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Guest Artist Series:Duo Athena

Sandra Johnson Soprano
Illinois State University

Valerie Hartzell Guitar

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Illinois State University

College of Fine Arts

School of Music

Guest Artist Series

Duo Athena

Sandra Johnson, *Soprano*

Valerie Hartzell, *Guitar*

Kemp Recital Hall

March 3, 2008

Monday Evening

7:30 p.m.

This is the one hundred and tenth program of the 2007-2008 season.

Program

Text

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

Seguidillas by Fernando Sor

19th Century American Popular Songs arranged by Stephen Aron
 Coax Me
 Let me call you Sweetheart
 He'll Have to Get Under-Get Out and Get Under (To Fix His Automobile)

Las mujeres y cuerdas
 Women and guitar strings; you need talent
 To tune them. If they're slack they don't sound;
 And lots of them, if you tighten them too much, break.

Duo Athena

De amor en las prisiones
 Happy I live in Love's prisons, and I kiss
 and bless its sweet chains. And to find
 myself free would be harder and more
 painful for me than death.

Prelude Nos. 1 and 4 Heitor Villa-Lobos
 (1887-1959)

El que quisiera amando
 He who wants to love and yet live
 without problems, must just take time as it
 comes. Take someone to love; and then,
 even if they hate you for it- you take time
 as it comes

Marieta (Mazurka) Francisco Tarrega
 Rosita (Polka) (1852-1909)
 Recuerdos de la Alhambra

Muchacha, Y la Verguenza
 Hussy, where is your shame? 'Mother, the
 cockroaches have eaten it.' Hussy, you're
 lying: cockroaches don't have teeth.

Libra Sonatine (1986) Roland Dyens
 Fuoco (born 1955)

Valerie Hartzell, *guitar*

~ Intermission ~

Siete canciones populares espanolas by Manuel de Falla

"Bele Doette" - Chanson de Toile (13th C. langue d'oc) Anonymous
 Sandra Johnson, *soprano*

Jota
 They say we're not in love
 because we're not seen talking;
 But let them ask
 your heart and mine!
 I must leave you now,
 leave your house and your window;
 And though your mother disapproves,
 Goodbye, dearest, till tomorrow!

4 Seguidillas Fernando Sor
 Las Mujeres Y Cuerdas (1778-1839)
 De Amor en las Prisiones
 El Que Quisiera Amando
 Muchacha, Y la Verguenza

Nana (Lullaby)
 Sleep, little one, sleep;
 sleep, my darling.
 Sleep, little star
 of the morning.
 Lullay, lullaby.
 Sleep, little star
 of the morning.

Siete canciones populares Espanolas (1914-15) Manuel de Falla
 (1876-1946)

Cancion (Song)
 Because your eyes are treacherous
 I'm going to bury them.
 You know not what it costs,
 dearest, to gaze into them.
 Mother!
 ...to gaze into them,
 mother.
 They say you don't love me,

Jota
 Nana
 Cancion
 Asturiana
 Polo

Duo Athena

but once you did.
Make the best of it
and cut your losses.
Mother!
...to cut your losses,
mother!

Asturiana (Asturian song)
Seeking consolation
I drew near a green pine-tree.
Seeing me weep, it wept;
the pine, as it was green,
wept to see me weeping.

Polo
Ay!
I have a pain in my heart
which I can tell no one.
A curse on love, and a curse
on the one who made me know it.
Ay!

About the Artists



Duo Athena, consisting of soprano Sandra Johnson and guitarist Valerie Hartzell, was formed in May of 2006. Previously, Ms. Hartzell and Ms. Johnson collaborated on Ms. Johnson's doctoral recitals. Due to their friendship and interest in chamber music, the two musicians decided to become an official duo. Their repertoire includes Manuel de Falla's *Siete canciones populares Espanolas*, Fernando Sor's *Seguidillas*, Thea Musgrave's *Five*

Love Songs, *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* by Villa-Lobos, *Outdoor Shadows* by David Leisner, and *On a Sunday Afternoon and Other American Popular Songs from the Turn of the Last Century* as arranged by Stephen Aron. A recording featuring most of the repertoire listed will be released in the summer of 2008. They have recently performed at the University of Houston downtown campus, the Houston Community College, the First Unitarian Universalist Church, and at the 2007 "Classical Minds" Guitar Festival Faculty Artist Recital Series.

A classically trained singer and pianist, **Sandra Johnson** is a versatile singer; her genres include opera, musical theater, oratorio, early music, contemporary music, jazz, blues and folk. Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and the University of Texas at Austin and has continued her Doctoral studies in Voice Performance at the University of Houston. She has coached and studied with the legendary French baritone Gerard Souzay, Leontyne Price's long-time collaborator Dr. David Garvey, Mignon Dunn, Dr. Isabelle Ganz, Katherine Ciesinski, Julliard's W. Stephen Smith, and Dr. Mimi Fulmer. She was awarded the Aron S. and Anaruth P. Gordon Scholarship, the Effie Sibley Potts Endowed Scholarship, and as a teaching fellow taught voice and directed opera scenes at the University of Texas and the University of Houston. Roles she has performed include Alice from Del Tredici's monumental contemporary work *Alice in Wonderland*, Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi), the Dew Fairy (Hansel and Gretel), Lucia (Lucia di Lammermoor), Papagena, Queen of the Night, the First Lady and Pamina (The Magic Flute), Olympia (Tales of Hoffman), Baby Doe (The Ballad of Baby Doe), Vanessa (Vanessa), Anne (A Little Night Music), Lucy (Streets of New York), Elsie (Yeoman of the Guard), Phyllis (Iolanthe), and Gianetta (The Gondoliers). She has performed with the Texas Musical Theater, Madison Opera, Gilbert & Sullivan

Society, Madison Savoyards, Opera in the Heights, AURA Contemporary Ensemble, and the Early Music Ensemble. Most recently, Ms. Johnson has been a cast member of *Cabaret on Main* in Stoughton, Wisconsin singing musical revues including Gershwin, Porter, Songs of the Silver Screen and Oklahoma. She also performs in *Hannah and Friends*, a variety show featuring vocal music from opera, Broadway and jazz standards, and original compositions. Ms. Johnson taught music theory and history at the Houston Community College, and she currently teaches through the Musical Theater Department at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, TX.

Valerie Hartzell began her classical guitar studies on a half-size Ramirez at the age of three. At the age of six, she studied with maestro Alexandre Lagoya at the Académie Internationale d'Eté in Nice, France. She has participated in master classes with several internationally acclaimed artists, including Ako Ito, Castellani-Andriaccio Duo, David Russell, Antigoni Goni and Elena Papandreou. In 1991, Ms. Hartzell made her debut performing Castelnuovo-Tedesco's "Concerto for guitar and orchestra" with the New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving, Texas. She made her international debut in San Mamete, Italy at the Festival del Piccolo Mondo in August 1994. She has performed in Europe, Canada, the U.S. and has appeared on television in Nice, FR. From September 29-October 5, 2002 she toured the Carolinas including Saluda, NC, Wofford College, SC, Appalachian State University, NC and Elon University, NC. She also performed at East Carolina University in January of 2003. Her tour promoted her first cd, *Fuoco!* She has performed in many festivals, including the Montgomery College Guitar Festival, 'Close Encounters' Voice and Guitar Festival at University of Houston (where she performed and co-directed the festival along the side of Katherine Ciesinski), the Eastfield College Guitar Festival and Competition in Mesquite, and the first Classical Guitar Weekend Workshop at The Music Conservatory of Texas in Frisco. In March of 2007, Ms. Hartzell performed with studio members of the Houston Grand Opera at the Rienzi Recital Series. In August 2003, Ms. Hartzell was the first performer to win the "K-Artist of the Month Contest" sponsored by Houston's former classical station, KRST, 92.1FM. Additionally, she was a prizewinner at the Portland Guitar Competition, the East Carolina University Competition and Festival, and the Appalachian Guitar Festival and Competition. She has won 1st prizes at the 10th International Guitar Competition "Simone Salmaso" in Viareggio, Italy and at the Concours de Guitare Classique Heitor Villa-Lobos in Nice, France. At the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, Ms. Hartzell was awarded the highest undergraduate scholarship for the classical guitar and studied with Manuel Barrueco earning her Bachelor's Degree in 1997. She was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at Radford University with Robert Trent and was placed as Adjunct Faculty while studying for her Master's Degree in Music. She received her performance degree in May of 1999 and currently, she is a Professional Teacher at Moores School of Music, University of Houston and is Adjunct Faculty at the Houston Community College. She also accompanies many vocal students at both Moores School of Music, University of Houston and at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University. She keeps an active solo career, works in a professional duo with soprano Sandra Johnson, as Duo Athena and frequently is a judge at international competitions throughout the United States. Valerie Hartzell is the creator and director of the "Classical Minds" Guitar Festival at Moores School of Music, University of Houston.

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Upcoming Events

March

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|-------|------------|--------------|--|
| 04 | 11:00 a.m. | KRH | Convocation Recital * |
| 04 | 8:00 p.m. | CPA | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series:
Faculty Jazz Ensemble |
| 05 | 8:00 p.m. | CPA | "Music for One Piano and Four Hands"
Guest Artists: Maria Bannino &
Valentina De Lis, <i>piano</i> |
| 06 | 7:00 p.m. | KRH | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital Series:
Katherine Lewis, <i>viola</i> * |
| 9-16 | | Spring Break | |
| 15 | 6:00 p.m. | KRH | Graduate Recital, Emily Morgan, <i>violin</i> * |
| 17-20 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | 2008 New Music Festival * |
| 17 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist, David Russell, <i>cello</i> : Works by
Boston and California based composers * |
| 18 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Charles W. Bolen Faculty Recital: Linden Duo:
Kimberly Risinger, <i>flute</i> & Angelo Favis, <i>guitar</i> * |
| 19 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Guest Artist, Amy Dissanayake, <i>piano</i>
"Etudes and Tangos for Solo Piano" * |
| 20 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Performance of chamber works by composers from
ISU & IWU faculty, national composers, &
international composers. * |
| 21 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Chamber Orchestra * |
| 26 | 8:00 p.m. | KRH | Senior Recital, Eric Meyer, <i>guitar</i> * |

* - Free Admission

KRH - Kemp Recital Hall

CPA - Center for Performing Arts