

2012 Summer Series Program Notes

June 11 – 7:30 p.m.

Classic summer elegance with Dawn and Friends; chamber music for flute, cello and piano

At *Unity Chapel*, the opening concert for the 2012 season will be an evening of chamber music. The program will include works by Bohuslav Martinu, Ned Rorem, and Louise Farrenc.

Performers

Dawn Lawler, Lecturer in Flute at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, is an active performer and teacher in the Madison area. She was Lecturer in Flute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the spring of 2010, as well as Artist-in-Residence with the Wingra Woodwind Quintet at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2008-2010. She received her Master of Music from Boston University and her Bachelor of Music in flute performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A prizewinner of various flute competitions, she has performed with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, the Dubuque Symphony, the New England Philharmonic, the Hingham Symphony, the Texas Festival Orchestra, and as the flutist for the Latin American group *Sotavento*. Ms. Lawler has toured throughout the United States, Mexico, Japan, and Europe, including performing at the International Woodwind Quintet Festival in France in 2009. She is also a member of the Cambini Quintet, a woodwind quintet performing 18th and 19th century repertoire on historical instruments, and NEW MUSE, a new music ensemble based in Madison, WI. Her principal teachers include Marianne Gedigian, Marya Martin, Stephanie Jutt, and Jeani Foster.

Andrea Kleesattel began Suzuki cello lessons at Schiel Elementary School for Arts Enrichment at the age of 6. While attending the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, she studied with Lee Fiser and was a member of the Ippolito String Quartet. In 2006-2009 she was cellist of the Niles String Quartet, graduate quartet in residence at the University of Kentucky, where she studied cello and string quartet with Benjamin Karp. During this time with the Niles Quartet, she won the MacCauley Chamber Music Competition and attended the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar and the Banff Centre Chamber Music Residency. As the winner of the University of Kentucky Concerto Competition, Ms. Kleesattel performed the Dvorak concerto with the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra. In addition to working with VIBES chamber music outreach program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she is also the director of Arts Enterprise and the founder of the Madison chapter of Classical Revolution, a project which brings classical music to accessible venues. As a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's Hunt String Quartet, Ms. Kleesattel visits local elementary schools to educate young students about classical music. Passionate about both chamber music and education she plans to dedicate her life to these pursuits. She is currently working on her doctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the instruction of Uri Vardi and is a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

Kirstin Ihde is currently a doctoral student in collaborative piano at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studies with Professor Martha Fischer. A native of Elkader, Iowa, she holds a BA in piano performance from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, where she studied with Dr. Joan Trapp, and an MM in piano performance from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she studied with Howard Aibel and Genadi Zagor. Kirstin is currently a class piano instructor at Edgewood College in Madison and also maintains a private studio. Prior to beginning her doctoral studies, Kirstin worked as an adjunct instructor of class piano and accompanying at the University of Northern Iowa. In the past year, she held a teaching assistantship where she oversaw the UW undergraduate piano majors in their accompanying requirements and taught the beginning accompanying class. Kirstin was also the 2010-11 recipient of the Gertrude Cunningham Campbell and John Campbell, Jr. Scholarship. She is presently researching the unpublished songs of John Duke as part of her final doctoral project in collaboration with soprano Karen Bishop, which will involve both recording and editing a collection of them.

June 25 – 7:30 p.m.

Point Five brings its foot-tapping upbeat down-home sound to *Unity Chapel*. It's Americana as you've rarely heard it.

This local acoustic band of 5 musicians from Mineral Point will wow us with their music influenced by everything from bluegrass standards to American primitive songs to Springsteen. Their only rule for adopting a song is that they all like it! All vocalists, the group also includes banjo, dobro, guitar, mandolin, double bass and percussion. Concert at *Unity Chapel*.

Performers

Paul Biere: My life is so much richer from sharing the joy and obsession of music with friends. I love old-time fiddle music, have played for square and contra-dances over the years, and have chased ephemeral moments of complete rapture around many campfires. Jazz, country and western swing call to me. We grow out of many traditions and bring it all along. Being in this band has expanded my musical horizons. I listen to something new and get excited. Point Five creates magic in relationship, vocal harmony, wistful longing, love and loss, some driving bluegrass, some lament. I lose myself in the moment.



Carol Spelic: My partner, Richard, and I moved to Wisconsin from Chinatown, Manhattan, New York City in the winter of 2000. My life here is thrillingly filled with creative pursuits! We have an art gallery — Green Lantern Studios. I make sculpture. (Do you believe in nature or nurture? My parents were artists/musicians!)



Monica Dunn: I'm a stay-at-home mom working with Libby, Josie, and Colette. The hours are long but very rewarding. I also teach private voice lessons. In my past life I was a music editor and did some recording for GIA Publications in Chicago.



Andy Hatch: Andy is our artisan cheesemaker by day, mandolin aficionado by night. We love Andy's calm steadiness, and he serves us well as our musical conscience.



Aaron Dunn: A born Kansan, I've settled into life in Mineral Point, WI as a family doctor, husband, father, and last, but not least, a rhythm guitarist. This band is the most musical fun I've ever had (aside from singing the ABC's with my girls!).



July 9 – 7:30 pm.

Concert pianist Raffi Besalyan with violinist Yuri Segawa in an encore extraordinaire: at Taliesin's magical *Hillside Theatre*

Raffi performed for Rural Musicians Forum during our 2011 season to rave reviews. This year he is returning to perform a duo concert with his wife, Yuri. The concert will include works by Chopin, Gershwin, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and Armenian composers Komitas and Babajanian.

Performers

Raffi Besalyan has established an international reputation of a magnetic and passionate performer. Active as a recitalist, orchestral soloist, and chamber musician, Besalyan appears in many important music venues worldwide. Critics on both sides of the Atlantic have praised his performances for its virility, poetry and extraordinary technical command.

Armenian-born Besalyan made his formal New York debut in Carnegie Hall after winning the Artists International Competition, and was subsequently invited to perform at Merkin Concert Hall on the Artists International "Outstanding Alumni-Winners" series. Most recently Besalyan made his Chicago debut in famed Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center as the featured Guest Artist for the Chicago International Music Festival.

In the recent years Besalyan dazzled his audiences in North and South America, Europe, Russia and Asia, appearing as a soloist with major symphony orchestras in Japan, Italy, Armenia, Russian, Ukraine, and throughout the United States. Since his highly successful tour of Japan in 2001, Besalyan visits the country on a yearly basis for concerts and master classes arranged by Tokyo IMC, MAS management and Yamaha. Local audiences have enjoyed his 2011 and 2012 Wisconsin Public Radio "Live from the Chazen" recitals. Also, in November of 2011 Besalyan recorded his solo debut album featuring works of Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Liszt, Komitas and others for IMC Music in Tokyo.

Besalyan received his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, where he studied with Sergey Barseghyan. He also received a Master of Music degree from Rowan University under Veda Zuponcic, and studied at the Manhattan School with legendary American pianist Byron Janis and Sara Davis Buechner. In 2008 Dr. Besalyan joined the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he is Artist/Teacher-Associate Professor of Piano.



A native of Osaka, Japan, **Yuri Segawa** studied at Kobe Yamate Music School and Osaka College of Music. She received BM in Violin Performance from Rowan University in New Jersey, and continued her education at the City University of New York at Queens College. Her major teachers include Teiko Maehashi, Michael Ludwig, and Stephanie Chase.

Yuri has won prizes in many National competitions in Japan, including the Kyoto Music Competition, the All-Japan Competition, and the Takatsuki Music Competition. Here in the United States, she was a National Finalist of the MTNA Young Artist Competition.

Ms. Segawa has appeared in the United States, Canada, and Japan, as both a recitalist and concerto soloist. She has given recitals as part of the Vivace Concert Series in Phoenix Hall in Osaka, Barocksaal Concert Series in Kyoto, and appeared as a guest artist for Takatsuki Music Teachers

Association in Japan. Yuri also performed Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Osaka Symphony in Izumi Hall, and Mendelssohn's Double Concerto with the Tulare Symphony in California. With her husband Raffi Besalyan, she performed recitals in Vancouver (Canada), Philadelphia (PA), Princeton (NJ), Fresno (CA) and others.

As a member of the North Shore String Quartet, quartet in residence of the Green Bay Symphony, Ms. Segawa regularly performs throughout the Midwest. She is an assistant concertmaster of the Fox Valley Symphony, member of the Green Bay Symphony, second principle violinist in the Water City Chamber Orchestra and Oshkosh Symphony orchestra, and she also performs with the Madison Symphony. Ms. Segawa has taught violin at the Friends School and the Haddonfield Conservatory of Music in NJ, Daiichi Gakki Music School in Osaka, Japan, and she is currently a member of the violin faculty at the Wausau Conservatory of Music in Wisconsin.



July 23- 7:30 p.m.

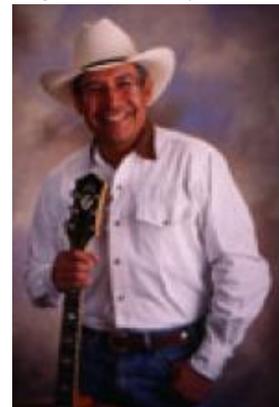
Tex-Mex sizzle and spice with music from Cris Plata with Extra Hot; then cool-cool Stellanovas' cafe jazz at *Unity Chapel*

Performers

Cris Plata was born in South Texas, the son of migrant workers. Those early days of living in different migrant camps and following the harvest from region to region, exposed Cris to a wide range of musical experiences. His early musical experiences reflect his Mexican heritage. This heritage includes Norteno (Northern Mexico border music), conjunto (elements of both European and Mexican music fused by early residents of South Texas), and ranchera (Mexican country) music. Today, Cris describes this as "Mexican roots" music.

Another strong influence stamped its mark on this man at an early age. This can be best described as the Texas singer-songwriter genre. Texas has long been the hot bed of musical talent that has been forged by its wide open vistas and its independent nature. Out of this landscape, Texas has "grown" notable and innovative singer-songwriters such as: Bob Wills (Texas swing), Townes Van Zandt and Lyle Lovett (masters of melodic story songs with a uniquely Texas soul), and Steve Earle (his "Guitar Town" is the epitome of gritty country-rock, a standard that Nashville writers have yet to reach).

With all of these influences, how do we describe Cris Plata's music in a nutshell? Perhaps we will have to borrow the term Tex-Mex and redefine it. "Tex" would now stand for Texas singer-songwriters and "Mex" would stand for Mexican roots music. But don't let this definition confine your impression of his music. Just listen to his music and the best definition will be your own.



The Stellanovas, multi-instrumentalist **Chris Wagoner** and his wife **Mary Gaines**, are masters of string swing music. They call it "café jazz," but that seems too calm. Their music is equal parts Hawaiian luau and Parisian wedding party. The love they bring to their music is as apparent as the precision with which they make it" (Andy Moore, producer of Wisconsin Public Television's "30-Minute Music Hour") www.thestellanovas.com.



Mary Gaines (cello, guitar, vocals): Originally a jazz-guitar major at the [University of WI-Stevens Point](#), Mary truly found her musical voice studying jazz cello under the tutelage of the great [Richard Davis](#) (bass player with artists ranging from Sarah Vaughn to Van Morrison) at the [UW-Madison](#). Mary is also known for her amazing voice--often compared to [Bonnie Raitt](#) but definitely her own. She (along with her husband, [Chris](#)) has done extensive work as a session musician, appearing on albums such as Smashing Pumpkin's *Gish*, several [Freedy Johnston](#), [Willy Porter](#), and [Carrie Newcomer](#) albums, and scores of others.

Chris Wagoner (violin, ukulele, Hawaiian guitar, mandolin, accordion, vocals): A founding member of Madison's [Harmonious Wail](#), The Common Faces, [The Bob Westfall Quartet](#), and The Moon Gypsies (the latter three co-founded with [Mary Gaines](#)), Chris has had his foot in just about every musical circle in Madison. Classically trained as a violinist, he met Mary while attending the [UW-Madison](#). Switching to an alternating diet of jazz and classical violin studies, while playing in bands ranging from rock, blues, bluegrass, and country, to folk and jazz, Chris has been an in-demand performer and session musician in the region for almost two decades.

Chris Wagoner (violin, ukulele, Hawaiian guitar, mandolin, accordion, vocals): A founding member of Madison's [Harmonious Wail](#), The Common Faces, [The Bob Westfall Quartet](#), and The Moon Gypsies (the latter three co-founded with [Mary Gaines](#)), Chris has had his foot in just about every musical circle in Madison. Classically trained as a violinist, he met Mary while attending the [UW-Madison](#). Switching to an alternating diet of jazz and classical violin studies, while playing in bands ranging from rock, blues, bluegrass, and country, to folk and jazz, Chris has been an in-demand performer and session musician in the region for almost two decades.

Chris & Mary are also the hosts of Mad Toast Live, a music & talk show featuring top local, regional & national touring artists of all genres recorded for podcast on www.madtoastlive.com and iTunes and broadcast on WORT 89.9FM.



August 6—7:30 p.m.

A tuneful summer evening at *Unity Chapel*. Arias and songs with tenor Gregory Schmidt & local favorite, soprano Caitlin Miller

Performers

Caitlin Miller is a graduate of River Valley High School and a junior at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in the School of Music. A highly talented soprano, she has sung leading roles in several School of Music productions, including Masetta in UW Opera's production of Puccini's *La Bohème* last year.

Tenor **Gregory Schmidt** hails from upstate Wisconsin and is currently based in Madison, Wisconsin. He has sung four times with Madison Opera in *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Don Giovanni* and, most recently, in Rossini's *Cinderella*. He has sung lead roles with opera companies in Tulsa, Tampa, Quebec, St. Petersburg (FL), Fresno, El Paso and Washington, DC. He is on the roster of the Metropolitan Opera where he has covered many roles. Most recently he appeared as the tenor soloist in Glass's *Kepler* at the Spoleto Festival USA.

August 13- 7:30 pm.

The Taliesin Choir & Orchestra under the direction of Taliesin's Music Director, Effi Casey, with Carl Orff's lyrical, sacred and profane *Carmina Burana*; at *Hillside School Theatre*

Inspired by a medieval manuscript discovered in a monastery in Upper Bavaria in 1803, German composer Carl Orff (1895 – 1982) created one of his most dramatic pieces of music. The manuscript consisting of lyrics – written in Latin, Middle-High German and Old French – by “wandering students” reflect their fiery passion for life, love and the unfathomable depth of fate. This highly energetic, dynamic composition uses percussive, staccato textures to express the youthful emotions of the

young poets against the background of a ceaselessly turning wheel of destiny. CarminaBurana will be sung in its original language.

Performers

Taliesin Chorus

Choral singing has been part of the Taliesin history since the founding of the Taliesin Fellowship in 1932. Works from 12th century to contemporary composers were traditionally part of musical programs. Under the leadership of Effi Casey, Taliesin Music Director, the Chorus has expanded to a community-wide ensemble of singers who enjoy coming together for the exploration of a great variety of classical and contemporary, sacred and secular music.



Effi Casey, Director

Effi is a musician and artist who began her musical training at an early age in Germany. As a violinist, she performed with numerous chamber orchestras and has extensive experience in classical choral singing. She became a Taliesin apprentice in 1966 and returned to the Taliesin Fellowship in 1978 after spending several years in Iran where her late husband, Tom Casey, supervised construction of Taliesin Architects projects. Effi became Taliesin's music director in the 1980s and has led the musical activities at Taliesin ever since, including the more recently formed Taliesin String Quartet. As an artist, Effi continues to pursue oil painting and color pencil drawing. She feels passionate about the cultural heritage of Taliesin and the creative energy it provides to an ever-widening community.

