

Given its inherent interest in a vibrant arts community, the Brattleboro Music Center is celebrating the Arts Council 35th anniversary with a presentation of some works that involve threads to other cultures.

"Welcome Santo" is Derrik Jordan's second world fusion string quartet. These pieces are conceived as string quartets with the addition of one or two instruments not usually heard in the classical music setting. The idea is to bring together and blend different musical genres in a way that creates new hybrid styles. Written in 2009 for kalimba, shekere and traditional string quartet, "Welcome Santo" uses variations of the 12/8 rhythm found throughout Africa along with the suspended pentatonic scale. The piece has three movements *Mbiraland*, *Gratitude For The Earth And Sky* and *That Buzzing Is The Ancestors Singing* and includes two short improvised solos for kalimba and shekere in between the movements.

Prolific Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, is perhaps the greatest exponent of Latin American music. Having written over one thousand compositions, his music does not follow any rigid form or mechanical principles, and is often dominated by rhythmic elements. "The Jet Whistle" composed in 1950 for flute and cello is a perfect example of Villa-Lobos' exotic style. His choice of flute and cello offers maximum contrast between high and low, metal and wood, wind and wire, breath and bow. Within the economy of a duet, Villa-Lobos paints an astonishingly vivid canvas. The title comes from a name Villa-Lobos gave to a particular novel technique the flautist must employ in the fast glissandi of the third movement sounding to him like a jet plane.

About the musicians:

Derrik Jordan is an award winning composer and singer-songwriter, producer, multi-instrumentalist and teacher. He plays electric violin, percussion, guitar and keyboards. His song "Speak Through Me" won 2nd place overall in the USA Songwriting Competition and "Something's Gonna Change" won Reggae Song of the Year from Just Plain Folks. He has produced many CDs of his own music including two instrumental world fusion CDs under the name "SuperString Theory." He has made musical trips to Senegal, Ghana, Brazil and Trinidad and he plays with many bands including Tony Vacca and World Rhythms, Impulse Ensemble, Zabap, Simba, Moonlight Davis and Natural History. "Sky Mirror," a composition for string quartet, shakuhachi and electric guitar, was awarded the Shakuhachi Chamber Music International Prize 2008. His piece "Odzihozo And The Lake" was commissioned by

the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for their 2009 Made In Vermont Fall Tour and was performed in 10 venues around the state in September 2009.

Julian Gerstin has performed and composed for the As Yet Quintet (Balkan-Caribbean jazz), Green Mountain Mambo (Latin jazz), Grupo Palo Santo (Afrocuban folklore), and Samirah Evans (jazz vocalist); guested with the Windham Orchestra; sung with the River Singers and Greenfield Harmony; and accompanied several area choruses, since moving to Vermont in 2006. Julian was a percussionist with the African bands Kotoja and Zulu Spear, experimental jazz artists Joel Harrison and Eddie Gale, Brazilian samba groups Batucada Nana and Batucada do Leste, Afro-Cuban dancer Judith Justiz, Ghanaian drummer C.K. Ladzekpo, and numerous others. Julian began studying percussion with Milford Graves in the early 1970s, and his Cuban teachers include Sandy Pérez, John Santos, Lorenzo Peñavel, and Michael Spiro. He received a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley in 1996 and has published articles on Martinique in several scholarly journals. Julian teaches world music and jazz as Adjunct Instructor of Music at Keene State College; co-directs the Latin Jazz Ensemble at the Vermont Jazz Center and teaches in the VJC's summer Jazz Camp; and teaches Afrocuban percussion at The Loft. He has also taught world music and jazz history at Wesleyan University, Marlboro College, and San José State University.

Lisa Ferrigno, violin, is a native New Englander who studied at the New England Conservatory Extension Division. Lisa is currently Concertmaster of the Brevard Symphony and Walt Disney World Orchestras in Florida. She has served as Concertmaster of the Orlando Philharmonic, Principal 2nd violinist of the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra, and was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic and Florida Symphony Orchestras. Lisa has performed as soloist with orchestra and in chamber recitals in the US, Europe, and South America. She has a M.M from Florida State University and a B.Mus. from Eastman School of Music. She is the coordinator of the BMC's Music in the Schools program, conducts the Prima Orchestra, and is on the faculty of the BMC Music School.

Michelle Liechti, violin, was a student of David Abel and Kato Havas. Michelle has performed with the New England Bach Festival Orchestra, Arcadia Players, and many other area chamber groups. She was a member of the Camp Allegro staff, conducts the BMC Junior Orchestra, and also teaches at Northfield Mount Hermon School. She is on the faculty of the BMC Music School, teaching violin and viola. She holds a B.A. from Mills College.

Peggy Spencer, viola, was concertmaster of the New England Bach Festival Orchestra under the direction of Blanche Honegger Moyses for two decades, charming Marlboro audiences with the violin solos in all of Bach's great choral works. She is also a consummate chamber musician (a former member of the Bella Rosa Quartet and the New England Camerata) and has toured with various period instrument ensembles throughout the country. She has taught at Putney School, Brattleboro Music Center, Bennington Chamber Music Conference, and Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music. She owns a farm in Guilford, Vermont, and is on the BMC Music School faculty. She coordinates Camp Andantino.

Sabine Rhyne, cello, studied with cellists Alan Smith and Sharon Robinson in North Carolina. Sabine is a chamber music free-lancer throughout the region and a frequent performer in a variety of larger ensembles, including the orchestra of the American Repertory Theater, in Cambridge, Mass.; the Monadnock Chorale, in Peterborough, N.H.; and the Windham Orchestra. She is currently Director of Educational Programs at the BMC, and is on the faculty and coordinates Cello Camp for the BMC Music School. She holds a B.A. from Smith College, with studies at the University of North Carolina.

Robin Tinkler Matathias was a student of Frances Blaisdell and Deirdre Manning. She has performed on both the East and West coasts as a soloist and in orchestral, opera, chamber, and jazz ensembles. Before moving to Vermont, in 1992, she taught graduate courses at the City College of New York and in the New York City public schools. She also teaches flute at Keene State College and directs the flute ensemble. Robin holds degrees from U.C. Santa Cruz and an M.A. from the City College of New York. She is on the faculty of the BMC Music School.