearance this season.

ZACHARY LYMAN, *trumpeter*, is Assistant Professor of Trumpet and Music Theory at Pacific Lutheran University where he teaches classroom music, directs the trumpet ensembles, coaches chamber music, and performs with the Lyric Brass Quintet. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa where he was the recipient of the Iowa Performance Fellowship. Dr. Lyman also received the Bachelor of Music degree from The College of Wooster, and the Master of Music degree from the

New England Conservatory of Music. His principal teachers include Dr. Daniel D'Addio, Dr. Jack Gallagher, Charles Schlueter, and David Greenhoe. He is active as an orchestral, chamber, and solo performer, and has performed with the New England Philharmonic, Boston Philharmonic, Cedar Rapids, Quad Cities (Iowa), and Tacoma Symphony Orchestras. He has also performed as featured soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. This is Dr. Lyman's first appearance with the Second City Chamber Series.

JOHN RUZE, *bassoonist*, is the Principal Bassoonist of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra and the Second Bassoonist of the Northwest Sinfonietta. Mr. Ruze has also served as Second Bassoonist of the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic and the Des Moines Metro Opera. John received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the Juilliard School in 1986. He has been a fellowship recipient at the Tanglewood Music Center, a Classical Winter in Jerusalem, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. His teachers include Loren Glickman (Juilliard), K. David van Hoesen (Eastman), and Richard Ranti (Boston Symphony). Mr. Ruze is a former faculty member of Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and has appeared with the New World Symphony, the New York Kammermusiker, and the Quintet of Americas. Noted composers, Deborah Anderson and Steve Sacco have written pieces for him. This season marks John Ruze's first appearance on the Second City Chamber Series.

KEVIN MORTON, *clarinetist*, moved from the Northern Bay area of California to Seattle in 2001. Kevin is a member of the Northwest Sinfonietta, and enjoys freelancing in other ensembles such as the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, Tacoma Symphony and Pacific Northwest Ballet. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from The Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music Degree from The San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Kevin's primary instructors included Peter Hadcock of the Boston Symphony, Rosario Mazzeo, a world renowned teacher and former BSO musician, and David Newman of the San Francisco Symphony. It is Kevin's wish to continue to explore his love of diverse chamber music, as well as more orchestral playing, and to teach privately on a regular basis here in the beautiful Northwest. This is Kevin Morton's debut on the Second City Chamber Series.

Spotlight II: BARCELONA and MADRID

The ICICLE CREEK PIANO TRIO is the Ensemble-in-Residence at the Icicle Creek Music Center, a non-profit organization in Leavenworth, Washington. Current members of the ensemble are:

JENNIER CAINE, *violinist*, was the first prize winner of the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Competition in 2004 and recipient of several awards including the Isolde Menges Prize, Polonsky Foundation Grant and Frank Huntington Beebe Grant for Musicians. She has performed in concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe, and at music festivals including the Olympic Music Festival, Soesterberg International Music Festival, Music@Menlo, and Norfolk, Yellow Barn and Sarasota Music Festivals. In the U.K., she performed extensively as a recitalist and chamber musician, and co-founded the Knox Piano Trio, which toured England and Northern Ireland. As an orchestral musician, she has appeared in concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Oxford Philomusica, and Seattle Symphony. Ms. Caine is Resident Violinist at Icicle Creek Music Center and violinist of the Icicle Creek Piano Trio. Her recent collaborations in the Seattle area have included the odeonquartet, Seattle Chamber Players, and Sanssouci Chamber Ensemble, and she regularly performs on the Simple Measures and Second City Chamber Series. Jennifer is a graduate of Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and holds Master of Music Degrees from the Royal College of Music and Oxford University. Her teachers and coaches have included Grigori Zhislin, Zinaida Gilels, Olga Yanovich, Robert Lipsett, Elisabeth Adkins, Robert Levin and Daniel Stepner. Ms. Caine makes her third appearance with the Second City Chamber Series this season.

OKSANA EZHOKINA, *pianist*, is a native of Ryazan, Russia. The winner of piano competitions in Russia and the United States, Ms. Ezhokina has given numerous solo and chamber performances in both countries. Her collaborations have included concerts with such ensembles as the Seattle Chamber Players, Klimt Piano Trio and the Contemporary Chamber Players. A dedicated performer of works by contemporary composers, she has premiered music by Laura Kaminsky and Paul Drescher, among others. Ms. Ezhokina was awarded a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2004. She also holds an Artist Diploma from the Ryazan School of Music in Russia, a Master of Music degree in piano from Northern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Walla Walla College. Her principal teachers were Christina Dahl, Donald Walker, Leonard Richter and Eleanor Oragyoff, and she has coached chamber

music with pianists Gilbert Kalish and Seymour Lipkin as well as members of the Juilliard, Emerson, Orion and Vermeer String Quartets. Ms. Ezhokina is Resident Pianist at Icicle Creek Music Center, is Co-Artistic Director and teaches a full piano studio at the Music Center. This is her second appearance on the Second City Chamber Series.

SALLY SINGER, *cellist* from the United Kingdom, has an extensive background in solo and chamber music performance. She has toured in Britain, France, Italy, Austria and Germany with ensembles and has played in the major concert halls of London, New York and Vienna. As a soloist, Sally has appeared recently with the Danbury Symphony Orchestra, CT, the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra and the Pleven Philharmonic, Bulgaria, where the *Polemics of Art Journal* review referred to her interpretation of Elgar's cello concerto as "a performance of the highest caliber, which will leave life-long memories for every person in the audience." Ms. Singer was a top prizewinner in the Corpus Christi International Young Artists competition, won the John Ireland Chamber Music Competition and received two fellowships to the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA, as well as many awards and scholarships from her institutions of study. She has appeared on British National Television several times and has performed and interviewed live for National Public Radio, Seattle, King FM, Koho Radio and KUT. Ms. Singer was awarded First Class honors at the Royal Northern College of Music, has a Masters degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the State University of New York, Stony Brook, where she studied cello performance with Timothy Eddy. She has given master classes in New York, Texas, Washington and Australia, and has a flourishing private studio. Ms. Singer is a former member of the Vovka Ashkenazy and Klimt Piano Trios and makes her third appearance on the Second City Chamber Series this season.

Masterpiece IV: COPENHAGEN AND STOCKHOLM

TOM DZIEKONSKI, *violinist*, studied violin with Vilem Sokol at the University of Washington, where he graduated with honors in Music, Arts and Electrical Engineering. He also studied with Daniel Majeske, the late concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra. He was Concertmaster of the Seattle Youth Symphony, where he received the Inspirational award and returned as a guest soloist. Tom is First Violinist in the Metropolitan String Quartet, First Violinist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and was formerly the Concertmaster of the Tacoma Opera Orchestra. In addition, Tom plays electric violin for *Teatro Zinzanni*. As a member of the Metropolitan String Quartet, Tom premiered *In The Penal Colony*, the chamber opera by Philip Glass, in Seattle, Chicago and New York. Other projects include performances of *Anna Madrigal Remembers* with the Seattle Men's Chorus and with mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade as well as performances for KOMO TV, the Northwest Girlchoir, and the Mostly Nordic, Second City and the Governor's Chamber Music Series. Tom Dziekonski plays occasionally with the Seattle Symphony and with Seattle Opera, where he also performed on-stage roles in costume for Verdi's *Masked Ball* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Tom Dziekonski appears on the Second City Chamber Series for the ninth time this season.

VIRGINIA DZIEKONSKI, *cellist*, is Assistant Principal Cellist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra. She has performed with Seattle Symphony and the Seattle Opera. Virginia has also performed as principal cellist for Tacoma Opera, the Northwest Sinfonietta and the St. James Cathedral Chamber Orchestra. She works for all the major recording studios in the Seattle area, playing scores for radio, television and movies. Virginia is an active chamber musician and has appeared in series such as the Second City Chamber Series in Tacoma, Artswest, Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series, Camerata Musica of the Battelle Institute, the San Juan Chamber Players, the Music in the Park Series of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, and the Water Music Festival in Long Beach, WA. As a member of the Metropolitan String Quartet, Virginia has premiered *Anna Madrigal Remembers* with the Seattle Men's Chorus and with mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade and the chamber opera, *In the Penal Colony* at ACT Theatre, which also toured to Chicago and New York. Virginia was also chosen to play Principal Cello for the 2008 Windborne Symphony Orchestra. This season marks Virginia Dziekonski's ninth appearance with the Second City Chamber Series.

LISA BERGMAN, *pianist*, has appeared as collaborative pianist in concerts, festivals and conventions throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia. Under the auspices of the Piatigorsky Foundation, Bergman has toured the United States. Selected as an American Artistic Ambassador by the United States Information Agency she toured New Zealand, Nepal, Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia and China and made her joint recital debut in Carnegie Recital Hall. She is a graduate of Juilliard, the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Washington, cum laude. Bergman was a member of the University of Washington Music Faculty (1989-1999)

and her discography includes five CDs. She is the executive director of the Icicle Creek Music Center in Leavenworth, Washington where she also hosts Sunday Morning Classics on KOHO Radio. She is executive director of NOISE (Northwest Opera in Schools, Et Cetera) and artistic director for the Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series in Seattle promoting Nordic chamber music and musicians. Bergman was recently selected as a member of the Hall of Fame for the Washington State Music Teachers Association for "extraordinary service, outstanding musicianship, dedication and leadership which have significantly contributed to the development and growth of music education in the State of Washington." Lisa Bergman continues to be a close friend to the Second City Chamber Series and makes her thirty-first appearance on the Series this season.