

First Presbyterian Church

presents

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

Angela Massey (Flute), Paolo Dara (Violin), Laura Usiskin (Cello), Alexandra Dunbar (Harpsichord)

Tuesday, September 19, 7 P.M.

Baroque Legends

Trio Sonata, TWV 42:D10

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro
- IV. Presto

Georg Philipp Telemann

(1681-1767)

Sonata in F Major, Op. 5 No. 4

- I. Adagio
- II. Allegro
- III. Vivace

Arcangelo Corelli

(1653-1713)

Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009

- IV. Sarabande
- VI. Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

L'Art de Toucher le Clavecin, Prelude No. 3 in G Minor

François Couperin

(1668-1733)

Sonata in D Minor, K. 30, L. 499 "Cat's Fugue"

Domenico Scarlatti

(1685-1757)

Sonata in B-Flat Major, Op. 5 No. 5

- III. Affetuoso
- IV. Giga. Allegro

Francesco Geminiani

(1687-1762)

INTERMISSION

Trio Sonata in D Minor, RV 63: Variations on "La Follia"

Antonio Vivaldi

(1678-1741)

Trio Sonata from the Musical Offering, BWV 1079

Johann Sebastian Bach

- I. Largo
- II. Allegro
- III. Andante
- IV. Allegro

(1685-1750)

The **Astralis Chamber Ensemble** is an innovative and dynamic ensemble performing with much acclaim across the globe. Through creative programming and presentations on the works performed, Astralis aims to make classical music more accessible and for audiences to make a lasting connection to the music. These award-winning musicians represent decades of experience performing across many of the world's major venues and notable concert series. Another focus of the ensemble is to support the development of the arts through new compositions and reach communities of all backgrounds through music.

Angela Massey's album has been described as "beautiful and enchanting, the performances on this CD are magical!" by Jeanne Baxtresser, former principal flute of the NY Philharmonic. As a soloist, she has been a featured guest artist with the Tryon Concert Association, Kosciuszko Foundation (NYC), and National Flute Association. Internationally, she has performed in England, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, and Switzerland. Massey serves as Artistic Director and founder of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble arranging and performing over sixty recitals each year. She holds flute positions with the Southwest Florida Symphony, Venice Symphony, and performs with the Sarasota Orchestra. She was awarded prizes in the Alexander and Buono Competition, Frank Bowen Competition, Myrna Brown Competition, and Gheorghe Dima International Competition in Romania. Her instructors have been Alberto Almarza, Jeanne Baxtresser, Martha Kitterman, and Brooks de Wetter-Smith. She received degrees in flute performance from Carnegie Mellon University, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Violinist, **Paolo Dara** is from Grand Rapids, Michigan and began playing the violin at age five. At fifteen, he gave his first concerto appearance with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. He has also been featured as a soloist with the Grand Rapids Symphony and other local orchestras in Michigan. In addition to concerto performances, he has played in the sections of the Detroit and Atlanta Symphonies. Paolo has been heard at several music festivals including the New York String Orchestra Seminar, IMS Prussia Cove, and PMP Chamber Music Workshop, and is co-director of his own concert series in Grand Rapids called the Plymouth Chamber Players. He received his Bachelor's at CIM where he was awarded the Anna Y. Tringas Award for excellence in violin performance, and completed his Master's from Rice University. Paolo is currently pursuing a Professional Studies Certificate at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Stephen Rose.

Laura Usiskin enjoys a versatile career as a cellist and educator. Her playing has taken her to concert halls throughout the United States and Europe, including the Kennedy Center, Palazzo Chigi Saracini, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Hall, Zankel Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre, and Barge Music. While completing an Artist-In-Residency with the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, Usiskin founded the Montgomery Music Project, an El Sistema strings program in Montgomery, Alabama that has given intensive string instruction to hundreds of low-income children. Usiskin is a member of the Bayberry String Quartet and ensemble vim. She has served on the faculty of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is a devoted private teacher. Usiskin graduated from Columbia University cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience and Behavior, The Juilliard School with a Master of Music, and Yale University with a Doctor of Musical Arts.

Dr. Alexandra Snyder Dunbar is an award-winning harpsichordist, pianist, and pedagogue. At Juilliard, she received a full scholarship as a resident in the prestigious C. V. Starr Fellowship in the Doctoral program. Dr. Dunbar received a Masters of Music in Harpsichord Performance at Juilliard and a Bachelor of Music in Piano from Manhattan School of Music. Solo performances with orchestra include with Orchestra 54, Dorian Baroque Orchestra, The Memphis Chamber Music Society, The Symphony of Westchester, and The Chamber Orchestra of New York. Dr. Dunbar performed with The Dryden Ensemble, the Foundlings Ensemble, The New York Philharmonic, and the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra. Dr. Dunbar is on the music faculty at the University of North Georgia, and Interlochen Arts Camp, and maintains a private teaching studio and busy performance calendar. Currently, she serves as organist at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia, and is co-artistic director for Amethyst Baroque Ensemble.

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