

The logo features a large, stylized blue letter 'S' that loops around itself. To the right of the 'S', the words 'SERAFIN STRING QUARTET' are written in a blue, serif, all-caps font. A horizontal blue line is positioned below the text.

SERAFIN STRING QUARTET

Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, *violins*

Esme Allen-Creighton, *viola* and Lawrence Stomberg, *'cello*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naxos to Release New Serafin String Quartet Higdon Recording Available July 2

(Wilmington, Del.) July 1, 2013 – Naxos will release Serafin String Quartet's newest recording in digital format on July 2, 2013. The disc features early chamber works by Grammy and Pulitzer Prize award-winning composer Jennifer Higdon who's "vibrant and individual voice" (Limelight Magazine) can be heard in chamber works on this recording. The complete disc will be released in European markets in early July, in Asian markets in mid-July and in North American markets on July 30, 2013. Customers may preorder the recording on now Amazon or iTunes.

For its debut recording on the Naxos label, the Quartet selected works one of the most performed living American composers. This recording provides a unique opportunity to hear première recordings of Higdon's earlier chamber music. The String Trio for violin, viola, cello (1988) was written while Higdon was a developing young composer, and the influences of Prokofiev and Copland can be heard in the Sonata for Viola and Piano (1990). The beauty and immensity of the Western US sky was the inspiration for Sky Quartet (string quartet, 1997, rev 2001), while Dark Wood for violin, cello, bassoon and piano (2001) explores the soulful and virtuoso character of the bassoon. Amazing Grace (originally written in 1998 for choir and later adapted for string quartet by the composer) taps the vocal attributes of the String Quartet in a setting of one of the most recognized and cherished American folk tunes. Collaborative artists are pianist Charles Abramovic and bassoonist Eric Stomberg.

Serafin String Quartet initiated its discography and recording output with a debut release on the Centaur label in fall 2010. Their debut disc received high praise in *The Strad Magazine* (2010) and *American Record Guide* (2011). Significant recording projects remain an important part of the Quartet's artistic activity. The Serafins aspire to present recorded material that reflects the quality of their own artistic output and their philosophical commitment to the works of living composers, as well as time-tested masterworks, through both performance and recording projects.

About Jennifer Higdon

Grammy award-winning composer, Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962 and presently based in Philadelphia) recently received the Pulitzer Prize for her Violin Concerto and is one of the most-performed living American composers working today. Along with being a Grammy winner, she has also been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pew Fellowship and two awards from the American Academy of Arts & Letters. Commissions have come from a wide range of performers: from the Philadelphia Orchestra to The President's Own Marine Band; from the Tokyo String Quartet to violinist Hilary Hahn and the new music ensemble, eighth blackbird. She makes her living from commissions and serves as composer-in-residence with various orchestras throughout the country.

About Serafin String Quartet

Hailed by *The Strad Magazine* for "playing with style and sophistication" and the *American Record Guide* for "combining true rhythmic precision, beautiful intonation, and beautiful articulation with an excellent sense of balance and deeply satisfying musical phrasing," Serafin String Quartet has been applauded by audiences around the nation, including sellout crowds at repeat performances in New York City's Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. The Quartet's debut recording was released by Centaur Records in September 2010, to critical acclaim. Serafin String Quartet serves as *Quartet in Residence* at the University of Delaware and takes its name from master violinmaker, Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by Kate Ransom. For more information, please visit www.serafinquartet.org.

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