

Duo Calixa - Flute and Guitar

Bio

The Canadian flute and guitar ensemble *Duo Calixa*, featuring Kelly Williamson and Mariette Stephenson, was formed in 2012. Flutist Kelly Williamson enjoys a busy career as a freelance musician and teacher. Kelly began her flute studies at the Academy of Music Program at Mount Royal College, Calgary where she had many opportunities to play in master classes for renowned musicians, including the eminent flutist and pedagogue Geoffrey Gilbert. She moved to Montreal in 1988 to study with Timothy Hutchins and Heather Howes at McGill University, earning a Bachelor's degree in performance with Distinction. She completed a Masters' degree in performance at l'Universite de Montreal in 1997, studying with Denis Bluteau.

Since 1996 Kelly has trained and specialized as a teacher with the Suzuki approach, studying in Japan with Toshio Takahashi and being appointed a Teacher Trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) in 2006. She is invited to teach master classes and pedagogy courses all over the world, including Canada, the US, Latin America, England, Tanzania, Japan, Europe, and Australia. She serves on the SAA's Teacher Development Advisory Committee and flute committee, as well as being the SAA representative to the International Suzuki Association flute committee, and the flute columnist for the American Suzuki Journal. She has adjudicated for various music festivals, including the Kiwanis Music Festival, and been a frequent clinician in schools.

Guitarist Mariette Stephenson studied with Dr. Jeffrey McFadden, having received her B.Mus from McMaster University and her ARCT from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She also earned a Masters of Music (performance) from the University of Toronto . She has given recitals throughout Canada, and is an active and dedicated teacher. She is the recipient of the Eli Kassner Guitar Scholarship, a University of Toronto Fellowship, and the Bernice Adams Bursary. She also received an Arts Award from the City of Cambridge in 2006. Mariette has premiered new works by Canadian composers William Beauvais, Patrick Power and the Brazilian composer Jonatas Batista-Neto. She is an active clinician, having adjudicated many music festivals including various Kiwanis and Rotary Music Festivals. Mariette has arrangements for guitar available exclusively at Strings By Mail and is Music Director for the Kitchener-Waterloo Guitar Orchestra.

Both musicians have appeared with other ensembles, including solo performances with orchestra and various chamber formations: Kelly plays as a soloist and chamber musician for local arts events such as the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts, Cambridge Culture Days, and A Day and a Night in Hespeler. As an orchestral player she performs regularly with a number of area orchestras, including the Stratford Symphony Orchestra and Guelph Symphony

Orchestra. She was soloist several times with Orchestre Sérénade of Montreal and also appeared with the East York Symphony as winner of its Young Artists Competition. Kelly can be heard on “A Young Flutist’s Anthology” featuring flutist Suzanne Shulman and pianist Valerie Tryon.

Mariette has performed in many solo and chamber music concerts, including recitals with sopranos Brooke Dufton and Katalin Puscas, Bonchiku Hoshi (shakuhachi), Tom Fitches (organ) and a performance under the baton of Gordon Mansell in ‘The Prayer Cycle’ (a work for guitar, choir and orchestra). Mariette has also performed for the Brantford Guitar Society, Toronto Guitar Society and Organix Festival.

As a duo, they are the recipients of an Arts Connect Cambridge grant (2015). They share an enthusiasm for the music of Latin America and celebrate that repertoire on their first recording, *Caminos: Music of Piazzolla, Villa-Lobos and Machado*, released in 2017.