

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*

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Serafin String Quartet Announces Release Date for Second Recording

(Wilmington, Del.) May 15, 2013 – Serafin String Quartet's newest recording will be released by Naxos on July 25, 2013. The recording features the early chamber works by Grammy and Pulitzer prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, who comments, "I am inspired by this amazing CD. What performances - just stunning! The pieces sound even better than they did in my head! Bravo to Serafin!"

The disc includes Higdon's Sky Quartet (string quartet, 1997, rev 2001); Amazing Grace (originally written in 1998 for choir and later adapted for string quartet by the composer); String Trio for violin, viola, cello (1988); Sonata for Viola and Piano (1990); and Dark Wood for violin, cello, bassoon and piano (2001). Pianist Charles Abramovic and bassoonist Eric Stomberg are the collaborative artists for this project.

The recording provides exposure to a broader scope of works by Jennifer Higdon and will help ensure that her excellent early works are not neglected. The new release adds to the discography of Higdon's works, helping to more fully inform the interested listener about the scope of her compositional development.

"Jennifer Higdon is one of the most significant present-day American composers. Her early works are filled with the promise of her creative ability and compositional skill," says Serafin violinist, Kate Ransom. "One can hear in these early works a tremendous amount of heart as well as excellent craft."

Serafin String Quartet, initiated its discography and recording output with a debut release on the Centaur label in fall 2010. Their debut disc received high praise in *The Strad Magazine* (2010) and *American Record Guide* (2011). Significant recording projects remain an important part of the Quartet's artistic activity. The Serafins aspire to present recorded material that reflects the quality of their own artistic output and their philosophical commitment to the works of living composers, as well as time-tested masterworks, through both performance and recording projects.

Grammy award-winning composer, Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962 and presently based in Philadelphia) recently received the Pulitzer Prize for her Violin Concerto and is one of the most-performed living American composers working today. Along with being a Grammy winner, she has also been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pew Fellowship and two awards from the American Academy of Arts & Letters. Commissions have come from a wide range of performers: from the Philadelphia Orchestra to The President's Own Marine Band; from the Tokyo String Quartet to violinist Hilary Hahn and the new music ensemble, eighth blackbird. She makes her living from commissions and serves as composer-in-residence with various orchestras throughout the country.

About the Serafin String Quartet

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's debut recording was released by Centaur Records in September 2010, to critical acclaim. Serafin String Quartet serves as *Quartet in Residence* at the University of Delaware and takes its name from master violinmaker, Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by Kate Ransom. For more information, please visit www.serafinquartet.org.

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