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**The 31st Raritan River Music Festival:
Bringing the Music to YOU!!!**

**Program Notes for Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Watch live (and rebroadcast) through the Home page
at www.RaritanRiverMusic.org**



Philadelphia Flute Quartet

Thomas Meany, Christine Hansen, Anne Levinson, and Kathleen Brown

PROGRAM

March – Ernesto Köhler (1869-1933) arr. Kathleen Brown

Hidden River – Eric Sessler (born 1969)

I – Hidden River

II – Laurel Hill

III – Kelly Drive

New Jersey/Online Premiere Performance

Dona Nobis Pacem – Traditional arr. Chris Potter

Capricious Winds – Satoshi Yagisawa (born 1975)

I – Allegro

II – Espressivo

III – Presto

Jour d'été à la Montagne (Summer Day in the Mountains) - Eugène Bozza (1905-1991)

Aux Bords du Torrent (On the Banks of the Torrent)

Divertimento – Jazz – Raymond Guiot (born 1930)

II – Le Domaine Forget

III – Javea

Satin Doll – Duke Ellington (1899-1974) arr. James Christensen

PROGRAM NOTES

March

by Ernesto Köhler (1849-1907)

Arr. Kathleen Brown

Ernesto Köhler was born in Modena, Italy into a musical family. He was taught the flute by his father who played in the Duke of Modena's orchestra. When he was 20, he moved to Vienna to play and then, a few years later, to St. Petersburg as a member of the Imperial Opera where he was to remain for the rest of his life. Köhler composed over 100 works for the flute as well as operas and several ballets. Flute players around the world still study his etude books which were published in the 1880's.

The *March* was originally written as one of a series of pieces for flute and piano in 1888 in Leipzig by JH Zimmerman. This is No. 9, Opus 37A. It was also published for violin & piano and cello & piano. This arrangement for four flutes was taken from the first edition of the piece.

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Hidden River Program Notes

Hidden River

by Eric Sessler

Born: August 25, 1969

Dover, New Jersey

- I. Hidden River
- II. Laurel Hill
- III. Kelly Drive

Duration: 10 minutes

For flute quartet

Commissioned by The Philadelphia Flute Quartet

Thomas Meany, Christine Hansen, Anne Levinson, and Kathleen Brown

Hidden River consists of three musical portraits inspired by one of the most iconic places in Philadelphia-the Schuylkill River Valley (pronounced SKOO-kil).

The first movement (Hidden River) evokes the passage of time and flowing water to depict the sweeping grandeur and legacy of this region.

The second movement (Laurel Hill) draws a reference to the Laurel Hill Cemetery which is perched majestically atop the east bank of the Schuylkill.

Lastly, the third movement (Kelly Drive) embodies the energy & vitality ever-present along this stretch of road and waterway. At times the music sparks with activity, while in other places it flows and shimmers across glistening notes and melodies.

N.B. The Schuylkill River got its name, meaning “hidden river,” from Dutch settlers who discovered its mouth sequestered behind the Delaware River’s League Island.

Music published by Silver Sun Press (ASCAP) www.ericssessler.com

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

PHILADELPHIA FLUTE QUARTET

www.philadelphiaflutequartet.com

The *Philadelphia Flute Quartet* has performed throughout the Philadelphia area for the past four seasons. We are a professional ensemble dedicated to the performance of music for multiple flutes, educational presentations, and ensemble coaching. Core members include flutist Tom Meany, Christine Hansen, Kathleen Brown, and Anne Levinson.

The Philadelphia Flute Quartet is a chamber group of four traditional flutes that is further enhanced by using the piccolo, alto flute, and bass flute. With these additions, the regular three octave range of the flute can be expanded to five, thus creating new opportunities for expanded harmonies and sonorities.

Recent performances for the ensemble include programs for the Free Library of Philadelphia, Church of the Holy Trinity, Calliope Music Store, the Mallery Concert Series (Rutgers -Camden University), the Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia's 7th Annual Flute Fair, an appearance on WRTI Radio's Live from the Performance Studio, and the premiere of our newly commissioned work *Hidden River* by Eric Sessler at the Juilliard School in NYC.

The quartet is thrilled to be making its first appearance at the Raritan River Music Festival!

ERIC SESSLER, composer

www.ericseessler.com

Eric Sessler's distinctive compositions are an accessible and highly engaging blend of classical music infused with elements drawn from popular music. His novel creative methods utilize the guitar as a conduit for creativity-the result being adapted and manipulated to form music from solo to chamber, vocal and orchestral works.

Eric Sessler has been commissioned by a wide range of musicians, including the Dover Quartet; the Cincinnati and Philadelphia Chamber Orchestras; flutist Jeffrey Khaner; and guitarists Jason Vieaux and David Starobin. His string quartet *Dreams from life awake* was performed across the United States to great acclaim by the Dover Quartet. Sessler's flute music has been featured at several National Flute Association conventions and his numerous works for classical guitar are highlighted by collaborations with grammy winner Jason Vieaux.

Among recordings of his music, Sessler's *Organ Concerto* was featured on *Opus 76*-a showcase recording of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ in Verizon Hall (The Kimmel Center, Philadelphia) with renowned organist Alan Morrison as soloist.

Dr. Sessler is a member of the faculties of the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School. A 1993 Curtis Institute graduate in composition, Sessler later received his doctorate from The Juilliard School. His major teachers were Samuel Adler, David Diamond, and Ned Rorem with additional classical guitar study with Nicholas Goluses.