



Colorado State University

School of the Arts

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS “DUO FRANCOIS”, DUETS FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO, IN VIRTUOSO SERIES WITH MEET THE ARTIST RECEPTION

Fort Collins, CO – As part of the Virtuoso Concert Series presented by the School of the Arts at Colorado State University, CSU faculty and husband and wife team Ron Francois, violin, and Silvana Santinelli, piano - the Duo Francois – present an evening of duets for violin and piano. The concert is Monday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Griffin Concert Hall in the University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington St. It is followed by a “Meet the Artist” reception where patrons are invited to meet Francois and Santinelli, ask questions about the music and the performance, and mingle with other patrons, while enjoying dessert breads and coffee generously provided by Great Harvest Bread Co.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for Colorado State students and youth ages 6 to 17. Tickets are available from the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, by phone at 970-491-4849, or online at www.csutix.com. Advance purchase is highly recommended, though tickets are available at the door one hour before performances begin.

Enjoy an engaging evening of music making with the wonderful Cesar Franck sonata, Beethoven’s Sonata in G Major and more! “We hope you enjoy listening to us as much as we enjoy playing music on stage together!” The newly formed “Duo Francois” has several performances scheduled for 2008 including stops in Texas, Mexico, and Colorado Springs.

About Silvana Santinelli, piano

Silvana Santinelli was born in Mexico. At the early age of eight years old, Silvana won first prize at the “XVI Competencia Nacional y Cultural para la Ninez” in Mexico City. A year later she won a scholarship to study with Maestro Robert Avalon, in the United States.

In 1998, under the sponsorship of the Mexican Cultural Institute, Ms. Santinelli toured some of the main cities in Mexico. In addition to her performances in Mexico and the United States, Ms. Santinelli has performed in Russia, the Czech Republic, France, and Switzerland. She is the first prize winner of the Mexican National Piano Competition, the San Antonio Symphony Young Artist Award Competition, the Ulrich Piano Competition, in Maryland, the French International Piano Festival Competition in Paris and the Josef Hoffman International Piano Competition. Prize winner in the Corpus Christi International Concerto and Piano Solo Contest, the Kingsville International Young Performers Competition, the Mid-Texas Symphony Society Young Artist Contest, and the Five Towns Music and Art Foundation. Semifinalist in the San Antonio International Piano Competition, the Missouri International Piano Competition, and the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

Some of Ms. Santinelli latest performances include: Las Galas Festival, in Piedras Negras Coah, Mexico; Guest Artist at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado; Arts Club in Washington, DC; Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, DC; and Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. In addition, Ms. Santinelli

has appeared as a soloist with the San Antonio Symphony, the UTSA Symphony Orchestra and the Ohio Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Santinelli holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas; a Master in Music Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio; and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park. Ms. Santinelli has recently completed a two CD set of piano music by Mexican composer Rodolfo Halffter and is presently in negotiations with Centaur Records for future release. Her major instructors include Santiago Rodriguez, Andre Watts, Alexander Alexandrov, Valerie Grokhovski and Robert Avalon.

About Ron Francois, violin

Ronald Francois, Head of the String Division and Associate Professor of Violin at CSU, has performed extensively in his native Canada, the United States, Belgium and Mexico. He maintains a vigorous schedule as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher.

Dr. Francois has held positions in several string chamber groups including the highly acclaimed "I Musici of Montreal" as well as the "Classical Band" with Daniel Heifetz, the "Montreal Young Virtuosi" and with the "McGill Chamber Orchestra". He is also the former violinist for the "Mendelssohn Trio".

Dr. Francois received the Bachelor of music from McGill University and both the Master and Doctor of Music Degrees from the University of Maryland. His violin study includes work with concert violinist Daniel Heifetz, Elizabeth Adkins from the National Symphony and David Salness of the Audubon Quartet. He also studied the solo and chamber music repertoire extensively with members of the Guarneri String Quartet.

Dr. Francois has appeared as guest concertmaster of the St-Louis Philharmonic orchestra, the St. Louis Chamber orchestra and has collaborated in chamber music concerts with Boris Garlitsky-Concertmaster for the London Philharmonic, Arkady Fomin from the Dallas Symphony, and pianists John Owens and Seth Carlin. The newly formed "Duo Francois" with his wife and pianist Dr. Silvana Santinelli, has several performances scheduled for 2008 including stops in Texas, Mexico, and Colorado Springs. Dr. Francois joined the CSU faculty in the department of music in the fall of 2002.

For a full performance and event calendar, more information, and to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.

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The School of the Arts at Colorado State University provides an enriched venue in which the study and practice of Art, Dance, Music and Theatre are nurtured and sustained by building the skills and knowledge needed by future generations of arts professionals to become contributors to the essential vitality of our culture and society. For more information, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.