



Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, violins

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

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Contact: Tara Hurlebaus, Linkbridge Communications
302-593-8447, thurlebaus@linkbridgecommunications.com

Serafin String Quartet CD Named Top 10 Classical Albums of 2013

(Wilmington, Del.) January 2, 2014 – [Serafin String Quartet](#) newest recording, released by Naxos Records on July 30, 2013, was named Top 10 Classical Albums of 2013 by Philadelphia's [City Paper](#). The disc, listed as number 5 of the 10 best classical albums for the year, is an "excellently performed selection of early works by Philly's own Jennifer Higdon (written before her Grammy and Pulitzer). She has a distinctive and direct voice, even as she experiments with different styles."

The new Serafin CD has been hailed for its "*silken finesse and gritty vibrancy*" by Gramophone Magazine, "*an outstanding release and one worth adding to your Higdon collection*" by Fanfare Magazine and "*spot-on intonation, attention to rhythmic detail, superb sense of phrasing, and rich ensemble sound result in technically accomplished glowing accounts*" by Classical Lost and Found.

Serafin String Quartet's features world première recordings of Jennifer 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's recordings are available for purchase at international retailers including Amazon.com and iTunes.

Serafin String Quartet January Concerts:

Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. - The Arts at Trinity

Serafin String Quartet will perform works by Mendelssohn, Debussy and Wolf.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 1108 North Adams Street, Wilmington, DE

FREE - donations appreciated

<http://theartsattrinity.org>

The [Arts at Trinity](#) is a free community arts series, sponsored by Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, Inc.

Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. - Kennett Flash

Serafin String Quartet performs collage concert "Musical Passport to Many Lands."

Kennett Flash, 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square, PA

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at door - available online at <http://www.kennettflash.org>

Doors open at 1pm for lunch. Kennett Flash is BYOB, [click here](#) for BYOB policies and restrictions.

About the Serafin String Quartet

Naxos will release the Serafin Quartet's most recent recording in July 2013. Their debut recording in 2010 was 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. 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.