

*Program Notes*  
**Ronen Chamber Ensemble**  
**“Her Voice”**  
October 2, 2007

---

***Rapid Fire***

***Jennifer Higdon***

Jennifer Higdon is a prominent and frequently performed composer. The Washington Post hailed her as "Savvy, sensitive, with a keen ear and innate sense of form and generous dash of pure esprit." Her orchestral work "***The Blue Cathedral***" was performed by 100 orchestras, among them the Indianapolis Symphony. Many of her compositions are available on recordings. She teaches composition at the Curtis institute in Philadelphia. "***Rapid Fire***" was written to portray inner city violence and its innocent victims. It is an expression of pain, disbelief, fear and terror. Commissioned by flutist Peter Brown, it is dedicated to his memory.

"***Rapid Fire***" will be performed by flutist Cheryl Riggle. Cheryl Riggle is finishing her Bachelors Degree at the University of Indianapolis. She has been a member of the Indianapolis Philharmonic Orchestra for the past 11 years and appeared as soloist with the Phoenix Symphony. Her compositions were performed on WICR and at the Region V 2005 Society Composers Conference at Butler University.

***Duetto for Clarinet, String Bass and Piano***

***Giovanni Bottesini***

Nicknamed "Paganini of the double bass," ***Bottesini*** initially studied violin and composition. He came to the bass by chance as it allowed him to receive a scholarship to study at the Milan Conservatory. Bottesini played Bass in several Italian orchestras. He composed operas and was a traveling virtuoso of the double bass. To create a repertoire for his own performances, he wrote numerous compositions for the bass. Bottesini was also a respected conductor and was asked by Verdi to conduct the premiere of ***Aida*** in Egypt.

The piece has two movements, Allegro - Adagio and Allegro, and is performed by Ju-Fang Liu (string bass), David Bellman (clarinet) and Sylvia Patterson-Scott (piano).

***Seriously Blue for Flute, Clarinet, Cello and Piano***

***Becky Archibald***

**\*\*\* World Preimire\*\*\***

"***Seriously Blue***" has been partially underwritten by a generous contribution from Clay and Amy Robbins along with support from the Lilly Endowment. Becky Archibal describes the piece as: "The title is a playful comment about where the lines are drawn between "serious" music and jazz. I had no intention of this piece being "jazzy," but that's just the way it evolved. I kept fighting it, but finally, I relented." Performing in the world premiere is: Becky Archibald (piano), Rebecca Arrensen (flute), David Bellman (clarinet), and Ingrid Fischer Bellman (cello).

**Quintet No. 1, op. 30 in A minor for Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass**

**Louise Farrenc's** Louise Farrenc, a prominent pianist, composer, teacher and scholar showed remarkable talent for music at an early age. Her teachers were Ignaz Moscheles and Hummel for piano. She studied composition privately with Antonin Reicha, who taught at the Paris Conservatory. Women at that time however were not permitted to attend composition classes.

Aristed Farrenc, her husband, owned a music publishing company in Paris and published most of her compositions. Her work was highly praised by leading composers and performers, among them Robert Schumann, Hector Berlioz and the violinist Joseph Joachim. Together with her husband she researched and published a 23 volume keyboard anthology "Le trésor des pianistes" covering 300 years of music for the harpsichord and piano.

Louise Farrenc composed well crafted and melodious chamber music works at a time when Opera was the dominant force in the Paris music scene. Her chamber music clearly pays tribute to her teachers and shows a strong natural link to the music of German and Viennese masters such as Mendels-sohn, Schubert, and Beethoven.

The instrumentation of the quintet is like the famous "*Trout*" by Schubert. The bass adds a wonderful richness and depth to the texture. The form is classical and the piano part is practically a concerto in its technical demands. Performing in the quintet is Sylvia Patterson Scott (piano), Louise Alexander (violin), Nancy Agres (violin), Ingrid Fischer Bellman (cello) and Ju-Fang Liu (bass).

*Program notes by Ingrid Fischer Bellman*