

NEO Camerata Members Bios – 8.15.05

Mark Landson, composer/viola

The music of Mark Landson has been described as “a wonderful melding of pop idiom and classical craft”. Classically trained from age six on violin, viola, and piano, Mark Landson began to find his voice as a composer while singing and playing keyboards in rock bands in high school. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music, where his most important influences were the music of Bartok, Berg, Hindemith, Reich, Britten, Respighi, Talking Heads, Violent Femmes, and New Order. Although he studied classical composition technique and harmony, he concentrated mostly on pop music composition, as the expression of contemporary classical composers seemed to lack the relevant voice he was seeking. After Eastman, he moved to Spain to become a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Granada, where he played viola, composed arrangements for that orchestra, and continued his development as a composer in various pop music projects. These divergent interests ultimately led him to experiment with how classical form and composition could incorporate pop music elements in a way that would provide for both a wide range of expression and connection to the contemporary world.

Vesselin Demirev, violin

Vesselin Demirev was born in Varna, Bulgaria and began his musical studies at the age of four. He has a Master of Arts degree from the prestigious National Academy of Music in Sofia, Bulgaria, and an Artist Certificate in violin performance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Vesselin has held the position of concertmaster for the New Symphony Orchestra of Sofia, Bulgaria, as well as the Abilene Philharmonic of Abilene, Texas. He is currently concertmaster for the Irving Symphony and the Plano Symphony Orchestras. As a soloist, he has performed to critical acclaim with major symphony orchestras and in chamber and solo recitals performed throughout Europe including Austria, Hungary, Holland, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Spain and more recently in the United States. He has recorded for the Gasparo label in New York and the Balkanton label in Sofia. He is Professor for violin performance, orchestral repertoire, and chamber music at the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

John Landefeld, cello

John Landefeld is a multi-talented musician who has excelled on many fronts. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with Anthony Ross and Steven Doane. He has held principal cello positions with the New World Symphony, the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Eastman Philharmonia,

and the San Angelo Symphony. He has also performed solo concertos with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and the National Repertory Orchestra. In addition to the cello, John also is a fine electric guitarist, and spent several years touring with heavy metal hair bands in the late 1980's. After his spandex era ended, he returned to the cello, but since then has continued to hone his skills in the pop music realm through composing, arranging, recording, and producing.

Jeanne Schumann

Jeanne Schumann has distinguished herself many times in competition, winning prizes in the Cleveland International, the Bartok-Kabalevsky International, the Star City Young Artists, the ARTS Festival, the Heida Herrmans International, the Stravinsky Awards International and the Kosciuszko Piano Competitions. In 2001, Ms. Schumann was the youngest applicant and the only American woman to be accepted into the International Van Cliburn Competition. She studied with Sergei Babayan at the Cleveland Institute of Music, graduating in 2004 with a Masters in Piano Performance, and is now studying at the Colburn School in Los Angeles with John Perry. She has been invited to perform in many venues throughout Europe, the Americas, and Asia, (including a tour of Vietnam), as artist-in-residence at the New Hampshire Music Festival, on the Sundays Live radio broadcast program in Los Angeles, and in New York City's "Rock Hotel Pianofest" series. She is a 2004 Gilmore Young Artist Award winner, and was recently featured on the "Rising Star Series" at Ravinia.

Jane Hunt

Jane Hunt was born in Manchester England and graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2005. While at RNCM, Jane was a member of the Colman String Quartet, a highly acclaimed group which performed throughout England and in prestigious international chamber music festivals. Before deciding to concentrate her efforts on the violin, Jane pursued a career in tennis, playing tournaments all over the UK. Although she's hung up the racket, she still enjoys humiliating the other members of Neo Camerata on the court occasionally.

Booking Contact:

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