

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEXICO COMPOSERS: ERIC WALTERS

TUESDAY · MAY 17, 2011 · 7PM THE KOSMOS · 1715 FIFTH STREET NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Prelude for Cello and Piano

Eric Walters cello Natalia Tikhovidova piano

Suite 38

David Felberg violin Eric Walters cello

Piano Trio

David Felberg violin Eric Walters cello Natalia Tikhovidova piano

Canon for Clarinet and Electronics

Lori Lovato clarinet

Diapason Riff

Eric Walters cello Frederick Frahm piano

Meditations on Three Lenten Hymns

Eric Walters cello Frederick Frahm piano

This concert is sponsored in part by grants from National Endowment for the Arts New Mexico Arts, A Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs Bernalillo County City of Albuquerque Urban Enhancement Trust Fund









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Mandy Pons Riha Rothberg James T Shields, Co-Artistic Dir-CoB Eric Walters, Co-Artistic Director-Chatter **Eric Walters** is a native of Albuquerque, now living in Placitas. His compositions reflect a wide variety of professional experiences in the field of music. After a youth misspent on the electric guitar, he received a Bachelors Degree in Cello Performance from the University of New Mexico under Joanna DeKyser, and went on to study with Alan Harris at the Aspen Music Festival and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi at Indiana University. He completed his studies at Indiana with a Masters Degree in Music Composition under Don Freund and Harvey Solberger.

Upon returning to New Mexico, Eric has been very active as a member of the arts community. He was a featured composer at the University of New Mexico's Composers Symposium and with The New Southwest Orchestra, and has been a composer in residence with the Santa Fe Opera's Student-Produced Opera Program. He was the subject of a *¡Colores!* documentary on KNME-TV, composed a commission piece for the Albuquerque Youth Symphony and, along with violinist and conductor David Felberg, is a co-founder of Chatter: A Chamber Ensemble. This last fall his first piece was accepted for publication by Zimbel Press He is in the process of acquiring his membership in ASCAP.

Eric is also a dedicated teacher, currently Orchestra Director at Rio Rancho Middle School, Rio Rancho High School, and V. Sue Cleveland High School. He has served as the New Mexico Music Educator Association's Vice President of Orchestra and has been a regular orchestral arranger and judge for the *HeyMozart! New Mexico* children's composition program. He is proud to be a tenured member of the Santa Fe Symphony, and is proud of his young family: wife Andrea and children Halen and Albrecht, ages 4 and 2.

Prelude for Cello and Piano (1996)

This piece was written for my sister Elaine, who is a bassoonist. She asked me to write this piece for her undergraduate recital at UNM. I wasn't playing much cello at the time, but some years later I picked it up and found the solo part fit well and I've been performing it ever since. Elaine went on to get a masters in bassoon performance and is ABD from Nebraska (c'mon, li'll sis!). Now living in Seattle, she is expecting her first child in June.

Suite 38 (2005)

A light piece I wrote to celebrate my own 38th birthday. It was one of my first forays into quartal harmony, which I use almost exclusively now. In quartal music, harmony is based on fourths instead of thirds as in most traditional music. The result is music that still has tonal center, but one that is murkier and allows for smooth transitions between very different areas of the pitch spectrum.

Piano Trio (2001)

This piece was written for a recital of my chamber music I gave in Santa Fe, where I was living at the time. It was premièred with David Felberg on violin and his mother Arlette on piano. I was obsessed with Steve Reich's *Desert Music* at the time and wanted to try my hand at the hypnotic washes of short motifs in various phases at which he is so masterful. This attempt comprises the bulk of the middle section, with hard-driving outer sections which were more my stylistic comfort zone at the time.

Canon for Clarinet and Electronics (2006) I am fortunate to have this piece presented here by its dedicatee, Lori Lovato. Lori is nearly unique in the area in her musical breadth, a trait I greatly admire. She was game to let me try an electronic piece with her that calls for the performer to play a single line into a digital echo petal. My hope was that the performer, instead of playing off the inflections and interpretations of others as in ordinary chamber music, would be in the odd position of reacting to her own playing.

Diapason Riff (2008)

Another happy case of being able to present music closest to its original source. Our pianist Frederick Frahm moved to New Mexico from the Seattle-Tacoma area a few years ago. He is a prolific and much-published composer and an accomplished organist. Fred and I have been able to perform much of each other's music, and the resultant commiseration on our odd calling has been very therapeutic. It is one of the strange things about the overly specialized world we live in that such interactions are rare. I wrote *Diapason Riff* for a duo recital we gave of a couple of years back, and it reminded Fred of John Dryden's *Song for St. Cecilia's Day:*

Thro' all the compass of notes it ran, The diapason closing full in man.

I think that was a compliment...

Meditations on Three Lenten Hymns (2011) Fred recommended setting these hymn tunes as a project for me more than a year ago, and due to various life detours, it took me until March 2011 to complete the set. All these tunes are standard Lutheran canon, were written before 1700 and have had generations of musicians make them their own through countless instrumental settings, choir harmonizations, and keyboard improvisations (not the least of which, of course, was J.S. Bach). Their austere and reflective nature makes a clean palette for a wide gamut of harmonic styles and interpretive treatments. The tunes are:

Jesu Meine Freude Hertzliebster Jesu Hertzlich Tut Mich Verlangen

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29	Zelenka: Sinfonia a 8 Concertanti Bach: Concerto in D Minor for 2 Violins Tony Hunt, poet
JUNE 05	Stravinsky: Elegie for Solo Viola Gershwin: Preludes for Clarinet and Piano Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Piano Idris Goodwin, poet
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