

SERAFIN STRING QUARTET

Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, *violins*

Sheila Browne, *viola* and Lawrence Stomberg, *'cello*

Kate Ransom, *violin*



Hailed in the *New York Times* for "impassioned" playing and "clear articulation and unity of purpose," violinist Kate Ransom is a distinguished chamber musician, recitalist and teacher who has presented hundreds of concerts throughout North America and Europe in major chamber music venues. Ms. Ransom is founding violinist of Serafin String Quartet, lauded by *Gramophone* and *Fanfare Magazine* for the 2013 Naxos release of early works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon and by *The Strad Magazine* and *American Record Guide* for the 2010 Centaur release. As founding member of the Alexander String Quartet, she received first prize and audience prize at the London String Quartet Competition and toured internationally. Ms. Ransom is a founding member of Serafin String Quartet and a frequent collaborator with other artists such as William Preucil, David Coucheron, Charles Abramovic, Steven Tenenbom, Sadao Harada, and Eliot Fisk. She performed the complete Beethoven violin sonatas in 2010 and the complete Brahms violin sonatas in 2012 in locations around the nation. Presently, Ms. Ransom is an adjunct violin

instructor at the University of Delaware and she has previously held visiting artist positions at Brevard College and Lehigh University. She has also held Ensemble in Residence positions at University of Delaware, St. Lawrence University, SUNY-Potsdam, Lehigh University and Brevard College. Ms. Ransom pursued post-graduate chamber music study at The Juilliard School with Robert Mann and holds master's and bachelor's degrees in violin performance from Yale University and University of Michigan, respectively. Her major teachers were Paul Mekanovitzky, Szymon Goldberg and Ivan Galamian, and she was a chamber music protégé of Tokyo Quartet. Ms. Ransom currently serves as president of The Music School of Delaware. She plays a violin made in 1728 by the Venetian master, Sanctus Serafin.

Lisa Vaupel, *violin*



Violinist Lisa Vaupel is an accomplished ensemble player who concertizes in the United States and abroad. She has been a returning collaborative guest artist at the Colorado Music Festival (Boulder, CO), Delaware Symphony's Champagne Chamber Series, Delaware Art Museum Concerts on Kentmere, First and Central's Noontime Series (Wilmington, DE), Sequoia Chamber Workshop (Arcata, CA), Sundays at Three (Columbia, MD), The Bach Concert Series of Baltimore, and the Yogurt Concerts held at Goucher College (Towson, MD). Ms. Vaupel's recent solo appearances include Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto and Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the Frederick Symphony Orchestra. She has performed in Italy, Japan, Singapore and Russia and is a featured guest artist on the World Cafe's Live Connections Bridges programs in Philadelphia and Wilmington. In addition to her chamber music and solo appearances, Ms. Vaupel enjoys orchestral playing with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and as a principal player for both OperaDelaware and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra (Wilmington, DE), which presented her with the 2010 Albert Beekhuis Award

for excellence in performance and community engagement. Devoted to engaging young musicians and young audiences in creative new formats and philosophies, Ms. Vaupel serves as a Teaching Artist for the School Partnership Program of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has been a faculty member at Goucher College, and currently serves on the University of Delaware faculty. Ms. Vaupel received her bachelor's degree in music with high distinction from Indiana University, and earned her master's degree in music at the Peabody Conservatory. She plays a violin made by Carlo Antonio Testore (1741) courtesy of Dr. William Stegeman.

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Sheila Browne, *viola*



Hailed by the New York Times as a "stylish player" for a concerto performance at Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, violist Sheila Browne is an accomplished international soloist, chamber musician and professor. Honored to be named the William Primrose Memorial Recitalist of 2016, Ms. Browne has performed in major halls on five continents, including solo performances with the Juilliard Orchestra, Kiev Philharmonic, New World Symphony, in Carnegie Hall with the New York Women's Ensemble, South African International Viola Congress Festival Orchestra, and the Viva Vivaldi!, Reina Sofia and German-French chamber orchestras. She has premiered a concerto written for her at the international viola congresses in Australia and South Africa, and was the only viola finalist in the 2004 International Pro Musicis Solo Awards at Carnegie Hall. She has performed with Shmuel Ashkenazy, Aretha Franklin, Miriam Fried, Gilbert Kalish, Paul Katz, Anton Kuerti, Ruth Laredo, Joseph Robinson, Arnold Steinhardt, Richard Stolzman, and has recordings with Fire Pink Trio, Carol Wincenc, Audra MacDonald, Natalie Cole and Lisa Loeb, on Sony, Bridge, Centaur, and other labels. She has worked on solo and chamber works with living composers William Bolcom, Krystof Penderecki, Joan Tower, Judith Shatin, and Gabriella Lena Frank, among others. She was elected to the Executive Board of the American Viola Society, and is the first viola professor ever to teach in Iraqi Kurdistan at the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq's inaugural year. Ms. Browne received a Naumburg scholarship and a Bachelor of Music degree at the Juilliard School, where she was famed violist Karen Tuttle's teaching assistant for four years. A dedicated teacher, she currently serves as viola professor at the University of Delaware, in conjunction with a residency as the violist in Serafin String Quartet, and has served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, University of St Louis- Missouri, and New York, Duke and Tennessee universities.

Lawrence Stomberg, *cello*



Hailed in Strings Magazine for "style and elegance," "lyrical expressiveness," and "drama and rhetoric," Lawrence Stomberg enjoys a wide-ranging career as soloist, chamber musician and pedagogue. In addition to his work as cellist of the Serafin String Quartet, recent seasons have brought him to venues across four continents, performing as soloist and collaborator in London, Vienna, and Bogotá, as well as cities and towns across the United States, including recent premiere performances of British composer David Osbon's Cello Sonata and a cycle of Beethoven's Cello/Piano works across Europe and the United States. The coming season will bring a performance of a co-commissioned concerto by British-American composer Richard Prior. Along with the Naxos Records release in 2013 with SSQ, he was also a featured performer that year on a critically acclaimed recording featuring chamber music by American composer Kirk O'Riordan (on Ravello Records). He has also recorded for the VAI and Centaur labels. As an orchestral performer, he served as Assistant Principal Cellist in the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and as a member of the Tulsa Philharmonic and Eastern Philharmonic Orchestras. An active and dedicated pedagogue, Stomberg served on the faculties at Truman State University in Missouri and Oklahoma State University before joining the music faculty at the University of Delaware in 2004, where he is currently Professor of Cello. He lives in Wilmington, Delaware with his wife, cellist Jennifer Crowell Stomberg, and their three children. Mr. Stomberg plays a School of Testore cello, circa 1727, obtained with the generous assistance of Dr. William Stegeman.