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Other New Endowment Fund Contributors are Anonymous; Doug and Kathleen Barrett; the Lackner Family Endowment Fund; Beverly Ledbetter; Patti Nemeth and James McCracken; the Ordogne Family; In Memory of Adam Burke Ritchie, Jr.; and Patricia and Wolfgang Vogt.

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For donors prior to September 2017, see pp. 33 & 35 of the Program Book.



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# The Placitas Artists Series

**February 25, 2018 at 3 p.m.**

**Sponsored by**

**Sally and John Curro**

**Shirley and Robert Ericson**

## Visual Artists

**Peter Böhrringer** says, “There is no journey, road, trail, location too far, or weather conditions too adverse for me not to follow the call and photograph the American Southwest.” Böhrringer believes the mood and atmosphere in the twilight hours are pure religion. The essence of a good landscape shot comes down to exact composition, timing, and light. Applying oneself closely to these fleeting elements is the essential component of any landscape photograph.

**Jo Anne Fredrikson** has a passion for quilting. It has expanded into an art form across the world with many new dimensions. Fredrikson enjoys learning new techniques for working with stunning fabrics, textures, threads, and embellishments. She says, “My desire is to create quilted pieces that can tell a story and surprise even me.” Fredrikson’s quilts have been juried into local and national shows and are part of private collections.

**Jane Fritz** says, “My work focuses on wilderness landscapes and wildflowers to share my passion for the beauty of the earth. My hope is that my work will help foster an appreciation for wilderness and nature that encourages people to work toward preservation of the ecosystems that sustain us all.” Fritz is an award-winning artist who became hooked on watercolors while traveling and painting in over 20 countries.

**Geri Verble**, a Placitas jewelry design artist, specializes in tribal and ethnic jewelry. Verble developed a passion for collecting ethnic beads and pendants while traveling with the Peace Corps. Verble says, “I begin my design by choosing a bead or pendant that I have collected from around the world. Many of these treasures come from third world countries as well as co-ops that work with some of the world’s poorest people. Each ancient bead and ethnic ornament tells a story and has a spiritual energy that flows through it. That energy guides me as I design.”

## Program Notes

The Merling Piano Trio presents a program of Brahms, Mozart, and Piazzolla today that may, at first glance, seem incongruous. How do these pieces all fit together?

It is the music of the people! Thus it aligns with our recent programs of Greek folk songs, Latin rhythms, and tango. Today we have Hungarian folk songs and dances (1869 and 1880), Mozart in typical financial straits (1788), and Piazzolla (1965-1970) composing tango originating in the streets of Buenos Aires. It is uplifting, often created in the context of ethnic dance traditions, and evocative of happiness, memories of sad tales, and a recognition of the perseverance of various groups in their struggles.

Fun! This is not a word many contemporaries used to describe **Johannes Brahms**. They were strongly critical of Brahms' seemingly conservative ways. But he was no "Ol' Fogey!" His *Hungarian Dances*, arrangements of pre-existing folk melodies, started out as party pieces, a way to relax between his rigorous piano performances – although he wrote them for four hands!! They were an immediate commercial success, frequently arranged for various instrumentations, and provided Brahms financial security in his lifetime. These pieces will surprise you; a melancholy beginning can quickly convert to explosive energetic dance, each mood reflecting aspects of Hungarian (Roma/Gypsy) music.

**Wolfgang Mozart** was no stranger to financial worries. During 1788 he and Constanze faced the death of their six-month old daughter, were forced to move outside of the city center to a less expensive apartment, and failed to revive *Don Giovanni* in Vienna – which was a very expensive failure. His letters of this time began with requests for funds from his friends and Masonic brothers and followed with excitement about his music. This did not dissuade him from being creative. Although each movement of this trio begins with the piano, Mozart gives the strings more substantial material and equal footing, which was rare in its time. Mozart used the key of E Major in some of his operas to reflect unusual images, but he rarely used it in his trios, so this was a "harmonic adventure" for him and the musicians.

**Ástor Piazzolla** is the internationally known creator of the "New Tango." He revolutionized the traditional tango by introducing elements of classical music and jazz, using the tango milonga rhythm as an essential part of his style. During our exposure to the History of Tango last month, we enjoyed the development of tango and Piazzolla's influence in creating the widespread popularity of tango throughout the Western world.

Program notes by Paul Ordogne, Placitas Artists Series board member.

Visit [www.placitasartistsseries.org](http://www.placitasartistsseries.org) for information about this and future performances.

## THE MERLING TRIO Susan Wiersma Uchimura, Piano Bruce Uchimura, Cello Renata Artman Knific, Violin

*Program will be selected from the following:*

### Johannes Brahms (1822-1897)

#### *Hungarian Dances (Herman arrangement)*

*Hungarian Dance No. 13* (1880)

*Hungarian Dance No. 18* (1880)

*Hungarian Dance No. 6* (1869)

*Hungarian Dance No. 15* (1880)

*Hungarian Dance No. 17* (1880)

*Hungarian Dance No. 5* (1869)

### Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)

*Piano Trio in E Major, K542* (1788)

*Allegro*

*Andante grazioso*

*Allegro*

\*\*\*\*\* *INTERMISSION* \*\*\*\*\*

### Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

#### *Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas (The Four Seasons)*

*Otoño Porteño (Buenos Aires Autumn)* (1969)

*Invierno Porteño (Buenos Aires Winter)* (1970)

*Primavera Porteño (Buenos Aires Spring)* (1970)

*Verano Porteño (Buenos Aires Summer)* (1965)

**Selections from the Merling Trio's "Great American Songbook" project, arrangements by Gene Knific:**

*Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered* – Rodgers and Hart

*Days of Wine and Roses* – Henry Mancini

*Moon River* – Henry Mancini

*Somewhere Over the Rainbow* – Harold Arlen