

The
Placitas
Artists
Series

2019 – 2020

Dear Friends of the Arts,

Welcome to our thirty-third season of fine art and music in the foothills of the Sandias. And, what a new and wonderful season it is, featuring an eclectic mix of musicians and programs. I think that an appropriate saying borrowed from a very different kind of event is “something old, something new; something borrowed, something blue.”

For the old, four of our non-local, invited performers have been here before. The October concert, Arc Duo, has Viktor Uzur as cellist. Uzur performed here in 2013, and is back in a new duo with Carmelo de los Santos. In December, Katie Mahan returns with a solo piano concert; she enthralled the audience in 2015. In March we have the Shtrykov-Tanaka duo. In 2017, Misuzu Tanaka gave us a stunning solo piano performance. Since then she has married clarinetist Maksim Shtrykov, and will be performing as a duo. So, to PAS, both of these duos are old and new. For our season finale in May, Eunice Kim and Xiaohui Yang return, performing works for violin and piano.

For something new, our local chamber groups represent a new direction. We have three musicians who have organized string trios and quartets: Peter Erb, Kim Fredenburgh, and Joan Zucker. Nine of the musicians performing in these groups are new to PAS. The instrumentation includes piano, oboe, bass, double bass, horn, and flute. Carmelo de los Santos, performing in one of these concerts, is also half of Arc Duo.

So you see, several of the musicians have been “borrowed” from other performances. Kim Fredenburgh is part of Joan Zucker’s ensemble. Lots of crossover in this lineup! And, we have borrowed a group from Canada, Beyond the Pale. This concert will feature Euro-Folk acoustic music with Balkan and klezmer influences.

The visual arts are an important component of the PAS mission. Each month we have juried art exhibits that showcase the work of New Mexico artists. All artwork is for sale, and the sales help support PAS. This year we will attempt to present exhibits that tie to a particular theme. For example, Katie Mahan, our December solo pianist, was strongly influenced by the works of George Gershwin, and has titled her program *An American in Paris*. This will be paired with our visual arts exhibit themed to another Gershwin standard, *Rhapsody in Blue*. In addition to the exhibits, PAS conducts an annual competition for a new “brand” image. This year Erica Wendel-Oglesby’s photograph, “Post-Storm Sandias,” graces our program book and website.

We welcome youth of all ages to our concerts and encourage adults to bring youngsters to experience art and live performance. Students in grades K to 12 are admitted free with a paying adult; other students may purchase tickets at a reduced price.

We offer an incredible, inspiring, artistic experience, organized by a group of hard-working board members and volunteers. Many others provide the support needed to make all of this possible. Please patronize and thank our concert sponsors, donors, and advertisers who contribute so much. On behalf of the Board, I thank you all for your support and attendance. Enjoy the season!

Sincerely,

Richard Reif
President, Placitas Artists Series