

TAOS CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP

presents

“VIAJE ESPECIAL”



Generously sponsored by:

**Henry Fliegel, Musician Sponsor for Elizabeth Baker
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2 November, 2024 | 5:30pm

3 November, 2024 | 3:00 pm

Harwood Museum of Art

Program

Oblivion (1944)

Astor Piazzolla (1887-1959)

(arr. by V. Gryaznov for piano quintet, adapted for piano quartet by L. Chang and E. Baker)

Duo for Violin and Viola (1946)

Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro agitato

Suite Espagnole pour violon et piano (1929)

Joaquín Nin (1879-1949)

- I. Vieille Castille
- II. Murcienne
- III. Catalane
- IV. Andalouse

Intermission

Suite Populaire Espagnole (1914)

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

- I. El Paño Moruno
- II. Nana
- III. Canción
- IV. Polo
- V. Asturiana
- VI. Jota

Piano Quintet in A Minor, Op. 67 (1931)

Joaquín Turina (1882-1949)

- I. Lento-Andante mosso-Lento-Andante-Quasi lento
- II. Vivo-Lento-Vivo
- III. Andante-Allegretto-Allegro molto-Lento-Allegretto

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Musicians

Violinist **ELIZABETH BAKER** enjoyed a 40-year orchestral career performing with the San Francisco Orchestra (10 years), and the Los Angeles Philharmonic (30 years), appearing on the stages of the world's finest concert halls. Since moving to Taos, she performs with the Taos Chamber Music Group, Santa Fe Pro Musica, New Mexico Performing Arts Society, Santa Fe Symphony, Chatter, and Montage Music Society. As a chamber musician, Baker was a member of XTET (16 years) and Bach's Circle (20 years) during her LA years, appearing in numerous chamber music festivals throughout the western U.S. She appeared as soloist three times with the LA Phil; all were premieres and all received critical acclaim. Baker served on the faculty at The California Institute for the Arts for 12 years and coached at YOLA (Youth Orchestra LA), the LA Phil-sponsored El Sistema program from its inception in 2011. She is a Grammy Award winner and is featured on the Delos, New World, Hännsler Classic, and Crystal Records labels. She plays on a Sanctus Seraphin violin made in 1733, previously owned by her late mother, Virginia Voigtländer Baker.

Violinist and violist **LAURA CHANG**, a native of Wisconsin, was born into a musical family and began her violin studies shortly after her fourth birthday. She earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Peabody Conservatory. Chang is an avid chamber and orchestral musician whose performances have taken her to venues across the US, Canada, and Europe. While a resident of Washington, DC, she was a member of the National Philharmonic, and the Maryland Symphony. More recently, she performed with the Colorado Symphony and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. In 2020, Chang and her family relocated to Albuquerque, where she is the Principal Violist with the New Mexico Philharmonic and a first violinist in the Santa Fe Symphony. She is also a member of the Central City Opera Orchestra, and performs as an extra with the Santa Fe Opera.

Cellist **SALLY GUENTHER** received her Bachelor's degree at Indiana University and a Master's degree at The Juilliard School of Music. She also attended the Taos School of Music, Music Academy of the West and International Congress of Strings. After engagements with several US orchestras, including with the Cincinnati, Fort Worth and Syracuse symphonies, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, she became solo cellist of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway, a position she held for twenty years. Since moving full-time to New Mexico in 2006, Guenther devotes herself to chamber music, travelling widely in the Southwest area and participating in chamber music festivals in Santa Fe, Taos, Abiquiu, Los Alamos, and Breckenridge, Colorado. In addition she has played with the New Mexico Symphony, Santa Fe Pro Musica and Santa Fe Symphony orchestras. Guenther maintains a private studio in Santa Fe.

Pianist **VICKI RAY** has been described as "phenomenal and fearless." She is a pianist, improviser and composer and has commissioned and premiered countless new works by today's leading composers. Ray is a founding member of Piano Spheres and head of keyboard studies at the California Institute of the Arts, where she was named the first recipient of the Hal Blaine Chair in Musical Performance. Ray's recording of Daniel Lentz's River of 1000 Streams was named by Alex Ross in the New Yorker as one of the top 20 recordings of 2017. She also serves as the chromolodeonist for the Grammy-winning Los Angeles Partch ensemble.

Program Notes

Astor Piazzolla (1887-1959)

Born of Italian immigrants in Argentina, Piazzolla became famous for his tango and bandoneon compositions. He moved to NYC with his parents as a youth but returned to Argentina several times during his lifetime. Oblivion was recorded in 1982 and has been arranged for numerous instrumental combinations.

Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Villa-Lobos became the dominant figure in Brazilian 20th c. music. A prolific composer, Villa-Lobos was influenced by Brazilian folk music's songs and rhythms. He combined them within western classical music forms.

Joaquin Nin (1879-1949)

Nin is known for his compositions and arrangements of popular Spanish folk music. He moved from Cuba to Spain as a child where he studied piano and composition in Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France. He returned to Cuba in 1910 and toured extensively as a pianist in Europe and South America. He was a leading figure in the renaissance of Spanish music in the early part of the 20th c.

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

De Falla is considered Spain's greatest composer of the 20th c. One of his most famous early compositions is the one-act opera, *La Vida Breve*. This was during a period where he became interested in the music of his native Andalusia, particularly Andalusian flamenco, which significantly influenced his compositions. He moved to Argentina in 1939 after the Spanish Civil War where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Joaquin Turina (1882-1949)

Like his colleague, Manuel de Falla, Spanish-born Turina studied in Spain and in Paris, France. His compositional practice is heavily influenced by the Impressionist composers, Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy. His later years were spent teaching composition at the Madrid Royal Conservatory.