

# TAOS CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP

presents

## "Messiaen Musings"

**Saturday, March 29, 5:30 pm &  
Sunday, March 30, 3:00 pm**

Graeme Steele Johnson, clarinet  
Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, violin  
Walter Haman, cello  
Debra Ayers, piano



**Debra Ayers generously sponsored by:  
Steve and Rhonda Turner**

**The Montage Music Society Concert generously sponsored by:  
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## Musicians

**Clarinetist, Graeme Steele Johnson** is an artist of uncommon imagination and versatility. The clarinetist, curator, and “musical detective” (New York Classical Review) recently garnered widespread attention for his rediscovery, reconstruction, and recording of a 127-year-old Octet by Charles Martin Loeffler. His Loeffler Octet touring ensemble gave the first present-day performances of the work at the Library of Congress, Morgan Library, Harvard Musical Association, Phoenix Chamber Music Festival, and The Stissing Center. Other recent appearances include Chamber Music Northwest, Ravinia, Emerald City Music and the Bridgehampton, Rockport, Moab, Orcas Island, Annapolis, and Archipelago Collective Chamber Music Festivals. Steele Johnson has appeared as a TEDx speaker and, since 2022, has served as the clarinetist of the award-winning quintet WindSync. He earned degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, Yale School of Music, and a doctoral degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, where his research won the Elebash Dissertation Award. Steele Johnson’s principal teachers include David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Nathan Williams, and Ricardo Morales.

**Violinist, Stephanie Sant’Ambrogio** is described as a “violinist who most often takes your breath away” (Gramophone Magazine). She enjoys a varied performing and recording career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral leader. Sant’Ambrogio has performed as a chamber musician on the foremost stages of the U.S., as well as in Canada, Estonia, Sweden, Ghana, Italy, Peru, Chile, and Mexico. A Professor Emerita at the University of Nevada, Reno, she is also the Artistic Director Emerita of Cactus Pear Music Festival, which she founded in 1997 while serving as Concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony. Formerly First Assistant Principal Second Violin of The Cleveland Orchestra under Christoph von Dohnányi, Sant’Ambrogio toured and recorded internationally with this ensemble for eight seasons. She has a discography of over seventy-five orchestral and chamber music CDs and currently serves as Concertmaster of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Cellist, Walter Haman** is a member of the Utah Symphony and serves as Principal Cellist of the Grant Park Orchestra. He has performed with the Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, New Century Chamber Orchestra, and has been a guest cellist with Pink Martini. Haman performs regularly on the NOVA Chamber Music Series and Intermezzo Chamber Music Series in Salt Lake City. He also maintains an active teaching schedule and is on faculty at Utah State University. Haman has participated in the Spoleto Festival (Italy), Crested Butte Music Festival, and Biennale di Venezia, and received fellowships to the Aspen Music Festival and Tanglewood. An Artist Residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts led to a collaboration with dancer/choreographer José Navas. The Haman/Navas Project performed in major cities across Europe, Canada, and the United States. A documentary, *Perpetual Motion*, about the duo, appeared on Bravo. He is a graduate of the New England and San Francisco Conservatories of Music.

**Pianist, Debra Ayers** is director of Montage Music Society. She presents the Altazano Salon and Montage@Quail Run recitals in Santa Fe, NM. A proponent of contemporary music, she has premiered works by Ofer Ben-Amots, Matthew Aucoin, William Bolcom, Nell Shaw Cohen, Paul Elwood, Jeff Harrington, Andrew List, Niles Luther, Elliot Roman, Daniel Schnyder, Ronald Strauss, Bruce Wolosoff, and Yehudi Wyner. She is featured in the Milken Archive and on several critically acclaimed recordings, including Montage Music Society’s *Grammy-nominated Music of Bruce Wolosoff*, *STARRY NIGHT Project...music based on visual art* (MSR), *Music of Ernst Krenek*, and a documentary series *Creating Music Inspired by Visual Art*.

## Montage Music Society Performers

Graeme Steele Johnson, Clarinet  
Walter Haman, Cello

Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, Violin  
Debra Ayers, Piano

Vocalise from *Concèrt a Quatre* (1935)  
Arr. Graeme Steele Johnson  
for violin, clarinet, cello, and piano

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

"Noa Noa" A Gauguin Tableau (2008)  
for violin, clarinet, and piano

Andrew List (b. 1956)

"Where Do We Come From?"  
"What Are We?"  
"Where Are We Going?"

Song of the Birds (Cant dell Ocells)  
Traditional Catalan Christmas Carol for cello and piano

Arr. Pablo Casals (1876-1973)

Intermission

Quartet for the End of Time (Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps) (1941) Olivier Messiaen  
for violin, clarinet, cello, and piano

I. Liturgy of crystal (Liturgie de cristal)

II. Vocalise, for the Angel who announces the end of Time  
(Vocalise, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps)

III. Abyss of the birds (Abîme des oiseaux)

IV. Interlude (Intermède)

V. Praise to the Eternity of Jesus (Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus)

VI. Dance of fury, for the seven trumpets (Danse de la fureur, pour les sept  
trompettes)

VII. A mingling of rainbows for the Angel who announces the end of Time  
(Fouillis d'arcs-en-ciel, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps)

VIII. Praise to the Immortality of Jesus (Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus)

**Montage Music Society** has established itself as a versatile, broadly based group of artists primarily dedicated to music inspired by visual art. Celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2025-26, MMS will feature many of its commissions. Works by Andrew List, Ofer Ben-Amots, Juantio Becenti, Nell Shaw-Cohen, Jody Redhage Ferber, Pierre Jalbert, Elliot Roman, Bruce Wolosoff, and Niles Luther are inspired by artwork of Gauguin, Bebe Krimmer, Will Wilson, Andy Goldsworthy, Nils Udo, Wayne Thiebaud, and Amati, Martin Resnick, and April Gornik respectively. Montage Music Society is featured in Vincent Stenerson documentaries "Creating Music Inspired by Visual Art."

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