



Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, *violins*

Esme Allen-Creighton, *viola* and Lawrence Stomberg, *'cello*

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Serafin String Quartet Welcomes New Violist Sheila Browne

(Wilmington, Del.) July 28, 2016 – [Serafin String Quartet](#) (SSQ) welcomes new violist [Sheila Browne](#) effective immediately. Browne replaces Esme Allen-Creighton who steps down after four years as violist with SSQ to pursue a degree in music therapy.

Sheila Browne has also been named the new viola professor at [University of Delaware's](#) Department of Music. Brown joins both the University and the Quartet from her position at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she has been on the faculty for ten years.

Hailed by The New York Times as a "*stylish player*," Browne is an accomplished soloist, chamber musician, professor and orchestral principal. She received a Naumburg scholarship and a Bachelor of Music degree at the Juilliard School, where she was famed pedagogue Karen Tuttle's teaching assistant for four years. [Click here](#) for Browne's full biography.

SSQ is delighted that Ms. Browne has accepted the Quartet position of violist. SSQ will be working this summer to prepare for an exciting first season, with performances at the University of Delaware - where the Quartet has recently accepted re-appointment as *Quartet in Residence* for the next three years.

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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