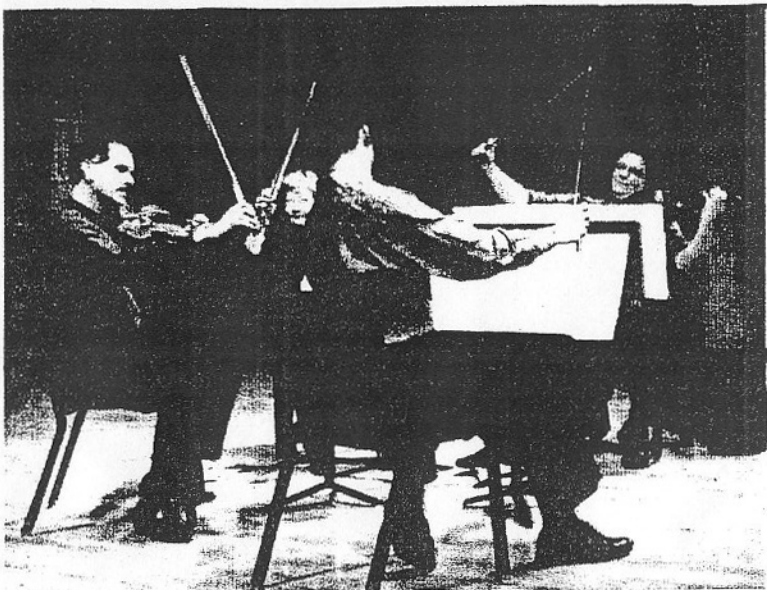


Colorado Chamber Players perform diverse works in various rooms



Colorado Chamber Players bring music to the feast.

by **Martin McGovern**

Chamber music has been alive and well all across Denver for over a decade. Thanks in large part to the very accomplished and very busy Colorado Chamber Players. Founded in 1993, CCP is dedicated to bringing to the city's neighborhoods (it characterizes itself as a "Moveable Feast") both classic programs composed for the intimate environs of a "chamber," or lovely room, and chamber compositions originated out of the "beaten path"—work by Holocaust composers, Latino composers, women composers, and composers blacklisted during the McCarthy years.

In North Denver, Colorado Chamber Players performs an annual concert each

April for The Gardens at St. Elizabeth's Senior Center, and it has shared its bounty with North High School students.

On January 29th, CCP performs at Highland's Garden Café (on 32nd, of course, between Osceola and Perry). One of Colorado Chamber Players' citywide contributions to Mozart's 250th Birthday Celebration, the performance features two of the Master's compositions for strings, the "Dissonant" Quartet in C major, K. 465 and the Viola Quintet no. 6 in Eb Major, K. 614 (5:30 p.m.; \$15 for concert, wine and Highland's Garden Café apps; for info: 303-458-5920, or carolpsk@comcast.net).

The "players" in Colorado Chamber Players are certainly no fly-by-nighters. Right on the heels of two founding mem-

bers' marriage (they met at the University of Indiana), Artistic Director and violist Barbara Hamilton and Paul Primus—Principal Second Violin with the Colorado Symphony—created the CCP as a string trio, with Dennis Parker, in '93 (Parker is no longer with the group). And they brought with them résumés chock-full of enviable experience. Hamilton received the D.M.A. from Yale School of Music in 1992 and while living in Spain played with the acclaimed Cuarteto Martin y Soler, performing on numerous occasions for the Royal Family of Spain, touring Europe and Mexico and premiering in Valencia Penderecki's Viola Concerto, conducted by Penderecki himself. In the 1990's, she toured Europe with the Orquesta Ciudad de Barcelona, the NY Virtuosi and the American Sinfonietta, and in August 2004, Barbara traveled to Beijing, China, to participate in the 1st International Summer Music Academy.

Paul Primus received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and in addition to being Principal Second Violin with CSO he has worked as the orchestra's Concertmaster. With the Chicago Ensemble for two seasons, Primus is also a member of the Lozano Quartet, is on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival and has toured Europe with the American Sinfonietta. His major teachers including Daniel Majeski, Laurence Shapiro and Leonard Sorkin, Paul has recorded for the Centaur, RCA Victor and Raccoon Hollar labels. CCP released its first CD, "Uplifting Discoveries from a Generation Lost" on Centaur in 1997.

The group's other members—Kenneth Harper (Double Bass), Katherine Knight (Cello), Daniel Knopf (Bassoon), Lynne Abbey-Lee (Harp), Daniel Silver (Clarinet), Julie Thornton (Flute/piccolo) and David

Waldman (Violin)—don similarly impressive pedigrees. As do their guest artists: Jeanne Chin (Viola), Andrew Cooperstock (Piano), Masakazu Ito (Guitar), Nanette Shannon (Piano) and Kate Light (Poet/Narrator). Of a fully committed performance in 1995, the late Denver Post music reviewer Jeff Bradley wrote that the "chamber group excels in heartfelt concert. . . I'm not sure which was more impressive—the music or the motivation of the performers."

Guest Artist Kate Light's role in the Chamber Players is a case in point of the group's intellectual and artistic adventurousness. The weekend before CCP's performance at Highland's Garden, the group will celebrate Mozart's 250th with a slick twist. Playing the same works, it makes the fine tie in to master scientist Albert Einstein, whose rigorous theory-making was buttressed, and aided when he ran into knots and problems along the way, by his own violin playing and by his admiration for Mozart. In the Chamber Players "Einstein's Mozart" program, poet Kate Light will add narration from the scientist's thoughts and meditations—on music and otherwise—to enrich our ideas of each of the two "artists" contribution to life as we know it and live it. A professional violinist in New York City, Light is the author two collections of poetry, *The Laws of Falling Bodies* and *Open Slowly*; she has had work appearing in *The Paris Review*, *Hudson Review* and *Washington Post Book World*, and it has been featured on Garrison Keillor's "Writer's Almanac." "Einstein's Mozart" will perform Friday, January 20th, 2006, 2:30 p.m., Longmont Senior Center,