

Rawlins Piano Trio

Biography

Since its founding in 1987, the Rawlins Piano Trio has distinguished itself as a dynamic group of performers, teachers and scholars. Touring regularly throughout the United States and abroad—most recently in Taiwan and Panama—the artists combine school visits and master classes with performances in a variety of concert venues. Their repertoire is equally diverse, ranging from the standard repertoire to new and undiscovered works deserving to be brought into the limelight. Owing to its expertise as a preeminent interpreter of American music, the ensemble has recorded four CDs of these works on the Albany Records label. Reviewer J. Scott Morrison declared *American Romance*, “A real find!” The fourth disc, *American Discoveries*--released in July 2009--is “...another winner from the Rawlins Trio...they continue their work of bringing us American composers' music that is worth hearing...Their playing is artful, suave and pleasing.” (Morrison) *American Discoveries* presents the Trio's first commissioned composition--*Volvic Maritim* by New York based composer, Daniel Bernard Roumain. A number of new works will be premiered by the Trio in the following seasons. The members of the Trio are Eunho Kim, violin, Marie-Elaine Gagnon, cello and Susan Keith Gray, piano, all of whom are on the faculty of The University of South Dakota Department of Music. The ensemble is named in honor of Marjorie Rawlins and the late Robert Rawlins, its principal benefactors and graduates of The University of South Dakota in the 1940's,

Artist Biographies

Originally from Seoul, South Korea, **Eunho Kim** earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance from the Seoul National University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), University of Cincinnati, where she also earned a Master of Music degree in Music Theory. She primarily studied violin with Sunshae Kim and Piotr Milewski; chamber music with Peter Oundjian, Lee Fiser, and the Tokyo String Quartet; and orchestral music with Constantine Kiradjieff (Former principal, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra) and Anna Vayman (Former concertmaster, Kirov Orchestra). As a devoted orchestra player, she started her professional career in orchestra playing when she was still a student in Cincinnati, playing in the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Sorg Opera Orchestra, and Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. Dr. Kim has appeared in orchestra festivals under the direction of Maestros Myung-hun Chung, Michael-Tilson Thomas, Charles Dutoit, and was chosen to be the only student principal (Vn II) at Pacific Music Festival (2000) to play along with Wiener Philharmoniker's Concertmaster and Principals. As an active chamber player, she was a prize-winner in the CCM Chamber Competition in 2001 and has given numerous chamber recitals in Korea, Japan, and the U.S. She also played in the Morningside College (Sioux City, IA) faculty piano trio in 2007-08. Dr. Kim's other previous engagements include the Associate Concertmaster of the South Dakota Symphony, Guest Concertmaster of Northern Iowa Symphony, and teaching at Morningside College, Northwestern College, and Dordt College. She has served as the Concertmaster of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra since 2005, and joined the faculty of the University of the South Dakota in 2009.

Marie-Elaine Gagnon was admitted to the program for gifted children at the Conservatoire de Musique de Chicoutimi. She earned a Superior Diploma I from the Conservatoire de Montreal and a Superior Diploma II from the Conservatoire de Quebec. Gagnon has a Master's degree from Florida International University in the studio of Keith Robinson of the Miami String Quartet, and holds a DMA from University of Miami and where she was the assistant of Ross Harbaugh. Gagnon has won numerous music competitions in Canada. She has performed with the Orchestre Symphonique du Saguenay Lac-St-Jean and in Québec City with the orchestra of the Conservatory. In 2000, she won a recital "Jeunes Artistes" broadcasted by Radio-Canada. She has performed in many music festivals, including Le festival du Domaine Forget, The Penderecki String Quartet Chamber Workshop, Orford Center and The National Youth Orchestra of Canada. In May 2002, she was the first cellist to win a scholarship from the D. Robinson Foundation for study at the Aspen Music Festival. She has studied with many well known cellists such as Leslie Snider (Quebec), Desmond Hoebig (Cleveland), Philippe Muller (Paris), Roland Pidoux (Trio Pasquier), Paul Watkins (London) and David Ellis (Alcan String Quartet). She was a member of the Ibis Camerata from 2002 to 2006, based in Miami. They performed in several countries such as Russia, at the White Nights Festival, Serbia and Switzerland. In 2006, their first recording, *Glisten*, was released under the Albany Records label. Gagnon taught in the youth program at the Université de Montréal in Canada and at Barry University in North Miami prior to joining the faculty and the Rawlins Piano Trio at the University of South Dakota.

Susan Keith Gray is in demand as pianist, teacher, adjudicator and clinician. Awards include prizes in the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Competition, and solo appearances with the Dakota Chamber, Spartanburg, Savannah, Huron, Cherokee, and the University of South Dakota orchestras. Additional recognition as a collaborative pianist has led to recital performances with a number of artists including violinist Scott St. John, cellist Wendy Warner, flutists Leone Buyse and Torkil Bye, clarinetists Richard Hawkins and Theodore Oien and singers Carla Connors, Louis Otey, Scott Piper, Earl Coleman, Charsie Randolph Sawyer, Patricia Prunty. She has served on the Instrumental Accompanying Faculty at the Music Academy of the West and as staff accompanist for national competitions. In the summers, she is Director of the Collaborative Piano Program of Camp Opera, founded and directed by vocalist Scott Piper. Gray holds degrees in Piano Performance from Converse College and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Chamber Music and Accompanying from The University of Michigan. As a member of the Kobayashi/Gray Duo (violin/piano), she has toured in South America and the West Indies as a United States Artistic Ambassador and in Norway, South Africa and throughout the United States. Since 1993, the Duo has actively performed, premiered, edited and lectured about the music of 19th-21st century women composers, leading to publications and two CD recordings of these works. Other recordings include songs of African-American composers. Gray joined The University of South Dakota faculty and the Rawlins Piano Trio in 1995. In 2005, she was awarded the prestigious Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching given annually by the university.