

music of the Spheres



Jeannę Johnson,
Baroque violin

Joanna Blendulf,
Baroque cello & viola da gamba

Yuko Tanaka,
harpsichord & fortepiano

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Music of the Spheres, formed in 2000, has performed across the United States and abroad, including concerts on the 2002 Bloomington and Berkeley Early Music Festivals, and the 2005 San Francisco Early Music Society Series. The group made its European debut at the 2006 Tage Alter Musik Festival in Regensburg, Germany, and was featured in the European chamber music magazine Ensemble. In 2007, they performed on The Frick Collection Series, with a New York Times review and a WNYC broadcast of their concert and interview. Music of the Spheres has been broadcast on "Harmonia" and "Performance Today," and their recordings can be found on the Magnatune label, iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby, Zune, Napster and most Internet music sites. Music of the Spheres believes that music exists to captivate the imagination, stir memories, and evoke intensely personal emotions in both listener and performer alike, and they desire to bring a wider audience to classical music through performances which focus on these aspects. They strive to create lively, fun and informative performances, and are available for concerts, series, festivals, recordings and advanced master classes.

"Long before classical music was stodgy, it was sometimes dangerous, unpredictable and bizarre... Music of the Spheres conjured up a little of that old magic... delivered with gusto and the fluency of true improvisers."
--Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle

"Both technically and musically admirable violin-playing... brilliant... a queen of coloratura!"
--Mittelbayerische Zeitung

"great ornamental flourishes"
--Bernard Holland, New York Times

"stunningly effusive"
--Bloomington Herald-Times

JEANNE JOHNSON's performances on series, tours, festivals and recordings in the United States and abroad have been hailed as "stunningly effusive," and "delivered with gusto," resulting in National Public Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and local broadcasts. A winner of an Early Music America Professional Development Award in 2002, Jeanne has been featured on several "Harmonia" and "Performance Today" broadcasts, and gave a recital on the Yale University Collection of Musical Instruments series in 2005. She has been concertmaster for the Washington Bach Consort, and has toured and performed with many groups including Chatham Baroque, Tafelmusik, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Portland Baroque, Brandywine Baroque, Musica nel Chiostro in Tuscany, Bloomington Baroque, the Magnolia Baroque Festival, the Carmel Bach Festival, and the Atlanta Symphony. On the other end of the spectrum, Jeanne has toured with Vince Gill and Amy Grant, and has performed and recorded with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, Turtle Island String Quartet and guitarist John Jorgenson, spanning styles from country to the gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt. Jeanne served on the faculty of Clayton State University and has maintained a large private teaching studio for twenty years. She has also worked as a radio host for WABE, Atlanta's classical and NPR station. Jeanne studied with James Buswell and Stanley Ritchie, receiving her bachelor's degree in performance with honors from Indiana University and her master's degree with distinction in performance and academics from New England Conservatory.

JOANNA BLENDULF has performed as soloist and continuo player in leading period instrument ensembles throughout the United States. Ms Blendulf holds performance degrees with honors from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Indiana University, where she studied with Stanley Ritchie, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi and Alan Harris. In 1998, she was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate for her accomplishments on baroque cello from Indiana University. Joanna performs with the Portland and Seattle Baroque Orchestras, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, Bach Collegium San Diego and has been a guest artist of Early Music Vancouver in British Columbia. Ms. Blendulf is also an active chamber musician, performing and touring internationally with the Cascade Consort, Catacoustic Consort, Ensemble Mirable and Wildcat Viols. Joanna's summer engagements have included performances at the Bloomington, Boston and Berkeley Early Music Festivals, the Aspen and Ojai Music Festivals as well as the Carmel and Oregon Bach Festivals. Ms. Blendulf currently resides in Eugene, Oregon where she is sought after as a teacher and chamber music coach.

YUKO TANAKA, a native of Tokyo, Japan, is active as a harpsichord soloist and ensemble player. She is a soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival and has performed at the Tage Alter Musik Rengensburg (Germany), Istanbul International Music Festival, Berkeley Festival and Exhibition, Bloomington Early Music Festival, and in broadcast events for National Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. She performs with numerous ensembles including Music of the Spheres, Musica Pacifica, San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque Chambers Players, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, and the The Women's Philharmonic. Yuko has given master classes and lectures at universities, including San Jose State University and Stetson University (DeLand, Florida). Yuko received a doctorate in early music from Stanford University and has studied with Margaret Fabrizio at Stanford University, Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam, and Ketil Haugsand in Oslo, Norway. She has recorded for Koch International and Delos International.