



1715 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 793-1213 • fax 793-1265

Contact: Susan Wahlmann, Performing Arts & Arts-in-Education Director, 309-793-1213 x105  
swahlmann@quadcitiesarts.com (images available upon request)

### 2008-09 VISITING ARTIST SERIES RESIDENCIES

**The Ahn Trio** - Born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at Juilliard in New York City, the members of the Ahn Trio —sisters Maria, Lucia, and Angella —are redefining the art and architecture of chamber music, breathing new life into the standard piano-trio literature with commissioned works from visionary composers like Kenji Bunch, Maurice Jarre, and Michael Nyman. The trio's latest CD, *Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac* (recorded on their own label, L.A.M.P), is a showcase of this vibrant and original music. They have fused their work with that of dancers, pop singers, DJ's, painters, installation artists, photographers, lighting designers, ecologists, and even kite makers. Most recently, they performed live at the Czech Grammys with the Tata Bojs, and received critical acclaim for their collaborative project with the David Parsons Dance Company.

**Child's Play** - Based in Chicago, Child's Play is the premiere theatre company in the United States dedicated exclusively to performing works written by children. Combining the important, imaginative writings of children with the craftsmanship of professional theater artists and educators, they combine the important, imaginative writings of children with the craftsmanship of professional theater artists and educators. Nationally recognized, Child's Play motivates elementary school students to read and write through developing and staging original plays based on children's poems, stories and songs. Child's Play's goal is to help children understand the value and significance that writing and reading has on their lives. Their performances and workshops offer a powerful teaching tool that strengthens and enhances the teaching and learning process.

**Manding Jata** presents the performing arts and oral traditions of the Mali Empire, encompassing much of the region now known as West Africa. In 1995/96 over forty Manding performers living in Canada, the USA and Europe were interviewed and auditioned before selecting the artists of Manding Jata. Since then the group has performed for enthusiastic audiences around the world. This distinguished group of musicians, dancers and singers come from Mali, The Gambia, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. The primary instruments featured are the kora (21 string harp lute), balafon (xylophone), ngoni (lute), djembe and dundunba drum ensemble, flutes and the nyri nyro (bull roarer).

**Atlantic Brass Quintet** - Founded in 1985, the Atlantic Brass Quintet launched its career with a phenomenal string of competition victories over a period of two years. The Quintet has been heard in 48 of the United States and more than a dozen countries across four continents performing a unique repertory spanning Praetorius, Stravinsky, Rands, and music from the streets of Brazil, Cuba, and New Orleans. Winner of six international chamber music competitions, the Quintet's distinctive sound has won praise from scores of critics. In May 1992, by unanimous decision, the Quintet won the "Premiere Prix" at the International Brass Competition of Narbonne France recognized worldwide as the preeminent competition of its kind.

*We are where you work... We are where you play... We are where you learn...*



1715 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 793-1213 • fax 793-1265

**Michael J. Miles** grew up in Chicago. With an master's degree in music degree and four CDs to his credit, he also works as educator, sharing his zeal for music with both children and professional educators. His work ranges from providing kindergarten students their earliest music experiences all the way through to leading postgraduate study for professional music educators. Since 1988, Miles has served as a visiting professor to Villanova University in Philadelphia, and the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. Miles specializes in preparing professional music educators to use the guitar, banjo, and folk music in the classroom. Miles is a member of Illinois Arts Council's juried rosters.

**Santa Cruz River Band** - Gilbert Brown, Michael J. Ronstadt and Ted Ramírez compose the Santa Cruz River Band a professional touring concert group from Tucson, Arizona -the trio performs in English, Spanish and American Indian languages. They present a beautiful, intriguing and powerful musical program filled with the history and mystical lore of the Great American Southwest. Their music is authentic and original - as it is rooted in the traditional music styles of the United States and Mexico. They create a uniquely beautiful sound with outstanding vocals harmonies and powerful acoustic instrumental sounds.

**Edmar Castaneda** - Colombian harpist, band leader and composer Edmar Castaneda was born in Bogota, Colombia where he started playing the Colombian harp at age 13. He has a unique style of playing harp combining Latin jazz with traditional Colombian music. Edmar has carved a firm place in the international jazz scene. He transforms the harp into a lead instrument to phenomenal effect. Producing cross-rhythms like a drummer, smashing chordal flourishes like a flamenco guitarist and collating bebop and Colombian music, he is practically a world unto himself. His style is fascinatingly percussive and he plucks dynamic bass lines almost invisibly while picking out melodies with his right hand.

**Craicmore** plays contemporary traditional Celtic music. With deep roots in the music of Scotland and Ireland, Craicmore features the critically acclaimed vocalist Nancy Johnston. Her deep, rich, contralto voice is rare in the genre. Driving rhythms from guitar, bass, Bohdran drum, conga and other percussion, along with high-spirited whistles, flutes and bagpipes, powerfully render jigs & reels. Four part harmony, rhythmic hardshoe dancing, an East Indian Shruti Box and rumbling Didjeridoo all accent the warmth and passion of Craicmore's fiery performances. They have toured for over eight years throughout the Western States and recently performed a 14 concert engagement in Shanghai, China.

The **Georgia Guitar Quartet** has established itself as a new leader in the realm of guitar ensembles. The group is part of the new generation of innovative artists who are changing the face of classical music. Formed in 1996 and hailing from Athens, Georgia, the quartet has released two recordings and is currently completing work on two new CDs. The ensemble maintains an active national concert schedule, performing in a variety of venues, ranging from concert halls to popular music clubs. In addition to performing classical music from the Renaissance through the present day, the Quartet explores other styles such as jazz, bluegrass, ragtime, and Celtic music. With their diverse repertoire, the group appeals to a wide range of music lovers.

*We are where you work... We are where you play... We are where you learn...*



1715 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 793-1213 • fax 793-1265

Quad City Arts is a nonprofit local arts agency dedicated to the growth and vitality of the Quad City region through the presentation, development and celebration of the arts and humanities. All Quad City Arts programs are partially supported by Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners Annual Giving Program and operating grants from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) and the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Quad City Arts also receives significant support for the Visiting Artist Series from the following: National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest's Performing Arts Fund, Iowa Arts Council, HNI Industries Charitable Foundation, Geneseo Foundation, Oscar Mayer Division/Kraft Foods, Scott County Regional Authority, Rock Island Community Foundation, Rauch Family Foundation I and the Davenport Noon Optimists Club.

Local car dealerships donate rental vehicles and hotels provide rooms. Performance space is provided by Augustana College, the Bettendorf Events Center, John Deere and Redeemer Lutheran Church. Additional support comes from service fees paid by school districts, Parent Teacher Associations, service clubs and businesses as well as paid subscriptions to VAnguard. GENESIS sponsors tickets for the public concerts.

The Ahn Trio and Manding Jata residencies are supported is supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency) the Iowa Arts Council (a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs), General Mills Foundation, and Land O'Lakes Foundation.

-30-

*We are where you work... We are where you play... We are where you learn...*

[www.quadcityarts.com](http://www.quadcityarts.com)