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### **MALLARMÉ PRESENTS THE ACCLAIMED BIRD'S EYE TRIO**

Durham, NC (March 16, 2018) – The Mallarmé Chamber Players is proud to announce our next 2017-18 Series concert performed by the Bird's Eye Trio. The concert will take place at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 pm.

Since their 2016 debut on LiveConnections in Philadelphia, the Bird's Eye Trio (Jennifer Curtis, Ayane Kozasa, and Paul Wiancko) continues to transform the traditional concert experience into a journey of musical storytelling by weaving together bold original compositions, folk music, iconic classical works, and music from roads less traveled. Their performances represent a confluence of three powerfully uncommon artistic voices, hailed as "magnetic" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), "innovative" (*sequenza21*), "full of earthy vitality" {*Washington Post*}, and "the gutsiest" {*New York Times*}.

Individually, trio members have won top prizes at the Primrose, Lutoslawski, Wigmore, and Osaka International Competitions, received S&R Foundation Awards for both performance and composition, and perform regularly with the acclaimed International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME), East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) and Aizuri Quartet.

Jennifer Curtis, the ensemble's violinist, is based here in the Triangle area of North Carolina and is a frequent performer with Mallarmé. Artistic director Suzanne Rousso asked Jennifer and her ensemble to put together a program of traditional classical and new music to explore the breadth of the string trio repertoire. The program spans the ages from a trio arrangement of music by baroque composer Henry Purcell, through trios by Beethoven and Ysaÿe, to new works written by the performers themselves.

Commissioned by Cornell University in 2014, Jennifer Curtis's **The Woods of Nepenthe** is an exploration through the hollow caverns of grief, the joys of love, songs of Americana and North Carolina folk music traditions. Nepenthe, a Greek word representing "the vanquishing of all sorrow," is also the name of a famous restaurant and meeting point atop a cliff in Big Sur, California, a favorite spot for Curtis and her mother, who passed away one year before the conception of this piece.

Paul Wiancko's **American Haiku**, a duo for viola and cello, is a reflection on the composer's Japanese American identity and an ode to the evocative concision of haiku. A celebration of detail and color, American Haiku is also a longer journey divided into three sections: Far Away, In Transit, and Home. Commissioned by Ayane Kozasa and premiered at the S&R Foundation in Washington, D.C. on October 24, 2014. Video performance available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=It7BVVTVoU0>

## **BIRD'S EYE STRING TRIO**

Jennifer Curtis –violin; Ayane Kozasa - viola; Paul Wiancko - cello

**Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 pm**

ArtsCenter, [300 E Main St. Carrboro, NC 27510](https://www.google.com/maps/place/300+E+Main+St,+Carrboro,+NC+27510)

## **PROGRAM**

Henry Purcell arr. Monkemeyer – Four Pavans, Z. 748-751

Ludwig van Beethoven – Serenade in D Major, Op. 8

Eugène Ysaÿe –String Trio, Op. post “Le Chimay”

Jennifer Curtis – The Woods of Nepenthe

Paul Wiancko – American Haiku

**Tickets:** General Admission \$25 (plus \$2 cc fee) | Students/children \$5 at the door

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=78662> or call 919-560-2788

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Violinist **Jennifer Curtis** navigates with personality and truth in every piece she performs. Her second solo concert in Carnegie Hall was described by the New York Times as “one of the gutsiest and most individual recital programs,” and she was celebrated as “an artist of keen intelligence and taste, well worth watching out for.” An improviser, composer, and multi-instrumentalist, Jennifer is a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) and founder of the group Tres Americas Ensemble. She has appeared as a soloist with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra in Venezuela and the Knights Chamber Orchestra; performed in Romania in honor of George Enescu; given world premieres at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York; collaborated with composer John Adams at the Library of Congress; and appeared at El Festival de las Artes Esénias in Peru and festivals worldwide. An educator with a focus on music as humanitarian aid, Jennifer has also collaborated with musical shamen of the Andes, improvised for live radio from the interior of the Amazon jungle, and taught and collaborated with Kurdish refugees in Turkey. <https://www.jennifercurtisviolin.com/>

Winner of the prestigious Primrose International Viola Competition in 2011, **Ayane Kozasa** captured the Competition’s Mozart Award for the best chamber music performance, as well as its Askim Award for her performance of the Competition’s commissioned work. A winner of Astral Artists’ 2012 National Auditions, she was named principal violist of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in 2013 and made her European debut with the Augsburg Philharmonic in Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante* in April 2013, with violinist Jehye Lee. She performs as a member of the Aizuri Quartet, which was featured on LiveConnections’ concert series in 2014. She has been featured in The Strad and Strings magazines and her performances have been broadcast on “Live from the Mayne Stage” for WFMT in Chicago and on Philadelphia’s WHY. In the fall she will appear on a CD with the Lincoln Trio on Cedille Records. You can learn more about her work at <http://ayanekozasa.com>.

**Paul Wiancko** has led an exceptionally multi-faceted musical life as a cellist, composer, collaborator and arranger. One of Paul's first large-scale compositions was a highly virtuosic concerto for cello, orchestra and electronics. Entitled "Tales From Bent City," the piece blends Paul's passion for hip-hop and improvisation with his love of the great 19th-century late-romantic composers. Its New York premiere was hailed by Sequenza21 as "surprising, fun, fresh and even innovative." Recent commissions include works for the Grammy-winning Parker Quartet, cellist Judith Serkin, violist Ayane Kozasa, pianist Clare Hammond and Bargemusic in Brooklyn. Upcoming projects include scoring the new prison-drama

feature film “Heartlock,” as well as a new Mars-exploration-based work for solo piano commissioned by scientist Dr. Peter Smith, the principal investigator for NASA's Phoenix mission to Mars. For more information, visit <http://www.paulwiancko.com>.

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The **Mallarmé Chamber Players** is a flexible ensemble of professional musicians based in Durham, North Carolina, whose mission is to enrich the lives of their community through outstanding chamber music. The ensemble distinguishes itself by its innovative educational programs, its commitment to creative collaboration with other organizations, its creation of significant new work, and its dedication to serve a diverse population.

Mallarmé annually presents a series of concerts that features diverse and multidisciplinary chamber music. Mallarmé performs everything from Baroque music on period instruments to newly commissioned works by contemporary composers such as Bill Banfield, Stephen Jaffe and Gabriela Lena Frank.

Mallarmé is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 organization. The 2017-18 concert season is made possible in part by grants from the Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund and the North Carolina Arts Council. [Mallarmemusic.org](http://Mallarmemusic.org)

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