

PALISADES VIRTUOSI

Dubbed "The Commissioners" by Chamber Music America magazine, Palisades Virtuosi has established an enviable presence in the chamber music world since its inception fourteen years ago. They are thrilled to be celebrating their 15th season of concerts this coming year in Bergen County! The founders are three friends, all who had hitherto enjoyed considerable success as individual performers, and who also shared a love of ensemble playing. After performing a few concerts together as a trio, they discovered that they had virtually exhausted the existing repertoire for flute, clarinet and piano. In the midst of gathering frustration an idea presented itself: why not begin commissioning new works [by American composers] for their instrumental configuration? The concept was enthusiastically embraced and implemented. Now, to date, PV's portfolio boasts nearly eighty new pieces, acquired either directly through PV's "Mission to Commission", or by a work being gifted to PV by several and various composers. The collection, taken as a whole, exhibits an astounding richness and depth; the ages of the composers range from sixteen to eighty, displaying a staggering array of styles and approaches. (For a comprehensive listing of the "Honor Roll," you are invited to visit our composers page).

The geographical "home-base" of PV is Bergen County, NJ, where they have performed their subscription concert series for the past 14 years. They have also travelled extensively, appearing at important venues which have included Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Bruno Walter Auditorium/NY Public Library at Lincoln Center, the venerable Stratford Summer Music Festival (founded by Glenn Gould), the University of Hawaii, Honolulu (where they have an informal "residency"), and the New York Flute Club, to name a few. Recently, PV has been named "Visiting Artists" at Bergen Community College (NJ) and are also In Residence at The Ridgewood Conservatory.

An important part of Palisades Virtuosi's mission is to record and disseminate its new compositions. With the assistance of substantial grants from the Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and private donations, five volumes of CDs have been recorded and released [by Albany Records]. Volume 6 in the series was released in the spring of 2017. These recordings have garnered rave reviews from such publications as Fanfare Magazine, American Record Guide, and Living Music Journal. Equally passionate about more traditional music, PV has recorded an album ["Palisades Virtuosi in Recital"/High Point Records], which features music of Bloch, Gaubert, Debussy, Scriabin, Saint-Saens and Danzi.

The Palisades Virtuosi is the artist ensemble of PV Music Trio, Inc. (formerly known as Palisades Virtuosi, Inc.) which is a 501(c)(3) organization established to promote and enrich the repertoire for flute, clarinet and piano.

MARGARET SWINCHOSKI, flutist, began her musical studies at the age of nine in Vermont. She graduated with degrees and high honors both in Performing Arts and Music Education from Johnson State College, Johnson, Vermont. She received her Master of Arts degree from Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. Ms. Swinchoski is now on the faculty of The Ridgewood Conservatory. She was a featured soloist at the National Flute Association Convention in the World Premiere of Leo Kraft's "From The Hudson Valley" and also premiered Richard Lane's Flute Concerto with the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with many other orchestras. Ms. Swinchoski was presented in her debut recital by Artists International at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. She has served as principal flutist with the Westchester and Harrisburg Symphony Orchestras, and travels to Ohio each summer to play principal flute with the Lancaster Festival Orchestra. Her solo debut CD "From The Hudson Valley" was released by Albany Records in 2000 and garnered rave reviews from "Fanfare" magazine and "American Record Guide". Ms. Swinchoski can also be heard on the Newport Classics, CRI and High Point labels. She formed the Legacy Duo with harpist Emily Mitchell in 2006 with which she concertized through the tri-state area and with whom she was heard on radio and television stations in the New York area. As a founding member of the Palisades Virtuosi, she has commissioned and premiered nearly 80 works for flute, clarinet & piano from such well-known composers as Paul Moravec, Melinda Wagner, Eric Ewazen, Carlos Franzetti, Robert Manno, Dan Cooper, Frank Ezra Levy & Allen Shawn among others. PV has concertized through the tri-state area and in Hawaii and Canada. Volumes 1 thru 6 of PV's New American Masters series have been released by Albany Records and to date have received several fantastic reviews including being named to the Fanfare Magazine "Most Wanted" lists! Ms. Swinchoski has been honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award from Johnson State College.

DONALD MOKRYNSKI, clarinetist, is a native to metropolitan New York and has played with many of the area's finest ensembles. Currently principal clarinetist with the Garden State Philharmonic, Don has played principal with the Albany Symphony and was recently principal clarinetist with the national tour of "Phantom of the Opera" and with "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" starring Michael Crawford. Mr. Mokrynski has also performed with the New Jersey Symphony, the New Haven Symphony, Solisti New York, and Orchestra New England, as well as the Jersey Lyric, New Haven and Connecticut Grand Opera Companies. An avid chamber musician, Don has performed with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Graduating with honors from the Eastman School of Music and completing a master's degree from the Juilliard School, Don has also attended the music festivals of Aspen, Waterloo and Heidelberg and has recorded for Koch International, Soundstream, Elektra and High Point records.

RON LEVY, internationally acclaimed pianist, has been called "first-class" by the New York Times. He regularly appears in major venues, both as a soloist, and in partnership with many of the world's leading singers and instrumentalists. A graduate of Oberlin, Mr. Levy has been pianist and harpsichordist of the Oberlin Orchestra, the Westchester Symphony, and the Albany Symphony, among others. Presently, he is the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood Music Director and the pianist of the Orpheus Men's Chorus and the award-winning Palisades Virtuosi of which he is a founding member. For over 20 years, Mr. Levy was associated with the Manchester (VT) Music Festival, of which he was a faculty and Board member. While living in Vermont, he was Music Director & Conductor of the Opera Theatre in Weston, and impresario of the "Third Saturday" chamber music series at the historic Equinox Hotel, as well as the "Music on the Hill" music series at the Southern Vermont Art Center. Mr. Levy has taught at numerous colleges and is currently an instructor at Montclair State University; he maintains an active and on-going affiliation with the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard, and NJ PAC. A two-term President of the Professional Music Teachers' Guild of NJ, he is a contributing editor to BIM Music Publications, Switzerland. In the Spring of 2011 Mr. Levy made his debut at the Academy of the Arts and the University in Oahu, Hawaii. Recordings by Mr. Levy are available on the Albany, Centaur, Eroica, Koch International, MMF and High Point labels.