



Flute
Paula Kasica

Clarinet
Jeanine York Garesche

Oboe
Ann Homann

Horn
Carole Lemire

Bassoon
Donita Bauer

- At a Glance -

Mission Founded in 1999, the Equinox Chamber Players ensemble is one of St. 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 North America, Africa, Asia, South America, Europe and more.

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

Through concerts and educational outreach, Equinox serves to:

- Interpret history 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
- Build new audiences

Repertoire The music of Equinox has a unique flair!

Equinox is not the usual Euro-centric classical ensemble. Equinox performs music from all around the world, performing premieres and new transcriptions of music from such countries as India, China, Egypt, South Africa, Israel and others.

Equinox commissions new works that showcase contemporary scholarship on historical life.

Their programs have included accompaniment by narrators, singers, dancers, photographers and visual artists. Their repertoire includes work with accompaniment soundtracks culled from personal resonances, the stories of "everyday heroes" and reflections of contemporary life.

Audiences The audiences of Equinox range from seasoned symphony concert-goers, to avant-garde aficionados, to first time classical music listeners such as those served through their ongoing outreach programs.

National Recognition

In 2004, the Equinox Chamber Players were aired on over 155 **PBS** radio stations on Earth Day and on as many as 150 **NPR** stations in a baseball special entitled *Home Team*.

Designated White House Millennium Council Partners (1999-2000) in connection with *Continental Harmony*, Equinox was featured in the **PBS** documentary *Continental Harmony* which was awarded the *Cine Golden Eagle* award in 2002.

Equinox has been featured in the *Chamber Music America* magazine in an article on the synthesis of classical and “world” music.

Collaboration

Collaborations with some of St. Louis' finest institutions as well as national and international associations have included:

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, E. Desmond Lee Music Education Collaborative, University of Missouri, Young Audiences-St. Louis, Webster U. Community Music School, PBS, NPR, Dillard U. (LA), Boston Evening Academy, Northeastern U., 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, St.. Louis Contemporary Art Museum and many others.

Artistic Quality

All members of Equinox are extra players with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and have performed in numerous orchestras and ensembles in the U.S. and abroad. Please view our website for detailed biographies of the players.

Recordings

2003: *Jordan and the Dog Woman; Women, Power and the Journey*, by Beth Denisch

2000: *The Bushy Wushy Rag*, by Phillip Kent Bimstein

1999: *Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa*, by Phillip Kent Bimstein

Commissioning Projects

Equinox has commissioned new compositions and transcriptions, and has premiered over two dozen works from around the world.

2006 *A Walk through Shaw's Garden*, by John Lampkin. To be premiered at the Missouri Botanical Garden & aired on *From the Garden - Live!*® in April 2006. In connection with the St. Louis *Earth Day* celebration, inspired by the life and tremendous legacy of Mr. Henry Shaw.

2005 *Fun-damentals for Woodwind Quintet and Audience Participation*, by Gwyneth Walker. In connection with national Music In Our Schools Month®. Premiere: UM - ST. Louis, March 2005.

2004 *Sacagawea: Three Life Episodes*, by David Cleary, in connection with the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Premiere: Missouri History Museum, March 2004.

2003 *Women, Power and the Journey*, by Beth Denisch, in connection with national Women's History Month. Premiere: Missouri History Museum, March 2003, inspired by the lives of Katherine Dunham, Tina Turner, Mary Engelbreit and Madame CJ Walker.

2003 *Migrations*, by John Lampkin. Inspired by the migratory patterns of five different animal species of land and sea. Premiere: St. Louis Contemporary Art Museum, November 2003.

2001 *Three African Portraits*, by Lucius Weathersby, in connection with the International Festival of African and African American Music. Premiere: Washington University, February 2001.

2000 *The Bushy Wushy Rag*, by Phillip Kent Bimstein, in connection with the national project *Continental Harmony*, inspired by the community of St. Louis, baseball and ragtime music. Premiere: Fair St. Louis, July 2000.

Support

Supporters over the years have included organizations such as the Regional Arts Commission - St. Louis, Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, the St. Louis Arts & Education Council, E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Frank G. and Florence V. Bohle Scholarship Foundation, Target Foundation, Avics, Schafly Tap Room, St. Louis Woodwind & Brass Instrument Repair, Schnucks, as well as other organizations and private donors.