

## Sundays now for Chatter

by David Steinberg / Journal Staff Writer

January 1, 2012

It's a new year, and the popular series that was known as Church of Beethoven has the same format but a new name: **Sunday Chatter**.

Sunday Chatter's first presentation of 2012 on Jan. 8 will feature music of Steve Reich and Johannes Brahms, and Chicago poet J.W. Basilo will read from his work.

Sunday Chatter is one of three name changes that Ensemble Music New Mexico has made to its three organizational elements.

These are the other two changes.

The group that was called Chatter – A Chamber Ensemble since its founding eight years ago has been renamed Chatter 20-21, and the Club Beethoven series is now Chatter Cabaret.

The initial Sunday Chatter concert will have violinist David Felberg performing Reich's "Violin Phase" and he and pianist Elias-Axel Pettersson will play the third of three Brahms sonatas that the composer wrote for violin and piano.

"The Brahms premiered in 1888 and combines extreme lyricism with agitated and virtuoso writing," Felberg said.

Brahms, he said, also wrote music for viola and piano and cello and piano, "but these works are very symphonic in nature due to their large-scale structures. Though they're for a small ensemble, they sound huge. ... He used all sorts of compositional techniques and interesting rhythmic displacements. All of these things also occur in his symphonies."

Felberg said Reich wrote "Violin Phase" in

1967 during a period when the composer was experimenting with prerecorded tape loops.

"He had started writing what he called 'phase music.' He loops the same musical phrase and offsets it slightly. It creates different musical patterns," Felberg said.

"There are loops where the violin plays a musical phrase stated at the outset. Then the violin has to slowly and imperceptibly move out of phase with the tape so that the tape and violin become one note apart. ... Then they're two notes apart."

Basilo's work has appeared on NPR, in literary journals and he has appeared in theaters and bars around the country. In 2010 he received a nomination for a Pushcart Prize for his poem "Anointing the Hand." Basilo was a finalist at the 2007 Individual World Poetry Slam, finished second at the 2009 National Underground Poetry Individual Championship and has represented Chicago at the National Poetry Slam four times.

Ensemble Music New Mexico has three artistic directors – Felberg, Eric Walters and James Shields. Pamela Michaelis, the president of the board of Ensemble Music New Mexico, said all three organizational elements will retain the same intent.

The focus of Chatter 20-21 will continue to be on classical music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Sunday Chatter and Chatter Cabaret will offer one-hour music programs.

### *If you go*

WHAT: Sunday Chatter

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Jan. 8

WHERE: Kosmos, 1715 Fifth NW

HOW MUCH: \$15 for those over age 30,  
\$9 for 30 and under. \$5 for kids.

[www.chatterchamber.org](http://www.chatterchamber.org)