



June 10, 2011

## Chamber music coming to 3R

By Bill Haxton

Surprisingly, tiny Three Rivers has rapidly emerged as a potent center for classical chamber music in California. Even at this early stage, Three Rivers rivals its larger neighbors in the Valley and on the coast with the Three Rivers Performing Arts Institute's Winter Concert Series of six events and this summer's Center Stage Strings Music Camp and Festival presenting six concerts and two master classes over two weeks from June 13 to 26.

Center Stage Strings is the creation of national prize-winning violinist Danielle Belen. Mirroring similar events in Aspen, Vail, and New York, the camp focuses on national and international music prodigies, in this case violinists, violists, and cellists. In fact, many Center Stage Strings students go directly to Aspen from Three Rivers.

From the very beginning, Danielle, who teaches violin at the prestigious Colburn School of Music, has reached for the top. Now in Center Stage Strings's second year she has brought together a stellar group of musical paragons who during the day teach at the Music Camp and in the evening will perform.

Some very fine internationally acclaimed musicians will perform as soloists, including violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn, whose Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius inspired the award-winning 1998 film *The Red Violin*. Pitcairn is widely known for the beauty and grace of her violin sound. As one writer put it, she employs her impressive talent and extraordinary instrument to delve beneath the notes to reveal the inner music within.

British viola superstar Sarah Sutton will also teach and perform at this year's camp. Sarah has given a command performance for Pope John Paul II and has also performed for Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth II, Diana Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and the Duchess of Kent.

Also performing is cellist David Requiro whose name is often mentioned in that same sentence with Yo-Yo Ma. He has won more competitive prizes than can be mentioned here. David's playing produces an immensely evocative string tone, a nimble and resonant sound that seems to leap from the instrument. A reviewer in a major newspaper said of him, "Most musical performers play upon an instrument. But, there are some rare ones who merge into a symbiotic relationship with their instruments that make us think of them as one. And, that is Requiro. Look for him to be a musical leader of the future."

Danielle Belen will also perform, as well as Juilliard-trained pianist Jennie Jung, the inimitable cellist Diego Miralles, and San Francisco Opera violinist Elbert Tsai. Together, this constellation of inspired musical excellence will present some of the most memorable and uplifting music ever written.

Among the compositions presented at this year's Summer Festival will be Brahms' heartfelt and passionate Piano Quartet in G Minor, Richard Strauss' pivotal Sonata for Violin and Piano in E Flat, Chopin's memorable Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Dinicu's mesmerizing Hora Stacatto, Prokofiev's Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major and much more. Additionally, there are two free student concerts.

*Tickets for the four professional concerts are \$12 and are available online at [www.CenterStageStrings.com](http://www.CenterStageStrings.com) or at Chumps Video. Series tickets for all four concert series may be purchased for \$40.*