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**Mostly Music at
Northeastern Illinois University**

Presents

The 3 Celli

March 11, 2007

Hosted by Irwin F. Noparstak

155 N. Harbor Drive

Chicago, Illinois

The 3 Celli

Stephen Balderston, Linc Smelser, Brant Taylor

Program

Five Renaissance Dances Brian Joyce
Branle de Bourgogne
Almain
Coranto
Pavan
Galliard

Notturmo (Nocturne) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Three Dances from the "French Suites" Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
Minuet
Sarabande
Gavotte

Solo by Brant Taylor

Allegro Moderato Franz Schubert
(1808-1878)

Intermission

Sonata in G Minor
Andante
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Solo by Steve Balderston

Aria di Chiesa

Arr. Paul Bazelaire

Sonata for Two Cellos
Allegro prestissimo

Jean Batière
(1707-1747)

The Slippery Elm

Clarence Woods
(1888-1956)

Today's concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council, a state agency



About the Performers

Stephen Balderston

Stephen Balderston joined the DePaul School Of Music faculty as String Coordinator and Professor of Cello after twenty successful years as an orchestra and chamber musician. Balderston was Assistant Principal Cello with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for ten years after ten years with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. He performed as soloist with both orchestras and was an artist-in-residence at Washington University. Balderston began his studies on the cello with Gabor Rejto in his native southern California, and earned both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Lynn Harrell.

A sought-after soloist, chamber musician and coach, Balderston participates in clinics, chamber music concerts and festivals throughout the U.S. and abroad. In recent years, Balderston has performed solo works and chamber music with Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Christoph Eschenbach, Lynn Harrell, Yo-Yo Ma, Menahem Pressler, Gil Shaham, and Pinchas Zukerman. He debuted as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Bobby McFerrin in 2000. He has been a featured artist at the Ravinia Festival in Illinois, Bargemusic in New York City, Affinis Music Festival in Japan. Additionally, he has participated in the OK Mozart International Festival in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the Santa Barbara Chamber Music Festival and the International Music Festival in Shanghai, China. In August 2001, he served as Principal Cello at the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He has performed the Elgar and Dvorak concertos with local orchestras including Elmhurst Symphony and the Lake Shore Symphony, and was featured with the North Suburban Symphony and the Salt Creek Sinfonietta in 2005. He is a frequent guest artist with the Chicago Chamber Musicians and the Chicago String Quartet. He is the cellist for the Evanston Chamber Ensemble, and a founding member of Callisto Ensemble in Chicago.

Balderston's summers have been spent performing and working with students at a variety of venues. Balderston was the cello coach for Daniel Barenboim's "West-Eastern Divan" workshops in 1999 and 2000 in Weimar, Germany, the 2001 Workshop held in Chicago, and the 2004 Workshop in Seville, Spain. The Divan brings together talented young

musicians between the ages of 14 and 25 from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, and Israel. In 2002 he accompanied a group of colleagues to Shanghai, China for that city's international music festival. Since 2002, he has been cello coach and soloist at the Marrowstone Music Festival. The summer of 2003 also included the Midwest Young Artists festival in Lake Forest, IL, and the Northwestern University High School Institute. In August of 2004, Balderston was featured as lecturer, soloist and coach at the International String Music Festival in Taipei, Taiwan. Balderston returned to both Northwestern University and the Marrowstone Festival in 2005.

Linc Smelser

A native of Arizona, Linc Smelser began his cello studies at the age of 10 with Marguerite Rork. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Cello performance from the University of Arizona where he studied with Dr. Gordon Epperson and received his Master's Degree and Performer's Certificate in Cello Performance and Pedagogy at Northern Illinois University having studied with renowned cellist and pedagogue Raya

Garbousova. Advanced study included work with cellists Marc Johnson, Heinrich Schiff, the Vermeer Quartet, and pianists Richard Faith and Jerome Lowenthal. Mr. Smelser has appeared as a soloist with the Kishwaukee Symphony, the Fox River Valley Symphony and the Rockford Symphony and has twice appeared in recital on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts Series in Chicago, which is broadcast live on over 44 stations across the United States. He has won several awards including first prize of the National Society of Arts and Letters Chapter Competition, top prize of the National Federation of Music Clubs Regional Competition and most recently first prize of the International Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund Competition. Mr. Smelser has been a member of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra Cello section for fourteen years and has been an active substitute with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 10 years. Mr. Smelser has most recently been appointed professor of cello at the Wheaton Conservatory of Music. He is currently a faculty member of the Northern Illinois University Music Department and has been teaching private cello lessons through the NIU Community School of the Arts for seventeen years. Mr. Smelser has been on the faculty of the Colorado Suzuki Institute for three years.

In 2003, Mr. Smelser was appointed conductor/music director of the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra in DeKalb. He has guest conducted the Rockford Area Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic. He is also conductor/founder of the NIU Sinfonia and Youth Symphonette, two youth symphonies that attract students from the entire Northern Illinois area. He is also pianist/accompanist for the Northern Illinois University Suzuki program.

Brant Taylor

Born in New York and raised in San Antonio, Brant Taylor began cello studies at the age of 8. His varied career has included solo appearances and collaborations with leading chamber musicians throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, as well as orchestral, pedagogical, and popular music activities. After one year as a member of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Taylor was appointed to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by Daniel Barenboim in 1998. In Chicago, Mr. Taylor has performed recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Concerts (live radio broadcasts), the First Monday concerts, Rush Hour Concerts at St. James, and the Ravinia Festival's Rising Stars recital series. He has also performed regularly with the renowned Chicago Chamber Musicians and appeared on the CSO's contemporary music series, MusicNOW. Mr. Taylor performs frequently as a member of the Lincoln Quartet, a group formed 7 years ago with colleagues from the CSO. The Chicago Tribune wrote of one recent performance: "the lush expanses of melody seemed to have been written for Taylor, who brought a throbbing lyricism, incisive attack and idiomatic characterization to the cello part."

From 1992-97, Mr. Taylor was cellist of the award-winning Everest Quartet, prizewinners at the 1995 Banff International String Quartet Competition. The Quartet performed and taught extensively in North America and the Caribbean, and gave the world premiere performance of a work by Israeli-American composer Paul Schoenfield. Mr. Taylor has also been a member of the Whitney Trio since 1994, an ensemble dedicated to bringing chamber music to audiences of all ages in rural areas across the U.S. In 1997, Mr. Taylor was a member of the New World Symphony. He has returned to appear as soloist with that orchestra under the batons of Michael Tilson-Thomas and Nicholas McGegan, as well as to teach and participate in audition training seminars. Other solo appearances with orchestra include the San Antonio Symphony, Raleigh Symphony, Midland-Odessa

Symphony, and Racine Symphony.

At home in the world of pop music, Mr. Taylor performs with the band Pink Martini. With this eclectic 11-member ensemble, he has appeared with the orchestras of Seattle, Rochester (NY), San Antonio, Utah, Milwaukee, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Austin, Jacksonville, Portland (OR), and Eugene (OR), in addition to performing 2 concerts at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in the summer of 2002.

Mr. Taylor is a frequent performer and teacher at music festivals, including the Festival der Zukunft in Ernen, Switzerland, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Shanghai International Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, the Mammoth Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Music Festival Santo Domingo, Michigan's Village Bach Festival, and Music at Gretna in Pennsylvania, where he has made repeated appearances as a concerto soloist. Active as a teacher of both cello and chamber music, Mr. Taylor serves on the faculties of DePaul University's School of Music and Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. In addition, he is a faculty member at Northwestern University's National High School Music Institute, and has led classes on orchestral repertoire at the University of Michigan. Mr. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, where he won the school's Concerto Competition and performed as soloist with the Eastman Philharmonia. His Master of Music degree is from Indiana University. Mr. Taylor's primary teachers have been János Starker and Paul Katz.

Upcoming Concerts

**North Shore Neighborhood Series
Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.
Junghwa Lee, Piano**

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