



S O U T H W E S T C H A M B E R M U S I C

Grammy Award-winning **Southwest Chamber Music** is Southern California's premier chamber music organization for the past 22 years.

Mission: Our mission is to build musical bridges between cultures. As the voice of *New Classical Music*, we combine the wisdom of tradition with the color of diversity in concerts, recordings, and educational programming which reflects the depth of art music from around the world.

About Chamber Music: Musicians enjoy playing **chamber music** because it combines playing in an ensemble with the chance to be heard as a soloist. With one player per part (unlike orchestras with multiple players for each part), our ensemble contains 14 members (strings, winds, percussion, piano and voice), who perform in various configurations required by the repertory programmed by our Founding Artistic Director Jeff von der Schmidt. Chamber Music also provides the most **flexible and cost-effective** means to bring music to the most number of people.

Activities and Recordings: Community based with an international reputation, we **perform year round** at venues throughout Los Angeles County and internationally for special tours and exchanges. With **two Grammy Awards** and six nominations, our 25 recordings are sold world-wide, available on iTunes, and distributed by Naxos. We have received a **special recording award** from ASCAP/CMA for a "landmark in the recording of American contemporary music" for our 12 CD box set "*Composers Portrait Series.*"

Repertory: We believe that **music should not have any borders or boundaries**. Our repertory reflects this belief by presenting music from the Baroque era through world premieres. Encouraging new creativity is best reflected by commissioning new works, which is reflected in our commitment to over 30 world premiere compositions as well as numerous "second premieres" of newer works from around the world. We also provide a voice to communities that are under-represented in classical music, regularly programming music by women as well as composers from the Asian, African and Latino communities.

Education: Our educational activities are devoted to **building audiences for the future**. The *Mentorship Program* provides disadvantaged music students with extra skills to help them succeed and compete for college music scholarships. *Project Muse* brings diverse programs into schools, often providing the only opportunity for many students to receive exposure to art music. *Music Unwrapped* Free Family concerts bring our programs into community venues for students of all ages. Collaborations with numerous schools, colleges and other arts organizations have provided the impetus for special area-wide festivals.

Best practices in arts administration have resulted in 22 years of balanced budgets and the highest rankings possible from government granting organizations. An award from the James Irvine Foundation's *Fund for Leadership Advancement* recognized Founding Executive Director Jan Karlin for her leadership, and she has been featured in articles in *Business Week* and *Chamber Music Magazine*.

International activities have taken the ensemble to Europe, Asia, Mexico and national venues including the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and Cooper Union in New York City. The first Americans to perform at Vienna's Arnold Schoenberg Center, the ensemble also performed five concerts at UNAM in Mexico City, at the 2006 World Culture Expo in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and at the Hanoi Opera House in Vietnam. We represented the U.S. in 2009 at Mexico's Guadalajara FIL Arts Festival. The ensemble is continuing its relationship with Vietnam through the 2010 *Ascending Dragon Music Festival and Cultural Exchange*, sponsored in part by a highly competitive grant from the U.S. State Department. More details about all of these activities can be found on our website **www.swmusic.org**.