



Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, violins
Sheila Browne, viola and Lawrence Stomberg, cello

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University presents Serafin String Quartet and Blair String Quartet

(Wilmington, Del.) February 9, 2017 – The [Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University](#) will present [Serafin String Quartet](#) and [Blair String Quartet](#) in a joint performance on **April 7, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.** The collaborative performance is part of an exchange partnership between the two Quartets and culminates a week of master classes led by Serafin String Quartet at Vanderbilt University. In the fall of 2017, the Blair String Quartet will visit the [University of Delaware](#), where the Serafin String Quartet serves as *Quartet in Residence*, for similar activities.

The Quartets share close ties through Serafin founding violinist, [Kate Ransom](#), who grew up in Nashville, and Blair String Quartet violinist, [Cornelia Heard](#). Both musicians studied together through high school at the Blair Academy, precursor of Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. As students, the accomplished violinists held successive positions as concertmaster of the Nashville Youth Symphony, and both soloed with the youth orchestra. Kate Ransom's first professional job, at age 16, was as the youngest member of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Both Ms. Ransom and Ms. Heard are alumni of the [University School of Nashville](#), which awarded Ms. Ransom its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008.

The concert program features the Serafins playing quartets by Haydn (Op. 77#1 in G Major) and Mendelssohn (Op. 44#1 in D Major), and they will join the Blair String Quartet on the second half of the program for Mendelssohn's famed *Octet for Strings*.

The Blair School is committed to providing superior musical instruction to pre-collegiate and adult students in the environs of Nashville, Tennessee; stimulating classroom and studio instruction to collegiate music majors and minors; and, to the students of Vanderbilt University at large, an array of academically rigorous, culturally enriching courses appropriate to one of the nation's leading institutions of higher learning.

If you go: Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University presents Serafin String Quartet and Blair String Quartet

When: Friday, April 7, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

The logo features a large, stylized blue letter 'S' that loops around itself. To the right of the 'S', the words 'SERAFIN STRING QUARTET' are written in a blue, serif font. A horizontal blue line is positioned below the text.

SERAFIN STRING QUARTET

Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, violins
Sheila Browne, viola and Lawrence Stomberg, cello

Program features Haydn String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77#1, Mendelssohn String Quartet in D Major, Op. 44#1, and Serafin String Quartet joining the Blair String Quartet for a performance of Mendelssohn's *Octet for Strings*.

[Turner Recital Hall](#) at Blair School of Music

Vanderbilt University, 2400 Blakemore Ave., Nashville, TN 37240

Turner Recital Hall is located inside the front entrance of Blair School of Music.

Parking for Blair events is sometimes available in the West Garage which is located directly across from Ingram Hall.

Free Admission

Please visit www.serafinquartet.org for the complete 2016-2017 season schedule.

About Serafin String Quartet

Hailed for "silken finesse and gritty vibrancy" by *Gramophone Magazine* and for "playing with style and sophistication" by *The Strad Magazine*, Serafin String Quartet debuted at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2004 and has consistently received superlatives in the press and ovations by audiences around the nation. The Quartet's highly acclaimed Naxos (2013) release featuring world premiere recordings of early chamber works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon was listed as "Top 10 Classical Albums in 2013" by Philadelphia's City Paper. The Quartet's debut recording on Centaur (2010) is an "American Tapestry" of works by American composers and composers influenced by American sounds, including Barber, Dvorák, Gershwin and William Grant Still. Featured by *Strings Magazine* for innovative concert programming, Serafin String Quartet has been applauded at performances around the nation. The Quartet serves as Quartet in Residence at the University of Delaware and takes its name from master violin maker, Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by SSQ violinist Kate Ransom. The other members play Testore instruments from the same era, thanks to generous support from Dr. William Stegeman. For more information, please visit www.serafinquartet.org.

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