



divisa ensemble

In the News

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CLASSICAL



Divisa Ensemble plays at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, Vallejo.

“A visit to the website of Divisa Ensemble offers short, extraordinary listens into the color, precision, and deep musicality that marks the music of this all female ensemble.

“We formed to create a unique instrumentation,” violist Stephanie Ng said, “something that is different from the groups which already exist in the Bay Area.”...

“Because our instrumentation is a bit unconventional by classical standards,” Ng noted, adding that often a group is made up of only winds or only strings, “our programming often includes underappreciated works... We try to present a mix of styles, so our programs have (a mix of) baroque, classical, romantic and modern pieces?...”

Ng believes classical music has something in it for individuals of every age and music inclination.

“Though much of classical music was written long ago, it still stirs emotions. When you hear the opening of Beethoven’s ‘Fifth Symphony,’ how can you not be frightened? As you listen to Ravel’s ‘Bolero,’ there is a sense of excited anticipation. Classical music is often seen as being snooty because it seems like you have to be educated about it to really understand it. But what makes it relevant and relatable is that no matter what you know about it, it can still affect you on a primal level.”

The Mercury News

The Newspaper of Silicon Valley

MercuryNews.com

See full articles at: www.divisaensemble.com/press

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“On Sunday, it’s a chamber group — Divisa Ensemble — that Ng performs in as part of the Vallejo Symphony’s winter concert..

Wherever Ng plays her viola is good with her. And she’s played at some prestigious venues — Bolshoi Hall at the Moscow Conservatory, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Mariinsky theater in St. Petersburg, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

“I love the intimacy of chamber music,” she said. “Everyone has an individual part to play and we all have a say in our finished product. It’s pretty democratic. Plus, we were friends before starting the group, so it’s really fun to work with people you like. I am fortunate to work with such talented people...”

“Most groups are either all winds or all strings,” she said. “We have the ability to present some music that is seldom heard these days.”



“Vallejo Symphony Orchestra’s plans for a New Year’s concert have been slimmed down a bit... The orchestra will present “Chamber Music Gems” on Sunday, featuring two quintets comprised of Bay Area musicians...”

Attendees can expect what they always get from a Vallejo Symphony performance: top-notch musicianship and an eclectic playlist.

Divisa Ensemble feature(s) some of the Bay Area’s top musicians presenting a mix of musical styles, from baroque to classical, romantic to modern...

The Benicia Herald

“The all-female Divisa Ensemble is one of two groups performing at Sunday’s “Chamber Music Gems,” hosted by the Vallejo Symphony. The five-piece unit features a flute, oboe, violin, viola, and cello. Their name is taken from the musical term *divisi*, which indicates the musicians are divided into two or more separate sections. Vallejo concertgoers will see that Sunday as the group will perform, as a duo, trio, quartet and quintet...”

Ng said all ensemble members are friends in addition to being fellow musicians. Chamber music is a democracy, she wrote. “When it comes to musical decision, like what pieces we play, tempi we take, or even colors we decide to wear, everyone has a say.”

Responsibilities are shared. Each member brings their own individual strengths. “We are all good musicians so that’s a great place to start from,” Ng wrote.

DAILY REPUBLIC



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