

- At a Glance - FAQs

Mission Founded in 1999, the Equinox Chamber Players ensemble is one of Saint Louis' most dynamic performing chamber groups. Their multi-cultural music crosses international boundaries while bridging the gap between classical music and storytelling. Equinox celebrates community life with commissioned works inspired by environmental surroundings, historical and present day culture, and everyday heroes of our community.

Purpose With a unified goal of both educating and entertaining, Equinox performs a diverse repertoire that embraces the musical heritages of many ethnic traditions. Their growing repertoire includes music of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe.

The Equinox Chamber Players regularly perform concerts and educational outreach events for students and adults in schools and centers throughout Saint Louis City and County.

Through concerts and educational outreach, Equinox serves to:

- Interpret history and current events through music
- Celebrate local culture and history
- Introduce music of many different countries from around the world
- Align music with the study of relationships between people and environment
- Allow accessibility to the creative process of composition and story telling
- Introduce classical music performance and contemporary composers to many considered underserved in access to arts and arts education
- Encourage community awareness of the importance of music education in our schools
- Contribute to the library of contemporary and educational music

Repertoire The music of Equinox has a unique flair!
Equinox continues to build their repertoire every year by commissioning new works and arrangements, championing new voices from the U.S.A and around the world. Please visit our *programs* section on the web to view our diverse programming.

Their programs have included accompaniment by narrators, singers, dancers, photographers and visual artists. Their repertoire includes works with slide show or Power Point accompaniment soundtracks culled from personal resonances, the stories of everyday heroes and reflections of contemporary life.

Recognition Equinox Chamber Players have been aired on over 155 **PBS** radio stations and on as many as 150 **NPR** stations.

Designated White House Millennium Council Partners (1999-2000) in connection with the NEA initiative *Continental Harmony: New Music for the Millennium*, Equinox is featured in the **PBS** documentary *Continental Harmony* which was awarded the *Cine Golden Eagle* award (2002)

The ensemble has been featured in the *Chamber Music America* magazine in an article on the synthesis of classical and "world" music, the *St. Louis Magazine*, *St. Louis Women on the Move* and many other national newspapers.

Audiences The audiences of Equinox range from seasoned symphony concert-goers, to avant-garde aficionados, to first time classical music listeners, elementary school age through older adults.

Musicians

Flute
Paula Kasica

Clarinet
Dana Hotle

Oboe
Ann Homann

Horn
Carole Lemire

Bassoon
Donita Bauer

Board of Directors

President
Sheila Suderwalla

Vice President
Donita Bauer

Secretary
Paula Kasica

Treasurer
Carole Lemire
Sandra Arango-Caro

Castalia Jason
Fred Hicks

Tahnee Jackson

Collaboration	<p>Collaborations with some of Saint Louis' finest institutions, as well as national and international associations have included:</p> <p>The Saint Louis Symphony, University of Missouri-E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative, Young Audiences-St. Louis, Webster University Community Music School, PBS, NPR, Dillard University (LA), Boston Evening Academy, Northeastern University, Impact Model Mugging (MA), St. Louis African Chorus, International Consortium for the Music of Africa and its Diaspora, International Arts Festival, Ghandi-King Season for Non-Violence Conference, American Composers Forum, Missouri History Museum, Lewis & Clark State Historic Site (IL.), Shepley Music Program, Crescendo Concert Series, The Ethical Society, Sheldon Concert Hall, Saint Louis Contemporary Art Museum and many others.</p>
Artistic Quality	<p>All members of Equinox have performed with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and numerous orchestras and ensembles in the U.S.A and abroad. Please view their website for detailed biographies of the players.</p>
Recordings	<p>2007 Albany Records release of <i>Dark Winds Rising</i>, music of Phillip Bimstein, John Lampkin and Beth Denisch</p> <p>2006 Starkland Records release of <i>The Bushy Wushy Rag on Larkin Gifford's Harmonica</i>, by Phillip Bimstein</p> <p>2003 Juxtab Records release of <i>Jordan and the Dog Woman and Women, Power and the Journey</i>, by Beth Denisch</p> <p>2000 <i>The Bushy Wushy Rag</i>, by Phillip Kent Bimstein</p>
Outreach Commissioning Projects	<p>Annual educational outreach projects are designed in addition to their regular concert season programming. Each project theme is complemented by a new commissioned work. Surrounding the premier, the ensemble and composer-in-residence perform educational workshops in area schools, senior centers and additional educational centers.</p> <p>2007 <i>Freeing the Caged Bird</i>, by Barbara Harbach, a tribute to four Saint Louis authors: Maya Angelou, Sara Teasdale, Kate Chopin and Emily Hahn, accompanied with guest scholar Dr. Kathleen Nigro's Power Point presentation. Premiered at the Ethical Society, March 2007.</p> <p>2006 <i>A Walk Through Shaw's Garden</i>, by John Lampkin. In connection with the Saint Louis <i>Earth Day</i> celebration, inspired by the life and legacy of Mr. Henry Shaw. Premiered at the Missouri Botanical Garden and aired live on <i>From the Garden - Live!</i>®, April 2006.</p> <p>2005 <i>Fun-damentals for Woodwind Quintet and Audience Participation</i>, by Gwyneth Walker. In connection with national <i>Music In Our Schools Month</i>®. Premiered at University of Missouri-St. Louis, March 2005.</p> <p>2004 <i>Sacagawea: Three Life Episodes</i>, by David Cleary, in connection with the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis & Clark expedition. Premiered at Missouri History Museum, March 2004.</p> <p>2003 <i>Women, Power and the Journey</i>, by Beth Denisch, in connection with national Women's History Month. Inspired by the lives of Katherine Dunham, Tina Turner, Mary Engelbreit and Madame CJ Walker. Premiered at Missouri History Museum, March 2003. (Boston and Saint Louis performances and outreach events)</p> <p>2003 <i>Migrations</i>, by John Lampkin. Inspired by the migratory patterns of five different animal species of land and sea. Premiered at Saint Louis Contemporary Art Museum, November 2003.</p> <p>2001 <i>Three African Portraits</i>, by Lucius Weathersby, in connection with the International Festival of African and African American Music. Premiere: Washington University, February 2001. (Saint Louis and New Orleans events)</p>
Support	<p>Supporters over the years have included organizations such as the Saint Louis Symphony, Regional Arts Commission - St. Louis, Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, Arts & Education Council-St. Louis, Young Audiences-St. Louis, University of Missouri-E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Frank G. and Florence V. Bohle Scholarship Foundation, George & Alice Rich Charitable Foundation, BMW Auto Haus of Clayton, Target Foundation, Posey Family Foundation, and private donors, as well as the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funds provided by the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, Land O' Lakes Foundation.</p>