

## **Welcome message from Felix Wurman:**

"Welcome. I hope you're all having as much fun as we are as we look forward to more exciting performances. We've only got three more shows until we say goodbye to the Filling Station. Our roots will always be here regardless of what the future holds. That said, our new space at The Factory on Fifth (1517 Fifth St NW) is very exciting. Our new landlords are anticipating hosting ya'll. I would like to thank all of the collaborators in the today's Church of Beethoven including, James Shields. Sunshine Simmons. Roberta Arruda, Sarah Moench-Tasker. Monica de la Hoz, Anne Weaver David Sinkus from The Filling Station, baristas Katie and Billie Joe from EspressoArtists, videographer Cindy Young, Tom at Fat Boy Roasters and finally you, the audience, whose support is CRITICAL. Thank you all. See you next week with the end of the Darwin series and some Prokofieff with the UNM Symphony Orchestra."

## **Today's Program**

**Music: Duo sonata for clarinet and bass clarinet by Gunther Schuller**

**James Shields, clarinet and Sunshine Simmons, bass clarinet**

**Essay: "The Beagle versus the Ark; Darwin's Revolutionary Idea" by Anne Weaver**

**Celebration of Silence: two minutes**

**Music: Quintet in A major for clarinet and strings K 581 by Mozart**

**Allegro Largetto Menuet and trios 1 and 2 Allegretto con Variazioni**

**James Shields, clarinet**

**Roberta Arruda and Sarah Moench-Tasker, violins**

**Monica de la Hoz, viola Felix Wurman, cello**

## **Today's Players**

Clarinetist **James Shields** is a graduate of The Juilliard School (B.M. Clarinet Performance), where he studied with Ricardo Morales. He is currently the principal clarinet of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, a position he assumed in August of 2006. During the summers of 2003 and 2004 he studied at the Aspen Music Festival, and performed with the Aspen Festival and Chamber Orchestras. Mr. Shields is a graduate of Westlake High School in Austin, Texas, where he performed with the Austin Chamber Music Center. In 2001 he was an Emerson Scholar at the Interlochen Arts Camp, where he performed with the World Youth Syphony Orchestra as both the principal clarinetist and as a soloist, joining the orchestra in a performance of Copland's Clarinet Concerto. During the following year he was the 2002 Young Artist Winner of the statewide Texas Wind Symphony Concerto Competition. In addition to his studies with Mr. Morales, other teachers include Richard Macdowell, Deborah Chodacki, Burt Hara, and Bil Jackson. Along with his activities as a performer, Mr. Shields has made appearances as a conductor, organizing and leading several chamber orchestra concerts in New York. While living in Manhattan he studied composition with Dr. Philip Lasser, and his "Lost Man Loop" for string quartet was premiered at The Juilliard School in the spring of 2006. He is currently working toward a graduate degree in Composition at the University of New Mexico. James is an avid hiker and likes to spend his summers backpacking in western North America.

A DMA candidate at Northwestern University, **Sunshine Simmons** currently holds the position of Bass Clarinet in the Quad Cities, Rockford and Green Bay Symphony Orchestras and Second Clarinet in the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. She previously held positions of Principal Clarinet in the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Bass Clarinet in the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. She has performed recently with the Lyric Opera, Grant Park Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, and Fort Wayne Symphony Orchestras. Sunshine has enjoyed three summers with the Aspen Music Festival as the Bass Clarinet Fellowship recipient. In addition, she was chosen to participate in the Frutillar Music Festival, held in Frutillar, Chile, and Spoleto USA in Charleston, SC. She has also performed in the Winter Music Festival at Pick-Staiger Hall in Chicago.

Ms. Simmons received her undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University and graduate degree from Northwestern University. Her principal teachers were J. Lawrie Bloom of the Chicago Symphony and Thomas Thompson of the Pittsburgh Symphony. She has also studied with Joaquin Valdepenas from the Toronto Symphony. As a chamber musician, she is a member of the Accende Ensemble and has been the winner of the Silberman Chamber Music Competition in Pittsburgh, PA. She teaches at the National High School Music Institute (NHSMI) at Northwestern University and has a private studio in Chicago. She loves running on the lakefront with her dog, Zora.



**Roberta Arruda** was born in João Pessoa, Brazil, where she began her musical studies in 1981, at the age of seven, playing the recorder. When she was ten she spent a year in Virginia, USA, where she started to play the violin. Back in Brazil, she continued her studies with private teachers, until entering the University of Campinas, where she got her undergraduate degree in music under Prof. Esdras Rodrigues in 2002. From 2003 to 2005 she was awarded with the Vitae Foundation (SP, BR) full-scholarship to study at the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy of Budapest, under Péter Komlós and Hargitai Géza (violinists of the Bartók Quartet), and others such as Márta Gulyás, Géza Kapás and Balázs Szokolay.

Roberta had an active participation in the most important music festivals in Brazil, having had classes with musicians such as Guy Braunstein and Matthew Hunter (Berlin Philharmonic), Andreas Röhn, Ole Bonn, and Jorge Rizi. She also attended several masterclasses with musicians like Leon Spierer, Julia Fischer, Manfred Kraemer, Menahem Pressler (Beaux-Arts Trio), György Kurtág, Rachel Barton, and the Shanghai Quartet. In 2002 she was selected to take part in the Youth Orchestra of the America's training and touring, and also to join the Chamber group in following March session.

As a soloist she performed four times with the Symphonic Orchestra of the University of Campinas, once with the Experimental Repertoire Orchestra, result of an internal competition, and most recently, in 2007, with the Sergipe Symphony Orchestra. She performed and recorded Ernest Mahle's Concertino for Violin with the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra of Campinas in 2005. She won third prize and special brazilian music prize in 2001 in a national violin competition, and also third prize in a national chamber music competition, 2001, with violin-piano duo.

Roberta is currently seeking a Masters degree in Performance at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, under Prof. Cármeo de los Santos, where she has a Graduate Assistant scholarship and leads both Orchestra and Abe Franck string quartet ensembles. She recently won 2nd Place at UNM's Concerto Competition and will be performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto on October 7th in Popejoy Hall. She also won a one-year position in the Second Violin section of NMSO.

One of New Mexico's newest, **Sarah Moench Tasker** brought her violin and her master's degree from New York City and the Juilliard School, her bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, her preparatory training from faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory, and her dedication to her art from her home and musical family in Salt Lake City. She has won eight preparatory competitions, soloed four times with the Utah Symphony, and was a semifinalist in the Stradivarius, Kingsville, and California International Young Artists Competitions for solo violin. She has taken her seat in international orchestral performances in Beijing, Shanghai, several cities in Western Europe, and England's Britten-Pears Festival. Two years in the Cleveland Institute Intensive Quartet Seminar and summer at the Aspen Festival have honed her ensemble skills. In her new home she has played with the New Mexico and Santa Fe Symphonies, coaches the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, teaches young people in her church, jogs with her husband, and delights in the Albuquerque desert.

**Monica de la Hoz** was born in Campinas Brazil where she began her violin studies at the age of nine. She graduated in violin performance from Unicamp Under the guidance of Dr. Estras Rodrigues da Silva. Monica holds a masters degree in violin performance from the University of Southern Mississippi where she studied with Dr. Stephen Redfield, receiving a full scholarship. She is currently a graduate student at UNM in both violin and viola. Studying under Carmelo de los Santos and Kimberly Fredenburgh.

Cellist **Felix Wurman** is the founder of the Church of Beethoven. In it he has found a perfect recipe for a Sunday "service". Other ensembles he has founded include The Noisy Neighbors and Domus - a group with its own portable concert hall. He performs on a custom-made 5-string cello and plays works not only for cello but violin and viola as well. Wurman was a student of Jacqueline duPre, Anner Bylsma, and violinist Sandor Vegh. His string teaching method, developed with David Felberg is known for its excellent and rapid results. He is the owner of EspressoArtists and can be seen driving his all-electric 1966 VW.

**Anne H. Weaver** received a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 2001. She has published numerous scientific articles and has taught Paleoanthropology and Evolutionary Anthropology at UNM and Santa Fe Community College. Anne is both a scientist and educator at heart. Her award-winning children's book *The Voyage of the Beetle* (UNM Press 2007) reflects her thorough grasp of the evolutionary process and her deep appreciation of Charles Darwin as a person and as the author natural selection theory. Anne has lived in Santa Fe with her family for the past 25 years.