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## Guest Artist Recital: Mark Sparks, flute

Mark Sparks

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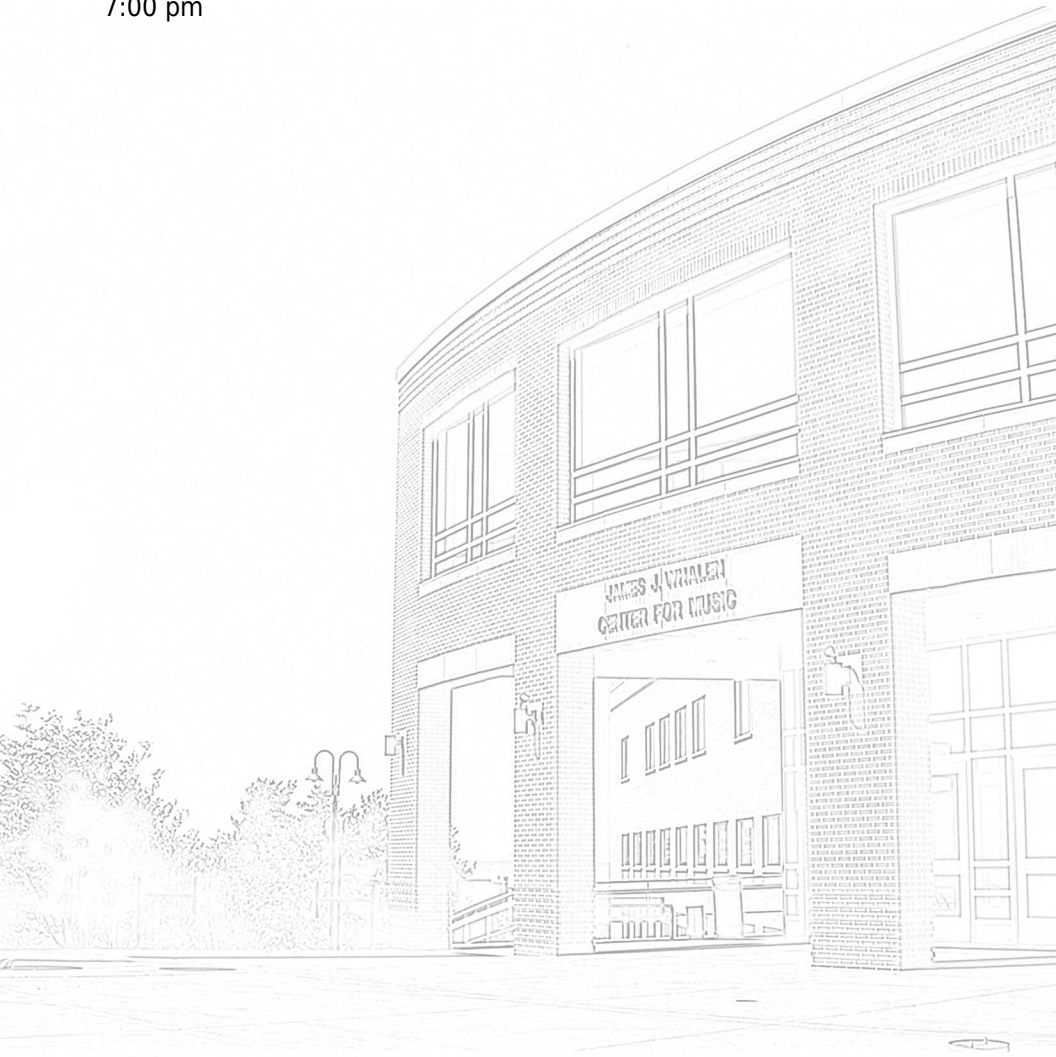
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Guest Artist Recital  
Mark Sparks, flute

Diane Birr, piano

Hockett Family Recital Hall  
Monday, March 23rd, 2015  
7:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

# Program

Syrinx (1913)

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Night Piece (1922)

Arthur Foote  
(1853-1937)  
arr. Zverov

Allegro Rustico (1993)

Sofia Gubaidulina  
(b. 1931)

Sounds of the Forest (1973)

Romance, Op. 37 (1871)

Camille Saint-Saens  
(1835-1921)

# Intermission

Fantasie No. 3 in B minor (c. 1732-33)  
Largo-Vivace-Largo-Vivace  
Allegro

Georg Philipp Telemann  
(1681-1767)

Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1 (1894)  
Allegro appassionato  
Andante un poco adagio  
Allegretto grazioso  
Vivace

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)  
trans. Stephanie Jutt

## Biographies

Flutist **Mark Sparks** is a dynamic orchestral artist, soloist, chamber musician, and teacher who has performed in many of the world's most prestigious venues. He is widely recognized for his colorful tone, spirited phrasing, and charismatic style (described by the Denver Post as "mesmerizing").

Appointed Principal Flutist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra by the late Hans Vonk in 2000, he has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony numerous times, most recently in February 2015, October 2014, and on the Orchestra's 2013 California Tour in performances of Christopher Rouse's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, with STL Symphony Music Director David Robertson conducting. He has made guest appearances with numerous ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago, Dallas, Cincinnati, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, and Bergen Norway Symphony Orchestras, and was a member of the Baltimore, San Antonio, Memphis, Canton Ohio, and Caracas Venezuela Symphony Orchestras before his appointment to the STL Symphony. Recent concerto appearances include the Taiwan National and Singapore Symphony Orchestras.

Sparks can be heard as solo recording artist on the Summit and AAM labels, with various orchestras on the Sony, Telarc, Nonesuch, and Decca labels, and has recently released his third solo recording, "French Album."

Mr. Sparks enjoys a generous schedule of master classes, teaching and recital performances. Recent activities included appearances for the Ohio Flute Association, Texas Flute Society, the Illinois Flute Society, the Eastman School of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music, Oberlin College, Northwestern University, and Yale, among others, a residency at Baylor University's Flute Festival 2014, and a recital at the NFA 2014 Convention in Chicago. Recent and upcoming activities include a recital for the New York Flute Club, the world premiere of Katherine Hoover's concerto for flute and orchestra at the NFA 2015 convention in Washington, D.C., residencies at Ithaca College and the University of Missouri at Columbia, and recitals at Maryville University and the SLAM in St. Louis.

Sparks is a former full-time faculty member of Baltimore's Peabody Institute, presents annual Flute Seminars in St. Louis, and maintains a busy teaching studio in St. Louis. Numerous former students occupy chairs in symphony orchestras in the U.S. He frequently coaches at top orchestral training programs such as Aspen, the New World Symphony, NOI, and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. In summer 2014 he joined the coaching faculty for the Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra.

Starting in January 2015, he joined the faculty of DePaul University. Recent invitations include performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Flute Convention, San Diego's Mainly Mozart Festival, and this summer Sparks joins the faculty of Flauti al Castello in Tuscany, Italy.

Mr. Sparks is a 22-year faculty member of the Aspen Music Festival and School, and is Principal flutist of the Aspen Chamber Symphony. He is an avid writer on flute-related subjects, and a regular contributor to Flute Talk Magazine. Sparks also has recently published flute and piano arrangements of works by Bruch and Faure with Theodore Presser.

Born in the U.S. in 1960, Mr. Sparks graduated with honors from the Oberlin Conservatory as a student of Robert Willoughby. He is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda Society, and the National Flute Association. Mr. Sparks also trained at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Aspen, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

**Diane Birr** has collaborated with vocalists and instrumentalists in recitals and master classes throughout the United States and Europe and has served as an official collaborative pianist for the MTNA national competitions, as well as the International Double Reed Society, International Horn Society, and the International Trombone Association's conferences. For sixteen years she was on the faculty of **International Workshops** where she performed with string faculty in recital and coached chamber music. Birr is a member of **Troica**, a trio that draws on existing repertoire written for trumpet, saxophone and piano and has inspired the creation of new works by current composers. The trio was invited to perform at the International Trumpet Guild in Australia (2010) and this July performed at the World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, France. Dr. Birr has been active in Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), having served on its national Board of Directors and as Eastern Division Director, as well as in several officer positions within the NYSMTA affiliated organization, including President. Dr. Birr is Professor of Piano at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, where she teaches collaborative piano courses, private lessons and group piano, as well as serves as Associate Chair of Performance Studies.