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Gold Coast Chamber Players Promise Stimulating Season

By Sophie Braccini



Gold Coast Chamber Players during a 2011 concert.
Photos provided

Community Hall. "We will experiment this year with pre-concert talks in Lafayette at 7 p.m.," says Freund-Striplen. Saint Mary's College professor Lino Rivera, Ph.D., will add context to the concert. "We want our audience to feel welcome and we'll go to any extra steps to enrich their experience," says the artistic director.

The second concert of the season is Masterpiece. "We wanted to present the work that very well-known composers wrote at pivotal moments of their lives," says Freund-Striplen. "For that we need an excellent pianist, and we have the pleasure to welcome this year for the first time Yana Reznik, who will also be with us for our last concert. We are so fortunate to be able to offer the quality of music you can find in the largest cities of the world," she says. The concert set for Friday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. will present works of Beethoven, Brahms, and Faure.

On March 1 the third concert will see the return of violinist Gil Sharon and violist Ron Ephrat of the Amati Ensemble from Holland and cellist Jennifer Culp, formerly of the Kronos Quartet. Along with GCCP players they will present Concertante, an exploration of the sinfonia concertante, a hybrid of the symphony and the concerto, with three pieces by Mozart. "Two of the three pieces are arrangements from the Amati Ensemble," says the director.

Freund-Striplen speaks of the fourth concert as their most ambitious undertaking. It is called American Frontiers. "It has been a desire of mine to pair Aaron Copland's well-known evocative Appalachian Spring with Alan Louis Smith's Vignettes: Covered Wagon Women in a full display of American spirit," she says. "The difficulty for us is that Appalachian Spring requires 13 musicians and that was beyond our reach, until a generous local donor made it possible for us."

The GCCP's season finale will also be a dream-come-true for Freund-Striplen. "For years we've dreamed of presenting the Quartet for the End of Time by Olivier Messiaen," she says. "This hour-long piece is so powerful, and we will have with us clarinetist and writer Rebecca Rischin." Rischin authored the book For the End of Time-The Story of the Messiaen Quartet and she will present Messiaen's work before the concert.

Freund-Striplen says GCCP has already doubled its season ticket sales from last year. "It took a long time to build an audience, but year after year people have seen the quality of what we provide, as well as its diversity."

For more information and tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org.

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