

# Susan De Kam

## Organist

Sunday, February 26, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.



Dr. Susan De Kam is originally from Caledonia, Michigan. She completed her undergraduate studies in 2002 with a major in piano, studying under Joan Conway, at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. It was in her freshman year there that she began studying organ as a secondary instrument with Huw Lewis, but it soon became her principal interest. In 2004, Susan earned her Master of Music degree from The University of Michigan. She studied organ with the late, legendary Robert Glasgow, piano with Louis Nagel, and harpsichord with Edward Parmentier.

As an organist and pianist, Susan has become a well-rounded musician not only through her solo concertizing on both instruments, but also as an accompanist, chamber musician, and teacher. In addition to being the recipient of numerous prizes and awards for her performances on piano and organ, she has been a prizewinner in the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Organ Competition (2002), the Miami International Organ Competition (2006), the Bank District Organ Competition (2009) held in London, and the National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP) (2010). She also was a semi-finalist in the Bach/Liszt International Organ Competition, held in Weimar, Germany (2008).

Susan recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance at the University of Michigan where she studied with James Kibbie. She serves as Artist-in-Residence at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Dallas and maintains a private organ, piano, and harpsichord studio.



Anita Miller Rieder is a unique flutist, expert at both modern and historical flutes. She plays with Ars Anitigua, a period instrument chamber ensemble, and is featured on "A Vivaldi Concert" on the Cedille label.

An active musician, cellist Jill Kaeding is known for her versatility in all mediums of music. As the cellist of the West End String Quartet, she travels and performs with Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, an inspiring blend of blues harmonica, piano, string quartet and percussion. Jill is also a member of the chamber group, Trio Elan (flute, cello and violin).



Faye Seeman, principal harpist of both the Chicago Sinfonietta and Joffrey Ballet Orchestras, is adjunct professor at Wheaton College and Northern Illinois University. During the summer, Faye can be found teaching at the Birch Creek Music Festival in Door County, Wisconsin, the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Pacific Harp Institute in Seattle, Washington.

# The Kithara Trio

Sunday, April 29, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

Since 1990, the Kithara Trio, named for the Greek word "harp," has captivated audiences with delightful music for flute, cello and harp. These gifted musicians have performed throughout the Midwest with appearances as guest artists at the Community Concert Series, the Lyric Opera of Chicago Center for Performing Arts, and the Union League of Women, to name a few. With soprano Linda Dayantis-Straub, the trio premiered the commissioned work "Sweet Music's Power," written for them by famed London composer and conductor, Sir Jonathan Willcocks, at the Green Lake Music Festival in Wisconsin. The Kithara Trios' most noteworthy accomplishment has been regular appearances on WTTW's weekly television production of "30 Good Minutes." The trio has arranged an extensive collection of music for the group, and produced two CDs to their credit, "Beau Soir, an evening of French chamber music," and "Kithara Wonderland," holiday favorites arranged by harpist/composer Ken Gist. Many printed arrangements from their CDs can be purchased through Lyon and Healy West.

# The Thiel Choir

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.



Since its founding in 1953 by Dr. Marlowe W. Johnson, the Thiel Choir has gained a reputation of excellence among college choirs in the United States. The choir is composed of approximately 40 students from all academic fields. Through the years the Thiel Choir has presented concerts in the mid-western, eastern and southern regions of the United States and Canada. The Thiel Choir has also performed on nine European tours, most recently in Sweden, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Russia and Finland (May 2004) and a recent tour to Austria and northern Italy (May 2008).

Dr. Michael R. Bray joined Thiel College in 1996 as the Director of Choral Activities and became the fifth conductor in the history of the choir. In addition to overseeing the work of the Thiel Choir, the Chamber Singers and the Thiel College Handbell Ringers, his classroom responsibilities include private instruction in voice, music theory, music history and conducting.

Dr. Bray has held teaching positions in Georgia, Minnesota and Colorado; and church positions in Georgia, Arizona and Pennsylvania. A native of South Dakota, Bray holds a B.A. in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and a M.M. and D.M.A. in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he studied with Maurice Skones and Kenneth Jennings, prominent Lutheran choral conductors.

The forty voice Thiel Choir will perform a variety of sacred a cappella works including pieces by Lutheran composers, F. M. Christiansen and Robert Wetzler, as well as arrangements of spirituals, folk songs, hymns and Native American repertoire.

The Bethany Arts Series is made possible by the financial support of sponsors and by free-will offerings from those in attendance at our concerts. We invite you to become one of our sponsors.

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**Our 10th Anniversary Season**  
**2011 - 2012**



**The Clarence & Agnes  
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The Organ at Bethany was built by the Halbert Gober Organ Builders of Elora, Ontario, Canada in 2002. It is a classical mechanical action organ containing 21 stops and 26 ranks in two manuals. "The sounds this organ can make under the hands of a good performer are remarkable."

*David Schrader*

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**The Visual Arts**  
**at Bethany**

The Visual Arts are prominently exhibited at Bethany in frequent displays of significant collectors scheduled throughout the year. Normally these exhibits are designed to coincide with the concert schedule. All artistic mediums have been showcased, including oil, watercolor, photography, textiles, paper cutting, and sculpture. Please look forward to some excellent exhibits this season.

**In Memory of  
 Marcene Linstrom**



We were deeply saddened by the loss of Bethany Arts Series committee member, Marcene Linstrom, who passed to her heavenly home on January 24, 2011. We dedicate this 10th anniversary season in her memory. Marcene was a founding member of the Arts Series. Utilizing her background in orchestra management and fund raising, she was very instrumental in making the Bethany Arts Series the vibrant concert series that it is today. Her life was dedicated to her God, family, and the arts. For her inspiration and commitment to those ideals, we are forever grateful.

**Wedded Brass**

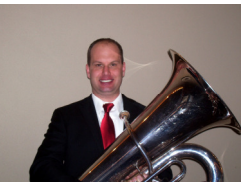
Sunday, November 27, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.

Married duo, Stephanie and Dr. Christopher Blaha, will present a concert of brass music for Horn and Tuba.



Stephanie is Assistant Principal Horn of the Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra in Chicago and Assistant Principal Horn of the Winston-Salem (NC) Symphony. She held the position of Fourth Horn with the Rochester (NY) Philharmonic Orchestra from 2005-2009. Stephanie has also performed with the Charlotte Symphony, Lyric Opera of Chicago, North Carolina Symphony, Opera Carolina, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra and the Charleston (SC) Symphony.

Dr. Blaha is the Assistant Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He holds his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in tuba performance from the University of Michigan. He was Principal Tuba of the Charleston (SC) Symphony from 2004-2008 and has performed with the Detroit Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and the Toledo, Columbus, Ann Arbor and Winston-Salem Symphonies.



They will be accompanied by Patrick Godon, an accomplished Chicago musician who is a member of the Chicago Symphony's MusicNOW ensemble. He is also Artistic Director of the International Chamber Artists and Director of Music at Saint Gregory the Great Church in Chicago.