

ARC DUO

PRESS MATERIALS

ONLINE

arcduo@yahoo.com

www.arcduo.com

NEW YORK CITY

(917) 470 3450

ZÜRICH

+41 (0)76 240 29 53

BIOGRAPHY

IN BRIEF Arc Duo was born from an unwavering dedication to the music and composers of our time, a shared approach to music-making, and a passion for performance. As the smallest of ensembles-types, the Duo fuses the richness of chamber music with the intimacy of a solo performance. Virtuoso and engaging, Heather and Bradley consistently create an atmosphere on stage which draws audiences into performances and enriches the concert experience with a dynamic exchange of ideas and stories.

PERFORMANCE In their home base of New York City, Arc Duo's performance highlights include recitals at renowned venues such as Caramoor Music Festival, Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall, and Carnegie Hall, where their debut was noted by Guitar Review magazine as "electrifying, reflective, and always engaging". In addition, Arc Duo has appeared in performance throughout the United States and in Canada, France and Switzerland. Past seasons have been filled with accolades and acclaim; presenters universally herald the Duo, calling their performances "musically artistic experience[s] from beginning to end", and referring to the Duo as "an exceptional ensemble", and the artists as performing with "poetic sensibility to all-out bravura". The Duo has received high praise in print as well; interviews and articles about Arc Duo have appeared in Soundboard Magazine, Flute Talk, Classical Guitar, NYlon Review, Stylus, American Flute Guild, and Guitar Review.

NEW MUSIC Fiercely committed to the music of our time, in 2004 Arc Duo launched their 'Commissioning Project'. Since then, the Duo has consistently introduced virtuosic, new repertoire for the ensemble-type to audiences. To date, Arc Duo has commissioned new works by David Leisner, Judah Adashi, Duncan Neilson, Shafer Mahoney, Roland Dyens, David Schober and Edie Hill. The 'Commissioning Project' is marked by dedication and commitment to new works and composers; Arc Duo offers multiple performances of each commission and takes care to highlight the new work's structure, concept and origins to audiences. These endeavors are being noted by luminaries in the field; Arc Duo has received great compliments from some of the leading artists of today such as Ned Rorem, Robert Beaser, and Joan Tower. Arc Duo's debut recital at Carnegie Hall inspired American artist, LeRoy Neiman to sketch them on stage.

RESIDENCY Arc Duo has been an ensemble-in-residence at The Diller-Quaile School of Music in New York City since 2003. Each year as part of their residency, the School presents Arc Duo in recital, commissions a major new work for the Duo, and engages Heather and Bradley as educators in the classroom and beyond. In 2003, the Duo initiated a residency partnership program between Diller-Quaile and Mt. Sinai Medical Center, where they perform regular concerts for patients, families and staff at the Cardiac Care Center. Additionally, Arc Duo was awarded a 2006 Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Grant to fund the Duo's outreach program with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in New York City. This grant funded a year of workshops and concerts for those who would not normally have access to classical music.

HEATHER Heather Holden, first prize winner of the 2006 Haynes International Flute Competition, performed her Carnegie Hall solo debut in 1998 as a winner of the 'Artist International Debut Recital Series'. She was featured in recital on Italian National Television, and has been heard on NPR's 'Performance Today' on several occasions. Heather received the 'Woodwind Department Award' upon completion of her Bachelor of Music Degree from Boston University and won the 'MSM Concerto Competition' while pursuing her Master's Degree at Manhattan School of Music. Heather was a fellow at the National Repertory Orchestra, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and The Hampden-Sydney Chamber Music Festival. She has also performed at the Kingston Chamber Music Festival and at the Cooperstown Chamber Music Festival. New York Concert Review heralded Heather as "... a flutist who would be an asset to any orchestra or woodwind quintet." As a Haynes Artist, Heather has been sponsored to teach masterclasses at colleges and universities in Canada and the United States, most recently at Manhattan School of Music.

BRADLEY Bradley Colten is a recipient of the 'Andrés Segovia Award' from the Manhattan School of Music and serves as a chamber music coach at the school. He was noted with 'Performance Distinction' after his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. While still at New England Conservatory, The Boston Globe hailed Bradley for his "sensitive" Boston premiere of Mario Davidovsky's Synchronisms #10 in Jordan Hall. He has been acclaimed as "Superb!" by renowned guitarist David Starobin, and as having "... a rich blend of musical refinement, soulful communication and that rarity, emotional intelligence." by celebrated guitarist/composer David Leisner. Bradley performed in the New World Symphony Orchestra's chamber music series in Miami. He was featured on NPR's 'Open Mic' and performed on New York City's 'Soundcheck' on WNYC radio. In addition, Bradley appeared at the Bowdoin Summer Music and New England Conservatory Music Festivals, and at the Boston, Long Island, New York City, and Rhode Island Classical Guitar Societies. Bradley performs with a Daryl Perry guitar and plays exclusively on Hannabach strings.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Arc Duo was born from an unwavering dedication to the music and composers of our time, a shared approach to music-making, and a passion for performance. As the smallest of ensembles-types, the Duo fuses the richness of chamber music with the intimacy of a solo performance. Virtuoso and engaging, Heather and Bradley consistently create an atmosphere on stage which draws audiences into performances and enriches the concert-experience with a dynamic exchange of ideas and stories.

In their home base of New York City, Arc Duo's performance highlights include recitals at renowned venues such as Caramoor Music Festival, Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall, and Carnegie Hall, where their debut was noted by Guitar Review magazine as "electrifying, reflective, and always engaging". In addition, Arc Duo has appeared in performance throughout the United States and in Canada, France and Switzerland. Past seasons have been filled with accolades and acclaim; presenters universally herald the Duo, calling their performances "musically artistic experience[s] from beginning to end", and referring to the Duo as "an exceptional ensemble", and the artists as performing with "poetic sensibility to all-out bravura". The Duo has received high praise in print as well; interviews and articles about Arc Duo have appeared in Soundboard Magazine, Flute Talk, Classical Guitar, Nylon Review, Stylus, American Flute Guild, and Guitar Review.

Fiercely committed to the music of our time, in 2004 Arc Duo launched their 'Commissioning Project'. Since then, the Duo has consistently introduced virtuosic, new repertoire for the ensemble-type to audiences. To date, Arc Duo has commissioned new works by David Leisner, Judah Adashi, Duncan Neilson, Shafer Mahoney, Roland Dyens, David Schober and Edie Hill. The 'Commissioning Project' is marked by dedication and commitment to new works and composers; Arc Duo offers multiple performances of each commission and takes care to highlight the new work's structure, concept and origins to audiences. These endeavors are being noted by luminaries in the field; Arc Duo has received great compliments from some of the leading artists of today such as Ned Rorem, Robert Beaser, and Joan Tower. Arc Duo's debut recital at Carnegie Hall inspired American artist, LeRoy Neiman to sketch them on stage.

Arc Duo has been an ensemble-in-residence at The Diller-Quaile School of Music in New York City since 2003. Each year as part of their residency, the School presents Arc Duo in recital, commissions a major new work for the Duo, and engages Heather and Bradley as educators in the classroom and beyond. In 2003, the Duo initiated a residency partnership program between Diller-Quaile and Mt. Sinai Medical Center, where they perform regular concerts for patients, families and staff at the Cardiac Care Center. Additionally, Arc Duo was awarded a 2006 Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Grant to fund the Duo's outreach program with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in New York City. This grant funded a year of workshops and concerts for those who would not normally have access to classical music.

PRAISE FOR ARC DUO

"... Stunning ensemble playing, magnificently calibrated and coordinated ... seamless perfection."

- Nylon Review

"... Two supremely talented musicians working together as a perfect ensemble ... the members of the Arc Duo are masters of their instruments."

- New York Concert Review

"The program was beautifully crafted ... electrifying, reflective, and always engaging."

"A mix of sensuality and thoughtful elegance"

- Guitar Review

"The [Arc Duo] is exemplary, at least for a creator: they do not 'play the music' so much as 'play the composer'. An essential but very rare quality."

- Ned Rorem, composer

"The [Arc Duo] is one of the best flute/guitar duos that I have heard in a long time. They performed my "Snow Dreams" with a real sense of musicality and virtuosity. I have heard many performances of this work and their performance was one of the very best of those."

- Joan Tower, composer

"Heather Holden and Bradley Colten are an absolutely delightful duo. They play with flair, precision and brio."

- David Leisner, guitarist

"The Arc Duo stands apart. Their technique is flawless, and I am continually impressed by their expertise on their respective instruments, and as an ensemble. Their stage presence is commanding and exciting to watch."

- Oren Fader, guitarist

"A vivacious and luminous duo."

- Paula Robison, flutist

Overview

Arc Duo is dedicated to educational and outreach experiences. Through interactive and enthusiastic workshops the Duo aims (a) to foster an enduring joy and appreciation of classical music, (b) to strengthen the connection between audience and performer by bringing chamber music into 'close quarters', and (c) to share a love of chamber music and the Arts.

Arc Duo has been ensemble-in-residence at Diller-Quaile School of Music since 2002, and the Duo's comprehensive and coordinated approach to lifelong music education is influenced by some of the School's core principles:

- The capacity for understanding and creating music is in everyone.
- Music provides a lifelong source of enjoyment, self-expression, and opportunity for growth.
- The student is best served when teaching is responsive to intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.

Through interactive performances and workshops, Arc Duo has brought chamber music to life in schools, nursing homes and hospitals. Together, Heather and Bradley have significant experience teaching in the following formats:

- Private instrumental instruction
- Group music theory classes
- Chamber music coachings
- Master classes
- Music history lectures
- Concert 'Informances'

Workshops

Arc Duo has developed several 45 minute workshops that lead a group through various topics in an interactive, experiential manner. Since the workshops have at their base a 'spiral curriculum', by manipulating the depth and focus of material workshops can be targeted to various age groups and experience levels.

Working Together, Playing Together

This workshop illustrates the concepts of sharing, goal oriented team work, and communication. Students learn what it means to perform music together and what it takes to get organized. The Duo demonstrates the importance of communication, having a game plan and mapping out strategy. Students listen to, interact with, and take part in an open, mini-rehearsal. At the conclusion, students are selected to join Arc Duo and perform on a string, wind or percussion instrument.

Modern Music Makes My Ears Hurt!

Classical music is in the midst of a creative renaissance, yet audiences are shrinking, ticket sales are diminished and patrons are disappearing. While it might take a small effort to comprehend, those sometimes-prickly sounds have a lot of beauty to offer. Arc Duo takes time to teach students how to listen to modern, classical masterpieces and composers. The duo illustrates the differences and similarities to music of the past and makes sense of the new aesthetic. Students take part in composing a group, musical composition – performed on the spot by Arc Duo.

Informance

Informative performances, these sessions consist of a number of virtuosic pieces performed by the Duo. In-between pieces, audience members are encouraged to speak out with questions and comments. The duo takes time to highlight interesting material, stories and background on the works and composers represented. Time is taken at the session's end for a more general question and answer period.

Music Helps Heal

Born out of the Diller-Quaile/Mount Sinai Hospital Program which the Arc Duo initiated, this format is perfect for hospitals, retirement homes and community centers. The Duo performs light programs for patients, staff, and visitors at these centers. These concerts usually take place in an inclusive and relaxed environment so that audience members may enter and exit without disturbing others. Questions and discussion are always welcomed.

Inter-generational Workshop

Designed as a cross-generational experience, this workshop offers unique social as well as musical experiences to seniors and children. The participants learn about the process of composition and engage in creating a new piece of music. From designing a system of notation, to composing a piece and rehearsing it, the children and seniors collaborate toward a final performance. The workshop can be structured as a multi-day series, with the seniors and children working first alone and then as a larger group, or as a one day session with the two groups interacting together from beginning to end.

SAMPLE CONCERT PROGRAM: THEMATIC

This thematic program includes repertoire inspired by literature. The recital opens in the 15th century, with poetry by the Indian mystic, Kabir. The program then moves on to a work inspired by playwright William Shakespeare. Finally, the recital closes in the late 20th century with a vivid short story by American author Nathan Englander.

Music and Literature Throughout History

Songs of Kabir (2005) *

- I. Friend, wake up!
- II. The harp gives forth murmurous music
- III. The flute of interior time
- IV. O Friend! This body is His lyre
- V. I know the sound of the ecstatic flute

Judah Adashi
(b. 1975)

Romeo & Juliet

- I ne're saw true beauty till this night (I, 5)
- Queen Mab hath been with you (I, 4)
- How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night (II, 2)
- O serpent heart... (III, 2)
- ... sad hours seem long (I, 1)
- ... it was the nightingale (III, 5)
- Come weep with me (IV, 1)
- ... empty tigers (V, 3)
- ... never was a story of more woe (V, 3)

Ned Rorem
(b.1923)

Acrobats

- In the Wings
- Flashback
- Up in the Air

David Leisner
(b. 1953)

* Commissioned by The Diller-Quaile School of Music and dedicated to Arc Duo. Premiered at Merkin Concert Hall in May, 2005.

SAMPLE CONCERT PROGRAM: TRADITIONAL

This is an example of a traditional Arc Duo recital. In addition to standard repertoire, we frequently include world premieres and commissioned works on our concerts. The program is crafted to include a balance of newer and more accessible 20th century music.

Romances (2004) * Nature of Blue Keep Your Pants On!	Duncan Nielson (b. 1969)
--	-----------------------------

Snow Dreams	Joan Tower (b. 1938)
-------------	-------------------------

Entr'Acte	Jacques Ibert (1890-1962)
-----------	------------------------------

- Intermission -

<i>from</i> Mountain Songs Barbara Allen House Carpenter Hush You Bye Cindy	Robert Beaser (b. 1954)
---	----------------------------

Shining River (2007) **	Shafer Mahoney (b. 1968)
-------------------------	-----------------------------

History of the Tango Bordel 1900 Café 1930 Nightclub 1960 Concert for the Modern Day	Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
--	--------------------------------

* Commissioned and premiered by Arc Duo at Carnegie Hall, April 2004

** Commissioned by The Diller-Quaile School of Music and dedicated to Arc Duo.