

An Evening of Mellow Music Saturday, January 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Gary Digman and Renata Yardumian, known professionally as Skyflower, will entertain with an evening of piano, guitar, lute, and viola da gamba music in the Coleman Auditorium. The duo has explored a musical relationship that began almost three years ago and continues to deepen while discovering the rich textures that result from the seldom heard combination of piano and viola da gamba, or piano and guitar.

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Gary attended Loras College and the University of Iowa. Playing jazz and classical guitar and double bass, Gary purchased a bass viola da gamba from the luthier Lyn Elder in 2000, after hearing Jordi Savall's playing in the French film, *Tous les Matins du Monde* (*All the Mornings of the World*). He was captivated by the sound, and knew he had to have one of these Renaissance era string instruments. This, together with the acquisition of a 10-course lute, also made by Lyn Elder, has allowed Gary to continue a life-long interest in early music. He has studied guitar with John Mavreas in Chicago, Fred Draper and Bill Pasquale in Davenport, Iowa, and Joseph Bacon in San Francisco. He studied viola da gamba with John Dornenburg, and lute with Ed Martin.

Renata was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she started her piano studies with her father, the composer, Richard Yardumian. While attending Temple University as a Theory/Composition major, she was a student of Eleanor Sokolof and pianist Susan Starr. In 1997, Miss Yardumian relocated to Sonoma County to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Music at Sonoma State University. She is currently a graduate student in piano performance at Sacramento State University.

The program for this concert will include the "Concerto for Guitar and Small Orchestra" by Heitor Villa-Lobos (reduced for guitar and piano by the composer), works by Faure, Honegger, and Ortiz arranged for viola da gamba and piano by Skyflower. Works by Tobias Hume (1603), and Carl Friedrich Abel for solo bass viola da gamba, along with compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach, Alexander Scriabin, and Richard Yardumian. Pieces by Claude Debussy for solo piano, and Sylvius Leopold Weiss for baroque lute will complete the evening.



Gualala Arts Group Piano Recital Sunday, January 29th at 3:00 p.m.

Due to requests for a repeat performance, the members of the Gualala Arts Piano Group will give a recital in the Coleman Auditorium on the Yamaha Concert Grand piano. This group, in existence for almost twenty years, has a range of members from those who are just learning to play the piano, to expert musicians, and even professional artists. This recital will be their fourth performance.

The program will be a classical concert with compositions by George Frideric Handel, Ludwig von Beethoven, Anton Dvorak, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms, and Johann Sebastian Bach. The grand finale will be a work for six hands by Bach.

The recitalists for this presentation are Sonya Halley and Sally Kopac (in photo), Chuck Davis, Judy Biehler, Ann Harriman, Paula Osborne, Betty Covington, Steve Kaplan, and Irena Morgan.

The proceeds from the donations received at the door go to a fund to upgrade the lighting in the Arts Center.

The Piano Group regularly meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 in members' homes, or if a piano is not available, they gather at the Del Mar Center on The Sea Ranch, or the Gualala Arts Center. Members wishing to share their newest accomplishments play a short piece, or just a movement from a sonata so everyone who wants to perform gets a chance. The afternoon is filled with applause, compliments, and encouragement – the group is strong on nurturing and enjoying music. Musicians at any level are welcomed. Members fondly remember the guy who began by playing "Hernando's Hideaway" with two fingers.

The Yamaha Concert Grand piano was a gift from one of the group's members – David Lytle. He always wanted to get a better piano for Gualala Arts, but he died suddenly before he could fulfill his wish. His son, who lives in Prague, decided to donate David's own world class piano to the Arts Center where it constantly amazes everyone who performs on it. The Piano Group's last recital was a memorial to David Lytle.

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

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