

MAGISTERRA SOLOISTS

Annette-Barbara Vogel – Artistic Director

MAGISTERRA SOLOISTS Seeks to Break Down Borders

When acclaimed violinist Annette-Barbara Vogel began dreaming of a cultural exchange between Canadian and Brazilian musicians while touring South America's largest country for the ninth time, she had no way of knowing how that dream would turn into a much greater reality. Months later, Vogel is now the founder and artistic director of an exciting new string ensemble, *Magisterra Soloists*, a self-proclaimed group of 'cultural ambassadors'.

"For years now, I have been dreaming of a professional group that would bridge a gap in the musical landscape in Canada," says Vogel. "I wanted to form something that would provide a musical launching pad for talented graduates of Canadian universities and conservatories... Something flexible in size and instrumentation, championing an eclectic and exciting repertoire, old and new."

As Canadian artistic ambassadors, *Magisterra Soloists* has already made a point of seeking out new works by Canadian composers in order to bring attention to the wonderful creative talent being cultivated on Canadian soil. *Magisterra Soloists* has commissioned as one of their headline works a piece for alto saxophone, violin, and strings from award-winning Canadian composer, Kevin Morse. The work will have its Canadian premiere on May 8 in Guleph and will make its international premiere during their upcoming Brazilian tour. Another award-winning composer, Emily Doolittle, is currently writing a concerto for violin and strings that the group is scheduled to perform in the Fall season.

Vogel herself is no stranger to international artistic projects. Having made her solo orchestral debut in Düsseldorf's sold out 2500-seat Tonhalle at 11 years old, Vogel was featured as a young musical virtuoso on German television at the age of 13. At 16, she won the opportunity to study in Switzerland for a month with the legendary Lord Yehudi Menuhin. By the age of 17 she was touring Europe professionally with her trio, *Trio Alani*, whose pianist, Lars Vogt went on to establish Germany's *Rhapsody in Schools* initiative. After graduating with a degree in Chamber Music and a Soloist's Diploma, both summa cum laude, from Essen's Folkwang University, Vogel traveled to the US where she studied with Dorothy DeLay at the Cincinnati College Conservatory. Her career as a chamber musician and soloist has brought her to nearly 30 different countries and allowed her to perform and champion both known and unknown works from across the globe. One of her most ground-breaking recent commercial CD recordings includes the world premiere recording of WWII-era Jewish composer Hans Gal's, Violin Concerto and Suite for violin.

While *Magisterra Soloists* loves performing for enthusiastic veteran audiences, it also seeks out every possible opportunity to play for the very young. One of the core mandates of the group is to bring great classical music to audiences that may not otherwise get to



hear it. Outreach coordinator, Jordan Clayton, has a background in education and feels passionately about bringing high-calibre art to the younger generation. "We want to show kids how thrilling classical music can be and how hard work can really pay off," He says. "We hope that by going into schools to play for kids and talk to them about we might spark their imaginations and encourage them to pick up an instrument or take an interest in some other creative pursuit." The group firmly believes that music making is an incredible tool for personal growth and positive social change, and hopes to provide an opportunity for kids to 'tune in' to those possibilities.

The ensemble's current roster of musicians has 12 members from six different countries whose paths have all converged in this London-based group. "Currently, our musicians are all a product of Canadian post-secondary education. We have musicians from the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Ottawa, and the Glenn Gould School in Toronto" says administrative coordinator Mikela Witjes. "We are very fortunate to have such cultural diversity within our ensemble. *Magisterra Soloists* also offers the opportunity for young emerging musicians to work side by side and collaborate with established professionals. This is a unique and inspiring experience and it offers an incredible platform for making great music."

If you would like to come hear the group's official London debut, mark your calendars: April 30 at 7.30 pm at Windermere on the Mount Chapel, 1486 Richmond Street, London, ON N6G 2M3

The group is now incorporated as a Not For Profit organization and anticipates to gain charitable status by August 2016. Please check back for news on Magisterra Soloist's website www.magisterra.com

If you would like to support the ensemble's endeavours or wish to become a tour sponsor you can do so by contacting *Magisterra Soloists* at info@magisterra.com.

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