

***CHAMBER MUSIC  
ON THE HILL***

*in residence at McDaniel College  
in its*

***26th Season***

Proudly Presents

***“Music Hath Charms”***

featuring

**Charm City Chamber Players**

*Violists:* **Karin Brown and Renate Falkner**

*Cellists:* **Daniel Levitov and Steven Thomas**

*Guest Violinists:* **Brent Price and Christian Simmelink**

Sunday, September 20, 2015

3:00 p.m.

The Forum, Decker College Center  
McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

Funded in part by a *Community Arts Development Grant*  
from the Carroll County Arts Council and the *Grants for Organizations Program*  
from the Maryland State Arts Council.

## Program Notes

*Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805)* was roughly contemporary with Joseph Haydn and had a rather colorful life. Son of a professional double bass player, Luigi adopted the cello and was playing professionally by the age of thirteen. After four years in Rome, to complete his musical studies, he set off on a series of continental tours with a violinist colleague. In Paris, in 1768, he is said to have “created a sensation” both for his playing and for his compositions – trios and quartets. He was persuaded to settle in Spain as a court musician, eventually for the Crown Prince, Don Luis. He married a Spanish girl and composed prolifically until his patron’s death in 1785. His next employer was King Frederick William of Prussia but, when the latter died in 1797, he was left without income and returned to Spain. For a while he was supported by the French Ambassador, Lucien Bonaparte (the Emperor’s brother), but when the latter was recalled in 1802, Boccherini was left to eke out a meager living rearranging his compositions to include the guitar, then a fashionable instrument. He died in poverty in 1805 and was buried in a pauper’s grave.

Like Haydn, Boccherini was a prodigious composer of chamber music, with 91 string quartets, 113 string quintets, and numerous compositions for almost every combination of instruments. He is said to have invented the string quintet, the piano quintet and the string sextet. As a cellist himself, he evidently liked the sonority of two cellos, generally playing in different registers. These works are known for their lyrical slow movements, often with a simple melodic line carried by a single instrument. Today we will hear his String Sextet in f minor, one of six that he wrote in this form.

Although best known for his symphonies, ballets and operas, *Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)* was also an accomplished composer of chamber music. When awarded an honorary membership of the St. Petersburg Music Society in 1886, he undertook to compose a chamber work and decided on a sextet of two violins, two violas and two cellos. Perhaps because of that unusual form, the work proceeded slowly – following some initial sketches in 1887, the composer began work in earnest during a sojourn in Florence in 1890 and completed it on his return to Russia later that year. After revisions, it was premiered in 1892, not long before Tchaikovsky’s untimely death, from cholera, in 1893. The title *Souvenir de Florence* was affixed by his publisher but any Italian influences are minor (unlike his *Capriccio Italien* of 1880). Several commentators note the influence of Russian folk music, especially in the third and fourth movements.

The work begins with a spirited theme, contrasted with a lyrical and expansive second subject. The theme of the second movement has been described as “gently sad” and “innocent”; it is first played on the violin with a pizzicato accompaniment. Following a mysterious middle section with rapid triplets, the cellos are featured in the final passages. This is followed by a Scherzo-like movement but in duple time, described as “carefree brightness”, and ending with a pizzicato chord. The final Allegro is marked by a simple theme, developed with building intensity and passion.

- Peter Whitford

# Program

## “*Music Hath Charms*”

### **Sextet in f minor, G. 457**

Luigi Boccherini  
(1743-1805)

*Allegro moderato*

*Minuetto: Con moto*

*Grave assai – Finale: Allegro ma non presto*

---INTERMISSION---

### **Souvenir de Florence, Op. 70**

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

*Allegro con spirito*

*Adagio cantabile e con moto*

*Allegretto moderato*

*Allegro vivace*

## **Charm City Chamber Players**

*Violists:* **Karin Brown and Renate Falkner**

*Cellists:* **Daniel Levitov and Steven Thomas**

*Guest Violinists:* **Brent Price and Christian Simmelink**

Meet the artists at a reception immediately following the concert  
Sponsored by Rose and Thomas Falkner

## *The Artists*

**Karin Brown**, viola, received acclaim for her “strikingly rich and warm tone” (The Strad) after making her solo recital debut at Carnegie Weill Hall. Brown is Assistant Principal Viola in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and faculty at the Baltimore School for the Arts and the Catholic University of America. In her Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concerto debut, the Baltimore Sun noted “Karin Brown sculpted her phrases in a rich, subtly shaded tone.” Her Chicago recital debut took place with live radio broadcast at the Dame Myra Hess series. Ms. Brown has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions, including the William Primrose International Viola Competition and the National Federation of Music Clubs Competition. While still a student at Juilliard, Ms. Brown was a frequent substitute with the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera, joining each for several international tours. She has served on the faculty of the Killington Music Festival, the Foulger International Music Festival, and the National Orchestral Festival (NOI), and served as juror, masterclass clinician, and laureate recital soloist at the Primrose International Viola Competition.

Praised for her versatility and creativity, violist **Renate Falkner** enjoys an active career as an orchestral and chamber musician. Equally at home on both modern and baroque viola, she is a former member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and performs regularly with groups such as Boston Baroque, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Artis-Naples, and the Savannah Philharmonic. Summer appearances abroad have included the Verbier Festival, Switzerland, the Spoleto Festival, Italy, and a faculty appointment at the Carvalho Festival of Music in Fortaleza, Brazil, and annually at the Bellingham Festival of Music in Washington state. She has recorded for the Chandos, Nimbus and Rezound music labels. Dr. Falkner’s mentors include Roland Vamos, while at studying at the Oberlin Conservatory, Jesse Levine at the Yale School of Music, and Pamela Ryan, at Florida State University, where she recently earned a doctorate exploring the viola music of English composer York Bowen. An accomplished educator herself, she is an adjunct professor at the University of North Florida, where she teaches viola and coaches chamber music, and has given masterclasses and performances across the country.

Cellist **Daniel Levitov** performs locally and nationally as a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician. Recognized by the Baltimore Sun for his “warmth of tone and phrasing” and “expressive force,” he serves as a regular substitute with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and appears frequently with members of the symphony on the Chamber Music by Candlelight series. Levitov is adjunct Assistant Professor of Cello at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College and Coordinator of Cello and Chamber Music at the Peabody Institute Preparatory. He also directs the Peabody Young Artists Orchestra. Levitov gives masterclasses and workshops across the country, including recent masterclasses/clinics for the National Orchestra Festival, the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, James Madison University, and the Music Institute of Chicago. Levitov has published articles in *Stringendo* and *Strings* magazines. He is the contributing editor for “Two Octave Scales and Bowings for Cello” by Susan C. Brown, published by Tempo Press. He is a past president and current board member of the Maryland/DC ASTA chapter.

**Brent Price**, violin, originally from Miami, Florida, accomplished his studies in both a Bachelors and Masters of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Paul Kantor. Brent has held tenured positions with the Cleveland Opera and the Charleston Symphony and has performed in concert halls from Beijing to Carnegie Hall. Recent honors include being Concertmaster and soloist of the Hollywood Orchestra on a tour throughout China and playing in the recent historical performances of Swan Lake with Misty Copeland at the Kennedy Center. Currently residing in the DC metro area, Brent teaches at the Washington International School in Georgetown and is a freelance musician with orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the region. In 2011 Brent was appointed Co-Concertmaster of the Savannah Philharmonic (GA) and currently retains that position.

## The Artists (cont.) . . .

**Christian Simmelink**, violin, was born in the Washington D.C. region and began her studies at age four. Ms. Simmelink went on to receive her Bachelors from Ithaca College and Masters of Music from Arizona State University. Notable teachers include Jody Gatwood, Dr. Katie McLin and Pamela Hentges, of the National Symphony Orchestra. While in Arizona, Ms. Simmelink performed with The Phoenix Symphony, Symphony of the Southwest and MusicaNova. During summers she attended the Aspen Music Festival, Audubon Chamber Music Festival, Adriatic Chamber Music and the Meadowmount School of Music. Christian currently performs with the Savannah Philharmonic, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Symphony, Apollo Orchestra, Gourmet Symphony and the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Simmelink has had the pleasure of performing in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and The Kennedy Center Concert Hall. In conjunction with her performance schedule, she also works for Strathmore Music Center arts organization and continues to grow her private studio.

Since taking top prizes in the Villa-Lobos International Cello Competition (Rio, 1982) and the J.S. Bach International Competition (Washington, DC, 1985) cellist **Steven Thomas** has enjoyed a varied career on five continents as soloist, recitalist, conductor and chamber musician. He was a member of the Wall Street Chamber Players for 25 years and the Cantilena Piano Quartet for over ten years, appearing at the Israel, Tivoli (Denmark), Windsor, Gstaad, Itu, Fortaleza and Prague Autumn festivals as well as Dumbarton Oaks, the Library of Congress and Alice Tully Hall. He has shared the stage with Yehudi Menuhin, Erick Friedmann, David Shifrin, Peter Frankl and Pepe Romero, among others. Currently Principal Cellist of the Bellingham Festival Orchestra, the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestra New England, Dr. Thomas served as principal cellist of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra for 29 years. At the University of Florida in Gainesville, he is Associate Professor of cello, directs the faculty and student chamber music programs, and is Chair of Faculty for the entire College of the Arts. He is a member of the highly successful Helton-Thomas duo with UF saxophone professor Jonathan Helton, which has toured the U.S., Canada, France, Australia, China and Thailand. Their first CD recording was recently released on the Centaur label. Mr. Thomas studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School, holds a performers diploma from the Royal College of Music in London (earned at the age of 17) and degrees from Cambridge and Yale Universities, including a doctorate from the latter. His teachers included Maurice Gendron, William Pleeth and Aldo Parisot.



**Relational.  
Collaborative.  
Eternally focused.  
Strategic servant partnerships.**

We're bringing faith, hope, and love to the forgotten children and families of Eastern Europe — sharing the Good News, serving at-risk children, training ministry leaders, and providing elder orphan care.

Andy Baker :: 410-877-8452  
705 Fallston Rd, Ste. 102, Fallston, MD  
[www.remember-the-children.org](http://www.remember-the-children.org)

**Remember-The-Children**