



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
College of Visual & Performing Arts

## School of Music™

### Renee Skerik

viola

Susan Wass, piano

assited by  
David Shea, clarinet

### Faculty Recital

Tuesday, April 7, 2009  
Hemmle Recital Hall  
Lubbock, TX  
7:00 p.m.

### Program

Sonata No.3 in G minor .....Johann Sebastian Bach  
for viola and harpsichord, BWV 1029 (1685-1750)  
I. Vivace  
II. Adagio  
III. Allegro

Prelude, Allegro, and Pastorale for clarinet and viola .....Rebecca Clarke  
(1886-1979)

The Darker Light for Viola and Piano (2009).....Peter Fischer  
*(Dedicated to Renee Skerik)*

### INTERMISSION

Mountain Song (2007) for viola and piano .....Dominic Dousa

Sonata No.1 for Viola and Piano, Op.240.....Darius Milhaud  
(1892-1974)  
I. Entree  
II. Francaise  
III. Air  
IV. Final

## Program Notes

**Mountain Song** was written in 2007 when spending a day in the Rocky Mountains in the Denver, Colorado area. With its crisp air, brilliant sun shining on a snow-covered landscape, and majestic 14000-foot peaks in the surrounding areas, this setting provided the inspiration and moods of that spring day in the mountains which I wish to convey in "Mountain Song."

–Dominic Dousa

**The Darker Light** is an aria from my opera *O D'Amarti O Morire*. The music was re-composed to create this arrangement for viola and piano. There is an introduction that extends into the first melodic area that remains intact from the vocal work. The main body of the piece follows and here I elaborate on the original melody and create a rhythmic drive in the piano accompaniment. The work is triadic with added pitches, often 2nds and 6ths. Since it is based on the story of Don Carlo Gesualdo, the harmonic successions tend toward mediant relationships and the melodic language is modal.

–Peter Fischer

## About the artists...

**Renee Skerik**, professor of viola at Texas Tech University and violist of the Botticelli String Quartet since 2004, has led an active and varied career. With the Botticelli String Quartet, she toured throughout the United States, Europe, and Brazil. They were as featured performers at the 33rd International Viola Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland and most recently presented a concert of Teresa LaVelle's compositions in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. In May 2006 Renee taught and performed at the "Cuerdes de Enlace" festival in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Renee performed for ten years as violist of the Artaria String Quartet, winners of the 2004-2005 McKnight Foundation Award for Performing Artists. She served on the faculty of the MacPhail Center for the Arts, Carleton College, The Quartet Program at S.U.N.Y. Fredonia, and was Artist/Teacher for two summers at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. She is a four-time recipient of the prestigious Orchestral Fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival, and has performed in the Spoleto, New Mexico, and National Repertory Orchestras. Her chamber music collaborations include performances with Janos Starker, Raphael Hillyer, Arnold Steinhardt and Charles Castleman. Renee holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Eastman School of Music.

Ushers are provided through the courtesy of Mu Phi Epsilon, Music Fraternity.