

Duo Palmos to Perform in Concert at Henderson

February 10, 2004

ARKADELPHIA – Duo Palmos will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 in Harwood Recital Hall in the Russell Fine Arts Building on the campus of Henderson State University. The event is made possible through funding from the Gaudeamus Foundation of The Netherlands, the Dutch Embassy of Athens, a Margin of Excellence grant and the Henderson State University Friends of Music.

Stefanie Liedtke, bassoon, and Lorenda Ramou, piano, began their professional collaboration in 1997 under the name Duo Palmos (meaning pulse, heartbeat, or doing something with vibrant energy). The combination of bassoon and piano in the chamber music literature is very rare and the existing repertoire rather restricted. Most of the concert literature has been written during the 20th-century. Since 1999 additional musicians and artists have been utilized for special projects, with the regular players of Palmos including John Addison, violoncello, Ernest Rombout, oboe, and Frank Anepool, trumpet.

To expand their repertoire Palmos provides commissions to composers with a special interest in musical venues that combine different cultural traditions and means of artistic expression. The first project of this kind involved Greek composers living in the Netherlands. The new repertoire included cellist John Addison, and was performed during a concert tour in various Greek cities and Amsterdam in the spring of 2000. The Gaudeamus Foundation, the Hellenic Institute for Culture, and private sponsors, supported the tour.

For the 2002-2003 season Palmos presented a music theatre program, “Chinese Whispers.” The concerts included new works by Alison Isadora, Christoph Wagner, Harry de Wit, and Nora Crane, and directed by Henk Schut. In the same year there was a tour through the Netherlands with two projects: “From Greek Tradition to New Creation” with electronics, and the Cycle Concert by Nikos Skalkottas.

Palmos has performed in the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), the Goethe Institute in Athens and Thessaloniki, Cité des Arts in Paris, the Festival of Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen in the Netherlands, the Concertgebouw and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Centre for New Music in Middelburg, and Lantaren/Venster in Rotterdam

Stefanie Liedtke and Lorenda Ramou are also co-founders of the non-profit artistic association RADIUS, whose role is to promote contemporary music through concerts, commissions, recordings, and educational projects.

Stefanie Liedtke was born in Germany. Between 1985 and 1989 she studied with Karl-Otto Hartmann at the Conservatory of Music in Freiburg. After obtaining her orchestra diploma she continued her studies at the Conservatory of Rotterdam in the Netherlands with Henk de Wit, where she graduated in 1991, receiving a soloist’s diploma.

Liedtke worked from 1989 until 1992 in the Netherlands Ballet Orchestra as principal bassoonist. In 1992 she participated in the International Competition Fernand Gillet where she won the second prize. In the same year she was granted a scholarship from the Institution Villa Musica in Mainz (Germany). In 1996-1997 she was principal bassoon in the chamber orchestra La Camerata in Athens. Since 1992 Liedtke has performed as a freelance bassoonist in order to concentrate on contemporary chamber music. Her varied activities include being a member of the Combustion Chamber and the Xenakis Ensemble, which has toured throughout Europe and Japan. She is co-founder of the wind trio Cassandra. As a soloist she has presented concerts at various international festivals in both Europe and Japan.

Lorenda Ramou was born in Athens, Greece. She studied piano at the National Conservatory of Athens with Tonis Georgiou, the Conservatoire National de Région de Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris), and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where she received the Diploma of Piano Pedagogy in 1993. She continued her studies at the City University, London, leading to a Master in Music with distinction in 1994. She has received scholarships from the French Government, the Academy of Athens, and the British Council.

Ramou became familiar with contemporary piano repertoire under the guidance of Marie-Françoise Bucquet, Claude Helffer and Pierre-Laurent Aimard, with whom she studied summer courses in Centre Acanthes and la Cité de la Musique in Paris. She has performed under the direction of David Robertson and Mauricio Kagel, and is a member of the Greek Ensemble for Contemporary Music conducted by Theodoros Antoniou. She has presented recitals and chamber music concerts in France, England, Greece, Portugal, and the Netherlands, and has collaborated with Maurice Ohana, George Crumb, and numerous Greek composers in the performance of their works.

The event is free and open to the public. More information may be obtained by calling 870-230-5320.

Here is the program for the evening’s music :

L'amour dans la vie est rouge (1999)

Sophia Serghi

(b.1972)

Middle East of Eden (2003) – premiere performance *

Manolis Manousakis

(b.1974)

Diverso il Tempo 2 op. 51 (1991)

Jacob ter Veldhuis

(b.1951)

Praxis III (2000) *

Dimitris Andrikopoulos

(b.1971)

· Intermission ·

Three Portraits (1990)

Phillip Schroeder

(b.1956)

The Trees Reach

Veiled Mountains

Bloom

Pne (1999) *

Yiannis Kiriakides

(b.1969)

*Pieces written for Duo Palmos