

Program Bios

Densi Rushing, Professor of Violin for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, began playing the violin at age seven in her hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attained degrees in both Music Performance and Music Education from SNU, and began a career in the Putnam City Schools, teaching elementary, junior, and senior high orchestra for 14 years, helping to develop one of the most highly rated orchestra programs in the Midwest. Densi currently performs with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, *Lyric Theatre Orchestra* and *Go for Baroque*. She is quite busy as a freelance violinist and private studio instructor. Her love of bluegrass and Celtic music led to solo performances at the *Oklahoma and Grapevine (TX) Oprys*, studio recordings and membership in *Country Sun*, a bluegrass/gospel band with Rocky Gribble. Other past credits include *The Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque*, *Lawton Philharmonic*, *Enid Philharmonic*, *SNU Metropolitan Orchestra*, *OKC First Church of the Nazarene Orchestra*, and upon occasion Concertmaster of the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*. Her teachers include Harold Krumm, Barbara Gabbert, James Bonnell, Dr. Leonard Felberg, Ann Strong, Dr. Roger Strong, Eudice Shapiro, Michael Ma, and Felicia Moyer. She enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, mountain biking and off-roading in her Jeep with her husband Rick and son Sawyer. Densi is the proud owner/handler/breeder of Red Earth Rhodesian Ridgebacks and enjoys competing in conformation and lure-coursing trials with her dogs.

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMMING

Jim Shelley has been a cellist with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic* for thirteen years, and regularly tours the south central United States with *Go for Baroque*. He holds a Bachelor of Music Performance and Masters of Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma where he was named “Outstanding Student” both as an undergraduate and graduate student. His flexibility and versatility, combined with his congenial personality, make Jim a very busy performing musician. Shelley has performed with the *Edmond Quartet*, *Oklahoma Strings*, *Mid-America String Quartet* and *Celestial Strings*. He is happy to be a part of *Music from Greer*, a chamber music festival held in Greer, Arizona each July. Alcott Middle School in Norman, Oklahoma, is pleased to have Shelley as its Orchestra Director. His students have earned superior ratings in concert and sight-reading at state competitions. In addition to cello, Jim plays violin and guitar. Most recently, he has expanded his musical endeavors to singing and song-writing, and has been a featured performer at the *Oklahoma Songwriters’ Showcase*. Shelley’s hobbies include gardening, cycling, inline skating and hiking.

G4B

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMING

Parthena Owens, is known to regional audiences as an accomplished musician and teacher. Raised near Pratt, Kansas, Parthena came to Oklahoma to study at Oklahoma City University where she obtained her undergraduate degree. She received her Masters in Flute Performance from Northwestern University where she studied with Walfrid Kujala. Past credits include Acting Principal Flutist of the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, Principal Flute of the *Lawton Philharmonic*, *Sinfonia of Mid-America* and *American Music Festival Orchestra*, and flutist with the *Oklahoma Symphony*. She has been a featured soloist with the *Lawton Philharmonic*, *American Music Festival Orchestra*, *Sinfonia of Mid-America*, *OCU Band*, and the *OCU Orchestra*. Parthena is the Professor of Flute at Oklahoma City University where she also directs the nationally recognized *Flute Choir* which was honored to perform at the 2001 National Flute Convention. At this same convention, Parthena and her husband Roger gave the world premiere of a flute and percussion piece written for them by Frank Lynn Payne. Combining performing with a busy teaching schedule, she maintains a private flute studio of 14 award-winning students, is an active freelance and recording musician, and is currently performing with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, *Lyric Theatre Orchestra*, and *Go for Baroque*. She is a founding member of the Oklahoma Flute Society and a member of the Oklahoma City Sigma Alpha Iota Alumni. Parthena and Roger have a son Cameron, who makes life worth living!

G4B

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMING

Peggy Payne has a flare for communicating and has molded a style of performing that brings audiences into an enjoyment of new musical experiences and the musicians performing. Her warm congenial personality has touched the hearts of audiences across the state as harpsichordist/manager for the *Go for Baroque* ensemble, and across the United States, Mexico and Canada as pianist with the *New American Ragtime Ensemble* under the Herbert Barrett Management in New York. She was Principal Keyboard with the *Oklahoma Symphony* and now holds that position with the *OKC Philharmonic*. Peggy Payne has been recognized as a leader in developing and implementing pilot education programs for various arts organizations, garnering her a Governor's Arts and Education Award in 1995. As Arts Facilitator for Penn Square Mall, she has helped create numerous opportunities for not-for-profit arts groups to share partnerships with the Mall, recognized by a Business in the Arts Award in 1994. Ms. Payne brings an enthusiasm for embracing new challenges with confidence and patience to her community involvement and her private students. As a native Oklahoman, Peggy Payne holds a Masters in Piano Performance from Oklahoma City University, where she studied with Robert Laughlin. Past credits include *OKC Chamber Players*, *OKC Chamber Orchestra*, *Quartz Mt. Summer Arts Institute*, and soloist with the *Tulsa Philharmonic*, *Lawton Philharmonic*, *OKC Philharmonic*, and *Ballet Oklahoma*. She is a member of Psi Kappa Lambda and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Although an avid exercise enthusiast, Peggy Payne's favorite pastime is spending time with her son Bill and Lucky, an amazing dalmation.

G4B

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMING

Roger Owens began drum lessons at age 9 and played his first professional job at age 12. With an intense love for all styles of music and the desire to expand his percussive abilities beyond the drum set, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Percussion Performance from Oklahoma City University under the instruction of K. Dean Walker. Roger has enjoyed a successful career in a wide variety of musical settings which include the *Oklahoma Symphony*, *Lawton Philharmonic*, *Jewel Box Theater*, *Oklahoma Opera* and *Musical Theater Society Orchestra*, and the *American Music Festival Orchestra*.

As percussionist, Roger has appeared with Ray Charles, Johnny Mathis, Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme, Toni Tenille, and *Electric Light Orchestra*. In 1984 he was a guest performer with the world-renowned percussion ensemble *NEXUS*.

On drums, he has performed with Vince Gill, Jennifer Holliday, *The Platters*, *The Shirelles*, Mitch Miller and *Riders in the Sky*, as well as countless concerts, club dates and recording sessions with local and regional acts.

A member of *Go for Baroque* since 1993, Roger is also employed as Drummer/Section Percussionist with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic* and drummer for *Lyric Theatre*. He is very active in the freelance music scene in Oklahoma City and is a private percussion instructor for a few very select students...the favorite of which is his son, Cameron.

G4B

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMING

Dr. Stephen T. Goforth is an Oklahoma musician who has distinguished himself as wonderfully versatile and quite entertaining to a broad spectrum of audiences. Dr. Goforth earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Oklahoma Baptist University, a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Florida State, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation from OBU he went to Graz, Austria to perform with the *American Institute of Musical Studies Orchestra* and then went on the road with *The Dallas Brass*. He soon joined the faculty of OBU, making Oklahoma City his home, and continued his ambition for performing by winning the Second Prize in the Ellsworth-Smith International Trumpet Guild Solo Competition in the Baroque/Classical category. Stephen has been a member of *Go for Baroque* since 1986, and has also served as Principal Trumpet for the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, *Lead Trumpet for Lyric Theatre*, and is a member of the *Enchamade Duo*. He has performed with many great artists including Doc Severinson, Bobby McFerrin, Bob Hope, Henry Mancini, Itzhak Perlman, Maurice Andre, Jim Nabors, Arturo Sandoval, and *Mannheim Steamroller*, as well as for recognized leaders including Barbara Bush, Henry Kissinger, and Ronald Reagan. Dr. Goforth served as Director of Jazz Studies at Oklahoma City University from 1992-2001 and during that time recorded an album with *Go for Baroque*, a solo sacred album, and a Christmas album with the *Enchamade Duo*. Currently residing in Tulsa, Stephen is Principal Trumpet with the *Signature Symphony*, *Bartlesville Symphony*, and the *Starlight Band*.

(Continued on next page)

G4B

Go for Baroque

G4B
PROGRAMING

Maintaining an active performing schedule of solo engagements, studio sessions, and numerous brass groups, he also plays trombone and bass for his church orchestra and often is a featured entertainer when his wife, Sharon, does speaking engagements. Dr. Goforth owns and operates the Tulsa franchise for Christian Brothers Automotive Repair as well as a tree farm, a working ranch, and a real estate/development company.

G4B