

# Trio Sirènes

## Biography 2019

**Trio Sirènes**, comprised of flutist Marcia McHugh, violist Karin Brown and harpist Jacqueline Pollauf, enjoys pushing boundaries and highlighting the diverse sonic possibilities of their wind, string and percussion instruments. With performers drawn from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Trio Sirènes seeks to create innovative programs by presenting standard repertoire, works by contemporary composers, and transcriptions from earlier time periods.

Based in Baltimore, Maryland, the trio performs throughout the East Coast, including regular appearances on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Music by Candlelight Series. Additionally Trio Sirènes has performed in a wide array of venues, including traditional concert series such as the Cosmos Club Chamber Music Series and the Music in the Valley Concert Series, as well as at the experimental venue, The Windup Space. Dedicated to education for youth of all ages, they have had the pleasure of performing for students at the Community College of Baltimore County; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and in special concerts for babies and toddlers on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Music Box Series. Trio Sirènes looks forward to releasing their debut recording and is committed to the highest artistic excellence in their performing.

**Marcia McHugh, flute** became a permanent member of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra after performing with the orchestra during the 2005-2006 Season. Her first month in the orchestra included a European tour under Music Director Yuri Temirkanov. With five concertos performed since joining the orchestra, Ms. McHugh performed *Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2, 4 and 5* all in one night with the BSO. Baltimore Sun music critic Tim Smith commented "There was a consistent warmth to the playing all evening. Solo highlights include the sweet blending of Adkins and flutists Marcia McHugh and Genevieve Briggs in No. 4." As co-Artistic Coordinator of the BSO's Candlelight Music Series at Second Presbyterian Church, she frequently performs chamber music on the series as well. Before joining the BSO, Ms. McHugh was a flutist and soloist with the Omaha Symphony. She was a featured soloist in live radio broadcasts of Leonard Bernstein's *Halil* and J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 4 and 5*.

An active recitalist with a broad repertoire, Ms. McHugh is a champion of new music. She has several world premieres to her credit as well as many performances of major chamber works by Karlheinz Stockhausen, Toru Takemitsu and Morton Feldman, including an April 2016 performance as flutist and sound projectionist in the U.S. premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Klang* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Additionally she performs at the Grand Teton Music Festival and the Mozaic Festival each summer. Ms. McHugh holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory.

**Karin Brown, viola**, received critical acclaim for her “strikingly rich and warm tone” (The Strad) after making her solo recital debut at Carnegie Weill Hall. Ms. Brown is Assistant Principal Violist of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and performs frequently as solo and chamber musician in the Baltimore/Washington D. C. area. She made her Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concerto debut performing the Britten *Double Concerto*, of which The Baltimore Sun noted “Karin Brown sculpted her phrases in a rich, subtly shaded tone.” Her Chicago recital debut took place with live radio broadcast at the Dame Myra Hess series. Ms. Brown has served as juror, Laureate recitalist, and masterclass clinician at the William Primrose International Viola Competition. She serves as faculty at the National Orchestral Institute (NOI).

Ms. Brown has been a prizewinner in the William Primrose International Viola Competition and has been featured in Caramoor’s “Rising Stars” series. While still a student at Juilliard, Ms. Brown was a frequent substitute with the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera, joining each for several international tours. She has performed on numerous major motion picture soundtracks.

Ms. Brown holds degrees from Oberlin and Juilliard, where she studied with Cynthia Phelps, Roland and Almita Vamos, and Lynne Ramsey.

**Jacqueline Pollauf, harp**, has been praised for playing with “*transcendent ability*” (The Sybaritic Singer) and “*glittering beauty*” (Lawrence Budman, critic for the Miami Herald). Past performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall; the Eleventh World Harp Congress in Vancouver, Canada; and the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Ms. Pollauf has performed with a wide variety of ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Post Classical Ensemble, (Washington D.C.), the Scottish Voices (Glasgow, Scotland), the National Gallery of Art New Music Ensemble (Washington D.C.), and the Choir of Clare College (Cambridge, UK).

In 2019, Ms. Pollauf will release an album of harp and cello music entitled *Beau Soir* with cellist Dariusz Skoraczewski. Other recording credits include *Songs and Dreams* for solo harp, featuring Ms. Pollauf's own compositions and transcriptions; *Bouquet*, Ms. Pollauf's debut solo album; and *Music from Three Continents* with the Scottish Voices ensemble of Glasgow, Scotland.

An active composer, Ms. Pollauf has been awarded artist residencies through Wildacres Artist Retreat and the Baltimore County Public Library. Her works are available through a variety of sources, including Vanderbilt Music and Harp Column Music. Two major pedagogical works, *Exercises in Harmonics* and *Pedal Exercises for Harp*, are available through Oakway Studios. Ms. Pollauf is on the faculties of the Baltimore School for the Arts, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory.