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Guest Artist Recital: Duo Concertante

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

VISITING ARTISTS SERIES 2008-9

DUO CONCERTANTE

Nancy Dahn, violin
Timothy Steeves, piano

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
8:15 p.m.

ITHACA

PROGRAM

Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 12, No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Allegro con spirito
Adagio con molto espressione
Allegro molto

Duo for Violin and Piano

R. Murray Schafer
(b. 1933)

Brightly
Very Slowly, Expressively
With Great Vigour and Intensity

INTERMISSION

Fantasy for Violin and Piano

Franz Schubert
(1787-1828)

Andante molto, Allegretto
Andantino
Allegro vivace

A Night in Tunisia

Dizzy Gillespie
arranged by Clifford Crawley

The Lark in the Clear Air

Traditional Irish
arranged by Clifford Crawley

Tico Tico

Zequinha de Abreu
arranged by Clifford Crawley

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Duo Concertante

Since forming in 1997, Duo Concertante has been acclaimed for performances characterized by brilliance, subtlety, passion, and stunning ensemble across Canada, the United States and abroad. Hailed for their "artistry, poetry, and impeccable technique" (*La Scena Musicale*), "exceptional warmth and intimacy" (*Ottawa Citizen*), violinist Nancy Dahn and pianist Timothy Steeves have been described as "superb musicians" (*Wholenote*), who "work together with uncanny perfection" (*Waterloo Gazette*). Their extraordinary teamwork and "powerfully-charged performances" (*The Musical Opinion*) set them apart from more conventional violin/piano collaborations, with critics observing: "One doesn't listen to a program of violin music here, but to real chamber music, as it should be" (*La Scena Musicale*) and "Brilliant, saucy and soulful . . . you hear splendid sweet nuances everywhere; Duo Concertante makes a powerful case for thinking of violin/piano sonatas as duo music, rather than as music for a pianist and a violinist" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*).

Timothy Steeves and Nancy Dahn have appeared in London (Wigmore Hall), Germany (Am Neuendorfer Anger, Berlin), Chicago (Dame Myra Hess Series), New York City (Music of the Americas; Trinity Church), Ottawa (National Arts Centre), Beijing (Forbidden City Concert Hall), San Francisco (Old First Church), Toronto (Walter Hall), and Montreal (Chapelle du bon Pasteur), and Los Angeles (Los Angeles County Museum of Art). The Duo has also been featured at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Peterhof International Festival of Ensembles (St. Petersburg, Russia), Huntsville Festival of the Arts, Colours of Music Festival, Sound Symposium, and the Baie des Chaleurs Chamber Music Festival. As part of their 10th anniversary, the Duo presented all 10 Beethoven sonatas in a number of venues in Ontario and Newfoundland including that of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society. Highlights of 2008-2009 include performances at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival where they gave the world premiere of Murray Schafer's Duo for Violin and Piano, an eight-city return tour of China, recitals throughout western Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom, and summer appearances at the Indian River Festival and Cactus Pear Music Festival (Texas).

Their recordings and live performances are heard frequently on national and regional programs of CBC radio, Radio-Canada International, Société Radio-Canada, as well as in the United States on NPR, WNED (Buffalo), Classical 105.1 K-Mozart (Los Angeles), and WFMT "The Fine Arts Network" (Chicago). CTV, TVOntario, and BRAVO! Television have all featured Duo Concertante. The

Duo's ATMA Classique recordings – *'a deux, Of Heart and Homeland, and Wild Hony* - were all nominated for Best Classical Recording at the East Coast Music Awards (2000, 2003, 2005). In April 2009, the Duo will release its fourth disc, *It Takes Two*, featuring encore pieces arranged especially for them by Canadian composer Clifford Crawley on Marquis Classics/EMI Canada. This June, they record an all-Canadian disc with works by Murray Schafer, Chan Ka Nin and Kati Agocs.

The Duo Concertante's advocacy of new music has inspired many of Canada's leading composers. The Duo regularly champions works by Murray Schafer, Kati Agocs, Chan Ka Nin, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Alice Ho, Omar Daniel, Clark Ross, Andrew MacDonald, David Scott, Linda Bouchard, and Jean Lesage, performing at least one on nearly every recital. The Duo Concertante's disc, *Wild Honey* (2005), is comprised entirely of works especially written for them with the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, Laidlaw Foundation, and CBC Radio.

Duo Concertante has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards including Best Touring Performers Award (Contact East) and Memorial University's prestigious "President's Award for Outstanding Research", which, in competition with all disciplines and faculties, recognized their contribution to the performance and promotion of new Canadian music. In 2006, the Duo was also a finalist for Newfoundland Arts Council's Artist of the Year award.

Professors at Memorial University, Dahn and Steeves are also Artistic Directors of the Tuckamore Festival which attracts outstanding young artists from across North America each summer. They enjoy giving frequent master classes in Canada at such places as the Glenn Gould Professional School and Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, UBC, Mount Royal College, University of Victoria, McMaster University, University of Western Ontario, the Maritime Conservatory, Bishop's University, the Huntsville Festival, the Colours of Music Festival, the Indian River Festival, and the Guelph Spring Festival.