



PINOTAGE

“Pinotage will charm you out of your socks” Classical Review.com.

PINOTAGE is a unique quartet from Chicago made up of flute, harp, viola and voice. Formed in 1998, the group specializes in work written after 1900. Since their first performance PINOTAGE has worked closely with many composers, who have been inspired to write for this distinctive quartet. PINOTAGE has performed works by Bernard Rands, Jan Bach, Marta Ptaszynska, Robert Lombardo, Lawrence Axelrod, Kathleen Ginther, Elizabeth Start, Karim Al-Zand, Juan Orrego-Salas, and Osvaldo Golijov, among many others. In 1999 they were Ensemble-in Residence at Columbia College in Chicago, offering master classes and performing works written for them by young composers. PINOTAGE has been featured premiering new works at new music festivals across the country including New Music Chicago’s *Sonic Impact: Creating New Art & Music in a Global Culture 2006*, the 25th Anniversary Festival at Bowling Green’s *Mid America Center for New Music in 2004*, the *2004 Festival of New American Music* at California State University at Sacramento and the *Outside the Box 2007 New Music Festival* at SIU. They have been guest artists at Northwestern University, DePaul University, Northern Illinois University, and Roosevelt University. They have been webcast live from Wheaton College and broadcast live on WFMT as part of the Jewel Box Series at Northeastern University.

PINOTAGE has recorded a number of works including a song cycle by New York composer Arnold Rosner for Albany Records, Lawrence Axlerod’s *Five Hundred Nights*, and original works written for the group by Elizabeth Start and Kathleen Ginther. In 2007 they were broadcast in Australia on the ABC performing works by Australian composers from their new CD on JADE RECORDS.

Harpist **Dr. Alison Attar** specializes in both historical and contemporary music. Her interest in historical harps has led to performances in Chicago, Boston, New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto and Edinburgh. Dr. Attar has also performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Green Bay Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Ballet, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, Ravinia Festival Orchestra and the Naples Philharmonic. She toured Taiwan with the Symphonic Pops Orchestra and made her debut at Carnegie's Weil Hall playing an evening of contemporary chamber music. A champion of new music, Dr. Attar has performed as a guest artist with numerous new music groups, including the Chicago Symphony's MusicNOW, CUBE, Contemporary Chamber Players and Present Music. Dr. Attar has also enjoyed working with a number of living composers, including George Crumb, Pierre Boulez and Bernard Rands. She is a regular member of the new music quartet PINOTAGE. Her solo and chamber music performances have been praised in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Boston Globe, San Francisco Classical Voice, San Francisco Chronicle, The Wall-Street Journal and The New Yorker. Dr. Attar holds a B.M., M.M., and D.M. in harp performance and a B.A. in Italian culture, all from Northwestern University where she studied with Elizabeth Cifani. She can be heard on recordings under the Mayapple, Albany, Hungaroton and Cedille labels.

Since completing apprenticeships with the Santa Fe Opera and the Chicago Lyric Opera, mezzo-soprano **Julia Bentley** has appeared in leading roles with opera companies throughout the country, and has been featured as a soloist with orchestras led by George Manahan, Raymond Leppard, Oliver Knussen, Robert Shaw and Pierre Boulez. She performs in Chicago with Mostly Music, CUBE, the Contemporary Chamber Players, the Orion Ensemble, PINOTAGE, Ensemble Noamnesia, Fulcrum Point, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, Chicago Opera Theater, Concertante di Chicago, Music of the Baroque, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the MusicNOW series at Symphony Center with conductor Cliff Colnot. She has been a regular guest artist with the Chicago Chamber Musicians' Music at the Millennium series, most recently in works by Berio, Carter, and Boulez under the direction of Mr. Boulez. In 2001 she appeared to critical acclaim at Carnegie Hall, also with Mr. Boulez, as the soloist in *Le Marteau Sans Maître*. She has recorded on the Albany, Cedille and Tintagel labels. Recent engagements have included performances of the *Messiah* with the Apollo Chorus at Orchestra Hall, and appearances with the Ars Viva Orchestra and the Bach and Handel Week Festivals, as well as chamber music series in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. In the 2004-05 season she sang *La Cenerentola* for the Sacramento Opera, Meg in *Little Women* for Dayton Opera, and *Time Cycle* by Lukas Foss during the composer's Chicago residency.

Violist **Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff** was a featured performer at the 2005 New American Music Festival at Cal State Sacramento and the 2004 Bowling Green State University New Music and Art Festival. Performing extensively with her modern chamber group PINOTAGE and the Fulcrum Point New Music Project, she has had the opportunity to premiere new chamber works in Chicago by many composers including David Stock, Bruce Adolphe, Bernard Rands, Elizabeth Start, Robert Lombardo, Jan Bach and Kathleen Ginther. Having graduated from the University of Denver with a bachelor of music degree, she earned a master of music and a performer's certificate from Northwestern University. From 1992-96 She was the principal violist of the Cape Town Symphony in South Africa, where she recorded for the SABC and performed frequently as a soloist. In 1998 she performed on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Series at the Chicago Cultural Center broadcast on WFMT. Ms. Lasareff-Mironoff has performed with the Rembrandt Chamber Players, members of the Chicago Symphony, the Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players, the Pacifica String Quartet, the Chicago Philharmonic, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Grant Park Symphony, and has been the principal violist of the Chicago Opera Theater, The Chicagoland Pops Orchestra, the Joffrey Ballet, the Chicago Sinfonietta, and the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra. She has recorded chamber works for the SABC and for Albany Records. She joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 2000-04 as the Coordinator of String Chamber Music. Currently she teaches viola and chamber music at Wheaton College Conservatory. She has given guest artist recitals and master classes at Northwestern University, DePaul University, University of Northern Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Wheaton College and Roosevelt University. In July of 2005 she performed a chamber recital at the Ravinia Festival with Fulcrum Point. She was broadcast in Australia on the ABC in 2006-07 performing works by Australian composers. She performed with the Santa Fe Opera during the 2007 season.

Janice MacDonald is the principal flutist of the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Joffrey Ballet Orchestra, and is solo piccolo of the Lake Forest Symphony. She also performs regularly with the Grant Park Symphony, Chicago Opera Theater, Concertante di Chicago, Ars Viva, the new music ensembles PINOTAGE, Fulcrum Point and CUBE, among others. Her credits also include several theatrical productions including Aida, Jekyll & Hyde and The Wizard of Oz. An active studio musician, she has recorded for the "American Girl" doll CD series as well as numerous radio and television commercials. Ms. MacDonald performs throughout the country as well as internationally. Most recently, throughout Ethiopia and Mali on a three week tour with Trio Chicago, including the first performance of an American classical group in Timbuktu. She performed in Italy with the Parnassus

Orchestra of London, which included appearances as a soloist and chamber musician, has toured Greece and Britain, appearing with the Regent Quintet in London, and has also toured Switzerland and Germany twice with the Chicago Sinfonietta. Janice MacDonald holds degrees from DePaul University and the California Institute of the Arts.

Discography *Chamber Music of Arnold Rosner Volume 3* (Albany Records), *From the Start*-Music by Elizabeth Start, *Mandala*-chamber works by Lawrence Axelrod. *Rondino Pastorale*- Australian Music (JAD 1113)

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