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Faculty Recital: Viola Day, February 16, 2014

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Program Notes

Karen Ritscher, praised by *The New York Times* for her “superior musicianship,” is recognized internationally as a leading pedagogue, soloist and chamber musician. She has also served as principal violist of the Houston Grand Opera, the Dallas Opera, American Composers Orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. She has taught at many of the leading conservatories of the United States and her students hold prestigious posts in major orchestras, string quartets, and at universities throughout the world. She is on the viola faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, New York University, Boston University, and City University of New York. She has judged many international competitions, most recently the Primrose, in June of 2011. As a master class clinician and recitalist, she has appeared throughout the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, Spain, Czech Republic, Korea, Taiwan, and China. Her summer residencies have included the Aspen Music Festival, the Heifetz International Institute of Music, Litomisl International Masterclasses in the Czech Republic, and Domaine-Forget in Canada. Since its inception in 2002, she has served on the faculty of the annual “Karen Tuttle Coordination Workshop.”

Ms. Ritscher performs and records with the Azure Ensemble, a new music chamber group based in NYC. She has been a member of the Aureus Piano Quartet, Steve Reich Musicians, and St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble. She has toured and recorded with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the Houston Symphony.

As a champion of living composers, Ms. Ritscher has commissioned and/or premiered works from many composers including Bruce Adolphe, Alexandra DuBois, Wendy Mae Chambers, Linda Bouchard, Tan Dun, Chen Yi, Bright Sheng, and Alice Shields. She has appeared at seven International Viola Congresses as featured soloist and presenter.

Ms. Ritscher is honored to have been the string consultant for the award-winning book by Madeline Bruser, *The Art of Practicing; a Guide to Making Music from the Heart*. She is the Education Editor of the *Journal of the American Viola Society* and a frequent contributor to string magazines.

In the spring of 2011, Ms. Ritscher became a certified teacher of Gabrielle Roth’s 5Rhythm™ Movement Practice. She teaches Rhythms™ in Boston and New York, as well as workshops throughout the world. www.karenritscher.com

Joshua Russell has performed as a pianist, organist, and conductor throughout the United States, Europe, and Haiti. Widely regarded as an expert on the piano music of Haiti, Dr. Russell recently performed an encore recital of Haitian piano music at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C., after which Haitian Ambassador Raymond Joseph stated:

“As an interpreter of Haitian music, you could not find a better person.

He was an inspiration to everyone who heard him. He is an inspiration to me.”

Dr. Russell has appeared as an orchestral soloist and in recitals at nationally visible venues such as the American Liszt Society National Festival, the San Genarro Festival of Los Angeles, and the Lasker Summer Music Festival (North Carolina). Joshua performed as a guest artist at the 2009 Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition in Baltimore and was recently invited to serve as the Guest Co-Chair for the 2011 Liszt-Garrison Competition. His upcoming schedule includes appearances across the United States and Canada.

Dr. Russell is in demand throughout the United States for his entertaining and educational workshops and has been a speaker on the topic of “Piano Music around the World” at national conferences of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the College Music Society.

You can find out more about Joshua Russell at: www.joshuarussellpianist.com

**Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

**Viola Day
Faculty Recital**

**Kemp Recital Hall
February 16, 2014
Sunday Afternoon
4:00 p.m.**

This is the ninety-third program of the 2013-2014 season.

Program

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Suite for Viola Alone

Lento
Allegro furioso
Larghetto espressivo
Allegro spiritoso

Quincy Porter
(1897-1966)

Amber Archibald, *viola*

Après un Rêve

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

Meredith Harris, *viola*
Joshua Russell, *piano*

Tooth and Nail for Amplified Viola and Electronics (2010)

Missy Mazzoli
(born 1980)

Penelope's Song for Viola and Electronics (2013)

Judith Shatin
(born 1949)

Karen Ritscher, *viola*

Concertpiece for Viola and Piano

George Enescu
(1881-1955)

Katherine J. Lewis, *viola*
Joshua Russell, *piano*

About the Artists

Amber Archibald, a native of Houston, Texas, has been praised for her bold and vivacious playing that matches her personality. In the August 2006 issue, ARTS! Houston Magazine said her technique was “seemingly effortless...precise,” and that she was “a natural in every sense.” As a violist, Ms. Archibald has concertized in the United States, Portugal, Austria and Germany. Her most noteworthy performance was at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany. Heide Lang, of the Leipzig Volkzeitung, said “...she commands her instrument, even in difficult passages...with a marvelous tapestry of sound.” Locally, Amber was the 2006 winner of the Texas Music Festival Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition. She has also been featured on the radio show “The Front Row” on KUHF 88.7 FM as an up and coming performer. Amber received her Bachelor’s degree in violin performance from Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music. There, she studied with world renowned pedagogue, Mimi Zweig and worked with the Indiana University String Academy. She attained her Master’s degree in viola performance as a student of Karen Ritscher from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music and taught in the Shepherd School Preparatory Department. Additionally, she studied with Martha Katz at the New England Conservatory of Music. Currently, Ms. Archibald is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Washington.

Violist **Meredith Harris**, a native of North Carolina, currently lives in Houston, TX where she enjoys an active performing and teaching career. Ms. Harris received her Bachelors of Music degree from East Carolina University with Ara Gregorian and completed a two year long term Suzuki teacher training course. She received her Masters of Music in viola performance with James Dunham at Rice University. Ms. Harris enjoys performing with the Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, and River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. She has been invited to various festivals across the United States including Tanglewood, the Grand Teton Music Festival, Kennedy Center Conservatory Project, Spoleto, Las Vegas Music Festival, and the North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Program. During the summers Ms. Harris enjoys teaching viola at the North Carolina Suzuki Institute and Pennsylvania Suzuki Institute.

Violist **Katherine Lewis** enjoys a multi-faceted career as a teacher, chamber musician, solo performer, and orchestral musician. She is Assistant Professor of Viola at Illinois State University and Master Teacher for the ISU String Project, and currently performs as principal viola in the Peoria Symphony and Peoria Bach Festival Orchestra. Her previous orchestral experience includes appointments in the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston, TX and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, as well as frequent work with the Houston and New World Symphonies. During the summer she is an Artist-Faculty member at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Sewanee, Tennessee.

An avid chamber musician, Dr. Lewis regularly performs with the ISU Faculty String Quartet, the MYA Chamber Players, and the Lewis Trio. She recently premiered Libby Larsen’s viola duo “In Such a Night,” written for her and violist James Dunham for a performance at the 38th International Viola Congress. She has also recorded chamber music by composers Karim Al-Zand and John Allemeier for recordings on the Naxos Record Label.

A recipient of several awards and grants for her teaching and research, including the ISU College of Fine Arts Outstanding Teaching Award, the ISU College of Fine Arts Research and Service Initiative Awards, and the Illinois State University Service Initiative Award, Dr. Lewis has given recitals, presentations, and master classes at venues throughout the country. She has presented sessions at several conferences including the International Double Reed Society Conference, the American String Teacher’s Association National Conference, the College Music Society Great Lakes Conference, IMEA Conference, and the Chicago Viola Festival. Recent recital and master class highlights include appearances at the University of Tennessee Viola Celebration, Indiana University, Oberlin Conservatory, Kansas State University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Lawrence University, and Valdosta State University.

Dr. Lewis earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, where she was a Brown Foundation Scholar. She holds a Bachelor degree from Lawrence University and a Master’s degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music. Her principal teachers include Jeffrey Irvine, James Dunham, Karen Ritscher, and Matthew Michelic.