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Strings Magazine Features Serafin String Quartet Innovative Concert Programming

(Wilmington, Del.) September 2, 2015 – [Strings Magazine](#) interviewed [Serafin String Quartet](#) violist [Esme Allen-Creighton](#) about her recent workshop “Beyond the Family Concert,” presented at the 2015 American String Teachers Association conference. Allen-Creighton offers key insights on how the Serafins are rethinking the concert experience with their innovative and engaging programming.

“We don’t want people to feel like they’re in a classroom,” Allen-Creighton says. “We want to show, not tell. We’re performing for people who want engage with a piece in a really experiential way.”

The Quartet takes sections of a piece and associates them with some kind of literary reference or motive. For example, the Serafins paired Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s “Amazing Grace” with historical documents written by the lyrics’ author, slave-trader-turned-abolitionist John Newton.

Allen-Creighton is quick to note that Serafin’s efforts are part of a broader movement. “More and more classical groups are trying to break down divisions between their art form and what a modern audience wants and expects,” she says. The common thread is finding new ways to reach people who may have only a passing familiarity with classical music. “You don’t have to have been studying the piano for 20 years,” she says. “Here’s an entry point. We want to invite you in.”

Please visit www.allthingsstrings.com for the complete article from the July 2015 issue of Strings Magazine.

Serafin String Quartet September Concert Dates

September 19, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

University of Delaware Faculty Gala Concert
Featuring a performance by Quartet in Residence, Serafin String Quartet
University of Delaware Main Campus, Mitchell Hall, South College Avenue, Newark, DE
www.music.udel.edu

September 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Cabrini College presents Serafin String Quartet
The program features Panamanian Dances by William Grant Still; String Quartet No. 6 by Bela Bartok; and String Quartet in G Minor by Edvard Grieg.
Free, Open to the public
Cabrini College Mansion, 610 King of Prussia Road Radnor PA 19087
www.cabrini.edu

September 21, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

University of Delaware presents Quartet in Residence, Serafin String Quartet, joined by UD Faculty Artists Eileen Grycky, flute, and Jeffrey O’Donnell, oboe, as well as Guest Artists Jill Felber and Claudia Anderson, flutes, and Douglas Mapp, double bass, presenting Mozart Flute Quartet in D Major, Oboe Quartet, Cynthia Folio Winds for Change, and Brahms String Quartet in c minor, Op. 51, No. 1.

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, all-caps font. A horizontal blue line is positioned below the text.

SERAFIN STRING QUARTET

Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, *violins*

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

Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/alumni, \$5 students

www.music.udel.edu

About Serafin String Quartet

Serafin String Quartet's world premiere recording featuring early chamber works by award-winning composer Jennifer Higdon will be released by Naxos on July 30, 2013. The Quartet's debut recording (Centaur Records 2010) was hailed by *The Strad Magazine* for "playing with style and sophistication" and the *American Record Guide* for "combining true rhythmic precision, beautiful intonation, and beautiful articulation with an excellent sense of balance and deeply satisfying musical phrasing." Serafin String Quartet has been applauded by audiences around the nation, including sellout crowds at repeat performances in New York City's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. 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 Kate Ransom. The other members of the Quartet play Testore instruments, thanks to the generosity of Dr. William J. Stegeman. For more information, please visit www.serafinquartet.org.

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