

BCMF Artist Biographies 2016

August 22

ENSŌ STRING QUARTET

MAUREEN NELSON, violin KEN HAMAŌ, violin
MELISSA REARDON, viola RICHARD BELCHER, cello

Founded at Yale University in 1999, the Enso String Quartet has, in a decade and a half, risen to the front rank of string ensembles. Described by *Strad* magazine as “thrilling,” and praised by the *Washington Post* for its “glorious sonorities,” the Enso has won numerous awards, including top prizes at the Concert Artists Guild competition and the Banff International String Quartet Competition. In the words of *Classical Voice*, it is “one of the eminent string quartets of our era.” Apart from a busy touring and teaching schedule, the New York-based quartet has made a number of critically acclaimed recordings for the Naxos label. In appraising the Enso’s Grammy-nominated album of works by Alberto Ginastera, the reviewer for *MusicWeb International* declared, “The performances here by the Enso Quartet from America are quite staggeringly brilliant. I don’t think I have been so thrilled by the sound of a string quartet in a long time.... If I could give this disc a standing ovation of one...I would!”

Fall 2014 marks the release of the Enso quartet’s fifth recording for Naxos – featuring the quartets of Puccini, Verdi and Strauss. The group tours extensively in the U.S. with concerts at Bargemusic in New York, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Recent highlights include debuts at the Kennedy Center and in Seattle at Town Hall, and returns to Interlochen and Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music in Houston. In summer 2013 the group made debut appearances in both Brazil and Mexico, at Festival Internacional de Inverno de Campos do Jordão and Festival Internacional de Musica de Camera San Miguel de Allende.

The Enso’s members all were drawn to the string quartet repertoire because of its richness and diversity, and the ensemble is committed to exploring the four corners of that repertoire. The Enso regularly performs the classics of the string quartet literature, but also champions lesser-known works that deserve to be heard, along with much contemporary music, including works the Enso has commissioned. The ensemble also performs many of its own transcriptions, including arrangements of 16th Century Renaissance music. “The quartet’s ability to present music of three completely different idioms so persuasively puts it in the running for the mantle of Quartet of the Future” (*Palm Beach ArtsPaper*). World premieres include commissioned works by the esteemed New Zealand composer Dame Gillian Whitehead, and by the American composer Kurt Stallmann. The Enso also gave the world premiere of Joan Tower’s Piano Quintet, with the composer at the keyboard.

In addition to their in-demand performances at concert halls around the world, the Enso and its individual members are sought after as instructors. The ensemble gives master classes for the next generation of professional musicians, but also works with enthusiastic amateurs, young

and old, and with the autistic, in conjunction with the United Kingdom-based organization Music for Autism. The Enso has been awarded for its work with schoolchildren in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Based in New York City since 2007, the Enso String Quartet was previously in residence at Rice University in Houston, Texas, and at Northern Illinois University, in DeKalb, Illinois.

The ensemble's name is derived from the Japanese Zen painting of the circle, which represents many things: perfection and imperfection, the moment of chaos that is creation, the emptiness of the void, the endless circle of life, and the fullness of the spirit.

August 23

The Artaria String Quartet

Now in its 29th season, the Artaria String Quartet was recently lauded by Rob Hubbard of the St. Paul Pioneer Press -- "*Artaria Quartet is likely to give eloquent voice to whatever work it tackles.*" Artaria has served as MPR Artists-in-Residence and was featured on Twin Cities Public



Television as part of the minnesota original series. The quartet has appeared at major summer festivals including the Banff Centre in Canada, Festival de L'Épau in France, and the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA. Artaria is the recipient of a McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians, as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Chamber Music America, Midori's *Partners in Performance*, the Heartland Fund and the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council for performance and educational outreach. Members of the quartet are founders and directors of the Artaria Chamber Music School, a weekly chamber music program for young string players, Stringwood, a two-week summer festival held in Lanesboro, MN each June, and the Saint Paul String Quartet Competition, an annual national event.

Joining the Artaria as their new cellist for this concert is Rebecca Merblum.

Rebecca Merblum has been dedicated to chamber music throughout her life as a cellist. Originally from Connecticut, Rebecca studied the cello at the Hartt School, working with the Emerson String Quartet and Mitchell Stern of the American String Quartet, and earned her Bachelor and Master Degrees from the Cleveland Institute and New England Conservatory.

As a founding member of the Azmari Quartet, she participated in the Graduate Quartet Residency at Northern Illinois University under the tutelage of the Vermeer Quartet. The Azmari Quartet served as the Corbett String Quartet in Residence at Northern Kentucky University from 2004-2009.

While performing with the Azmari Quartet, Rebecca collaborated with pianist Awadagin Pratt,

Audrey Luna, Katherine Murdock, Marc Johnson, Anthony McGill, Michael Strauss and members of the Jupiter Quartet. Along with her colleagues, she also served as Co-Artistic Director of the Norse Festival.

Rebecca joins the Artaria Quartet from Los Angeles where for the past six years she has cultivated a voice within the city's diversified landscape, performing with the Salastina Chamber Music Series, Sundays at LACMA, the Green Umbrella Series (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and Classical Encounters.

Additional chamber music performances involved collaborations with Michele Zukovsky (LAPhil), Martin Chalifour (LAPhil), Ronald Leonard (LAPhil), Andrew Schulman (Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra) and Panic Group, an ensemble dedicated to the presentation of new music. Rebecca was also a substitute with the LAPhil and LAOpera from 2010-2016 and performed on several film soundtracks.

A dedicated teacher, Rebecca served as the Chair of the String Department at the Pasadena Conservatory where she was a member of the cello and chamber music faculties. Her students have gained recognition in numerous competitions and festivals including the Piatigorsky International Festival.

For more information visit <http://www.artariaquartet.com/about.htm>

Glider Trio

David Hagedorn

David Hagedorn is an Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where he teaches percussion, jazz studies, and world music. In June, 2011, Downbeat magazine deemed St. Olaf Jazz I to be the "Best Undergraduate Large Jazz Ensemble" in the 34th annual student music awards. This group had a very successful cultural exchange tour in Cuba in March of 2016. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory, and the University of Minnesota. Hagedorn has an album, "Solid/Liquid" on the artegra label in SACD format released in October of 2003, and a duo album with pianist Dan Cavanagh, "Horizon", released in December of 2010. Recently released in April 2014, is a recording with the Chris Bates Good Vibes Trio. He has recorded with the George Russell Living Time Orchestra on Blue Note Recordings (nominated for a Grammy award), jazz singer Debbie Duncan on Igmod Recordings, Brian Setzer Big Band, Pete Whitman X-tet, Phil Hey Quartet, the Out to Lunch Quintet, and also with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on Teldec Recordings. Hagedorn regularly performs in the Twin Cities with groups such as the Phil Hey Quartet, JazzMn, and Chris Bates Good Vibes Trio. On the classical side of music, he also has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, VocalEssence, Cantus, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and the Grand Teton Festival Orchestra.

Kevin Clements

Kevin Clements has been performing as a jazz bassist for over 45 years. From an early age he found jazz as his music of choice. Growing up in Kansas City he was exposed early on to that city's fertile jazz heritage. After graduating from the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, Kevin played and toured for several years. He had the good fortune to have performed with many great artists, including Billy Eckstine, Rosemary Clooney, Robert Goulet and Rita Moreno. In 1989, after a ten year stint as an Air Force pilot, he settled in Minneapolis/St Paul where he has become a staple in the Twin Cities jazz scene. Shortly after moving to Northfield in 1996, he met Dave Hagedorn and they have been playing together regularly ever since. Kevin taught jazz bass at Carleton College in Northfield for several years and flew airplanes for Northwest Airlines and Delta Airlines. He is currently enjoying retirement by playing more music, brewing beer and working in his woodshop.

Erik Hanson

Biography coming soon.

Parker Ousley

Parker Ousley grew up here in Northfield and began playing cello at age 5. He studied classical cello with David Carter, Peter Howard, and Anna Clift. In high school he began venturing from the comforts of his classical home and joined the amateur folk band, Flute Platoon, as a singer and cellist. After breaking from the Platoon, Parker started singing and playing as a solo act. His act lacks a definitive genre, but would likely fall somewhere between folk, pop, and jazz. When he and his cello, Jeremy, aren't performing on their own they can be found in Boston-based groups Unauthorized Personnel and American Housewife, and the locally-based duo The Triplets. Parker studies cello performance at Berklee College of Music where he studies with Mike Block, Eugene Friesen, and Rob Thomas.

August 26

J. C. Sanford

JC Sanford is a musician of rare breadth, deeply rooted in the traditions of Jazz and Classical music, yet constantly pushing at their boundaries. A protégé of legendary composer/trombonist Bob Brookmeyer, his compositions and arrangements have been performed by John Abercrombie, Lew Soloff, Dave Liebman, the Swedish Wind Ensemble, and Grammy-nominated classical pianist Andrew Russo. His 2014 debut CD with the JC Sanford Orchestra entitled Views from the Inside yielded international acclaim, including rave reviews from jazz journals, (such as Down Beat magazine, All About Jazz, and Jazziz), news publications (including the New Yorker,

the Guardian, and Spiegel), and modern classical sites (New Music Box and Textura). It was also awarded the prestigious Aaron Copland Fund Recording Grant. Sanford also conducts the twice-Grammy-nominated John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, the Alan Ferber Nonet with Strings, Joel Harrison's Infinite Possibility, and the Alice Coltrane Orchestra featuring Ravi Coltrane and Jack DeJohnette. A founding member of the composers' federation Pulse, along with fellow composer/bandleaders Joseph C. Phillips, Jr. and Darcy James Argue, he has collaborated with a wide array of artists including singer-songwriter Joy Askew, Japanese koto player Yumi Kurosawa, and Take Dance Company. He has appeared as a trombonist with artists such as Danilo Pérez, Matt Wilson, Andrew Rathbun, and Numinous. His new quartet recording *Can You Believe It?* will be released on Red Piano Records in November.

Dave Hagedorn, Kevin Clements and Erik Hanson's biographies appear under August 23.

August 27

Sonja Harasim

Violinist Sonja Harasim has been described as an “undeniably impressive” performer (James Chute, San Diego Union-Tribune, August 21, 2011), and hailed for her attention to detail, making “every note count deliciously” (Joel Luks, Culture Map Houston, April 26, 2011). Dr. Harasim is on the faculty at Concordia College, where she teaches violin and chamber music. In addition to her dedication to teaching, she maintains an active performing career locally, nationally, and internationally as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. She currently serves as Assistant Concertmaster of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and collaborates frequently with her colleagues in the Concordia Piano Trio and Concordia String Quartet. She has performed at numerous preeminent music festivals, including Schleswig-Holstein, International Holland Music Sessions, Encore, Tanglewood, Aspen, Round Top, Brevard, and Interlochen. As a soloist, she has been featured with the Shepherd Symphony Orchestra at Rice University, the Concordia Orchestra, and the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony's Masterworks series in collaboration with Cho-Liang Lin in performances of Bach Double Violin Concerto, Urban Overture, Young People's Concerts and “Symphony Rocks” at Bluestem. Before joining Concordia's faculty, Dr. Harasim frequently performed with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, and Da Camera of Houston. Performance highlights include those at the “Grieg in Bergen” concert series in Norway, Library of Congress and Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and La Jolla SummerFest in California. Dr. Harasim is dedicated to the performance of new music and little known works worthy of great acclaim, particularly those composed by Frank Bridge, the subject of her doctoral thesis. Several composers, including Karim Al-Zand, Daniel Breedon, Benjamin Krause, Russell Peterson and Christopher Walczak, have dedicated pieces to her, and in 2010, she premiered Dr. Walczak's Concerto for Violin and Chamber Orchestra. The concerto served as the centerpiece of their documentary, a unique behind the scenes look at a collaboration between a composer and performer. Recent engagements included performances and

masterclasses at “Outside the Box” at University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale, University of North Florida, and University of South Florida.

A sought after pedagogue and chamber music coach, Dr. Harasim is also on the faculty of the International Music Camp, Soiva International Music Festival, and the Minnesota All-State Camp, and frequently works with the violinists and chamber groups at the Fargo-Moorhead Area Youth Symphony. She previously taught violin and chamber music at Rice University’s Michael P. Hammond Preparatory School, the Houston Youth Symphony, and Chamber Music of the Rockies. Her students have been featured on Houston Public Radio’s “The Front Row” and have won numerous competitions, including the Houston Youth, Houston Civic, and Clear Lake Symphonies’ concerto competitions, as well as the MTNA North Dakota Young Artist Competition. She has given masterclasses at University of North Dakota and St. Olaf College, among others.

Dr. Harasim began her violin studies at the age of five in the Suzuki program at Parker Elementary with Karen Somer, Kathy Karpicke, and Rosemary Jodeit and went on to study with Albert Muenzer while attending the critically acclaimed High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, TX. She completed her undergraduate studies with David Updegraff at the Cleveland Institute of Music and returned to her hometown, Houston, Texas, to pursue graduate studies with Kenneth Goldsmith and doctoral studies with Cho-Liang Lin at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. Dr. Harasim plays a violin made in 2011 by Mario Miralles, modeled after Mr. Lin’s “Titian” Stradivarius.

David Carter

Cellist David Carter is Professor of Music at St. Olaf College. He holds degrees from the University of Minnesota, Indiana University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Carter's principal cello teachers include Robert Jamieson, Gary Hoffman, Janos Starker and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi.

Though legally blind as a result of the retinal disease choroideremia, Dr. Carter maintains an active performing and teaching schedule. He is Artistic Director of the Bridge Chamber Music Festival, performed for many years as cellist of the Melius Trio, and recently served as Cello Editor for the Minnesota String Teachers Association newsletter, StringNotes. Dr. Carter has served as Principal Cellist of the Wichita Symphony, performing as soloist with that ensemble in addition to the Minnesota Orchestra under Neville Marriner and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He has been on the faculty of Wichita State University, as well as the Rocky Ridge Music Center, the Red Lodge Music Festival, and currently the Interlochen Summer Music Camp. Recent performances include concerto appearances with the Century Chamber Orchestra and the Winona State University Chamber Orchestra, and recitals and master classes at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Over a 30 year career of college teaching, Dr. Carter's students have gone on to study cello at some of the nation's top graduate schools, including the New England Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Rice University and Indiana University. Cello students from St. Olaf hold positions in major symphony orchestras and university teaching positions, while many non-major students continue their life-long passion for music and the cello.

Dr. Carter can be heard on two recordings on the Centaur label, in “Three Pieces for Solo Cello” by Phillip Rhodes and works by Amy Beach, and on the Limestone label with the Melius Trio in trios by Mendelssohn, Clarke and Peter Hamlin. He performs on a cello made by David Folland (2008, Northfield, MN.)

Nicola Melville

US-based New Zealand pianist Nicola Melville has been described as “having an original and intelligent musical mind” (Waikato Times), “a marvelous pianist who plays with splashy color but also exquisite tone and nuance” (American Record Guide), and “the sort of advocate any composer would love” (Dominion Post). Her live performances and recordings have been broadcast on Canadian, U.S., New Zealand, South African and Chinese radio, and she has been involved in numerous interdisciplinary projects with dancers, filmmakers and visual artists, including a performance at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Nicola attended Victoria University School of Music, Wellington, where she studied with Judith Clark, and then earned Masters and Doctoral degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where she was awarded the Lizzie T. Mason prize for Outstanding Graduate Pianist, and the prestigious Performer’s Certificate. Nicola won both the National Concerto Competition and the Auckland Star Concerto Competition while in New Zealand, and was a winner of the SAI International Concerto Competition at the Chautauqua Music Festival, NY.

Nicola has recorded for the Innova and Equilibrium labels, and is a founding member of the cross-cultural ensemble, Intersection. In 2014 Nicola joined the Twin Cities-based new music group, Zeitgeist. She is Professor of Music at Carleton College, Minnesota, and is Artistic Co-Director of the Chautauqua Music Festival Piano Program in New York.

The Stone Arch Brass

Dan Fretland is an active freelance trumpet player and instructor in the Twin Cities area. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in trumpet performance and music education from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts degree in music education along with an administrative degree from the University of St. Thomas. Dan has performed with The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, the San Francisco Ballet, ICE Ensemble, and Music St. Croix, as well as with Garrison Keilor, Doc Severinsen, Ben Folds, Josh Groban, Johnny Mathis, Michael W. Smith, and Amy

Grant, as well as at the Los Angeles Contemporary Music Festival, the London Jazz Festival, and most recently with The Stone Arch Brass, in Harbin, China's International Music Festival.

Martin Hodel, trumpet, made his Carnegie Hall solo debut in February, performing the Linkola *Concerto* with the St. Olaf Band. He teaches trumpet, brass chamber music and conducts the Philharmonia at St. Olaf. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player in the US and around the world. An active extra and substitute trumpet, he played full time in the trumpet section of the Minnesota Orchestra for the 2005-06 season. As Principal Trumpet with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Hodel toured the U.S. and Japan, and he has toured coast to coast with the Dallas Brass. He has worked as a soloist with conductor Helmuth Rilling and Metropolitan Opera principal soprano Marlis Peterson and has shared the stage as a soloist with jazz artists Joe Henderson, Maria Schneider, Slide Hampton, Claudio Roditi, David Murray, and Jimmy Heath. Hodel performed a 23-concert tour of Germany with organist Bradley Lehman as the Hodel-Lehman Duo. Their CD, *In Thee is Gladness*, is available Larips Records and a forthcoming solo recording with St. Olaf faculty, *First Light*, will be released this fall. Hodel appears as a soloist on nine other compact discs, has soloed live with the St. Olaf Choir on the nationally-broadcast radio program, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and has played on Minnesota Public Radio, on public television, and on national broadcasts of the radio programs *Sing for Joy* and *PipeDreams*. Hodel holds a doctorate in trumpet performance and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music.

Neal Bolter has been playing the horn professionally for almost 40 years. He has played with the Empire Brass, Jerusalem Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Brooklyn Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, among others. In addition, he performs on several film scores including *Matrix Reloaded*, *Mount Everest*, *Lake Placid*, and can be heard on many commercials and video games. He has played numerous touring Broadway shows, including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Lion King*, *Wicked*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Showboat*, *Mary Poppins*, *The King and I*, *Carousel*, and many more. Neal holds a degree in music performance from the Juilliard School in New York City.

Trombonist Larry Zimmerman is a member of the Grammy winning Chestnut Brass Company, and is Principal Trombonist of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra and the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. He has performed around Minnesota with many ensembles, including the Minnesota Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Larry is also active in the performance of period brass instruments, including Renaissance sackbuts and 19th Century saxhorns. He enjoys working as a soloist & chamber musician including frequent performances with Music St. Croix, his chamber music group based in Stillwater, MN. Larry lives in Minneapolis and is a low brass instructor at St. Olaf College, University of St. Thomas, and Bethel University.

Dr. Paul J. Budde, tuba, is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he teaches tuba, music education and world music. An active performer and clinician, he has performed in numerous ensembles, including the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, National Lutheran Chorale, Lake Wobegon Brass Band, and VocalEssence. Buddes' tuba quartet, The Pistons, was the first-place winner of the first-ever International

Tuba/Euphonium Quartet Competition in 1992. Dr. Budde's current research centers on the use of the National Music Standards by music educators in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He has released an album titled *Practice Room Grooves*, which is made up of accompaniment tracks that serve as a means to improve fundamentals during independent practice.