



Kate Ransom, *artistic director*

ROSTER ARTISTS

Kate Ransom, violin & artistic director
Hal Grossman and Eric Pritchard, violin
Amadi Azikiwe and Luke Fleming, viola
Charae Krueger, Jacques-Pierre Malan and Guang Wang, cello
Miles Brown, double bass
John Dee, oboe
Marci Gurnow, clarinet
Augustine Mercante, countertenor
Eileen Grycky, flute
John David Smith, horn
Victor Santiago Asuncion and Read Gainsford, piano
Gabriel Benton, harpsichord

Serafin Ensemble, “The Serafins,” is a group of internationally acclaimed performing artists (string, wind, brass, piano, and vocalists) devoted to collaborative chamber music performances of repertoire for up to eight players. The ensemble evolved from the former Serafin String Quartet and continues the nearly two-decade-long Serafin legacy of passionate commitment to presenting exceptional performances of small ensemble repertoire. Serafin Ensemble roster artists are dedicated to collaborative chamber music performance as an important aspect of their professional lives. They are bound together by mutual respect and camaraderie, and a shared passion for small ensemble repertoire and the collaborative process. The ensemble prepares and shares with audiences, performances of great masterworks and lesser-known works for an unconduted ensemble of two to eight players. Occasionally, larger works or solo works are also included in the programming.

The individual roster artists of Serafin Ensemble have been heralded around the globe for concerts and recordings, acclaimed in the press, and received international prizes and awards. Their current and former affiliations and distinctions are impressive and include: “official Steinway artist”; Fulbright scholar; performances with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Alexander, Attacca, Ciampi, Oxford, Serafin and Vega String Quartets, “Alarm Will Sound”, Boston Chamber Orchestra, I Musici de Montreal, Del’Arte Wind Quintet; prizes from the London String Quartet Competition and Concert Artists Guild; participation in summer programs such as Aspen, Aria, Banff, Brevard, Casals, Chataqua, Ravinia, Spoleto and Tanglewood; appearances on NPR’s Performance Today, St. Paul Sunday Morning, WQXR, WRTI, Radio France, and National Radio of China; and degrees from major music schools including Juilliard, Peabody, Yale, Indiana, New England and Boston Conservatories, Royal Academy of Music, Mannes, Michigan, Eastman, and the Longy School.

Hailed for "silken finesse and gritty vibrancy" by Gramophone Magazine and for "playing with style and sophistication" by The Strad Magazine, Serafin String Quartet debuted at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2004 and returned to Weill Recital Hall most recently in 2016 for a program that included New York premieres of two works by composer Julia Adolphe. Featured by Strings Magazine for innovation in concert programming, the Quartet consistently received superlatives in the press and ovations from audiences around the nation. Serafin Quartet served for nine years as Quartet in Residence at the University of Delaware and



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performed in the UK, as well as in fifteen states across the US, with their primary performance region being the mid-Atlantic and northeast.

Serafin recordings on Naxos (2013) and Centaur (2010) have received overwhelming critical acclaim in *Fanfare*, *The Strad*, *American Record Guide* and *Gramophone*. Their Naxos recording featuring the world premiere of works by Jennifer Higdon was listed among the “Top Ten Classical Albums in 2013” in Philadelphia’s *City Paper*. *New York Concert Review* lauds the Quartet’s live performances for “ensemble and intonation ... above reproach,” and describes their Debussy as “a shapely, finely conceived account” and their Haydn as having “rhythmic vitality and taut ensemble...”

Serafin Summer Music is a three-week festival of chamber music held in Delaware each June. Under the auspices of The Music School of Delaware, concerts feature Serafin roster artists and guest artists from around the world.

Serafin Ensemble takes its name from master violin maker, Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by Serafin founder and Artistic Director, Kate Ransom. The Serafins have thrived for over two decades thanks, in part, to generous support from Dr. William J. Stegeman, Ph.D.

www.serafinensemble.org