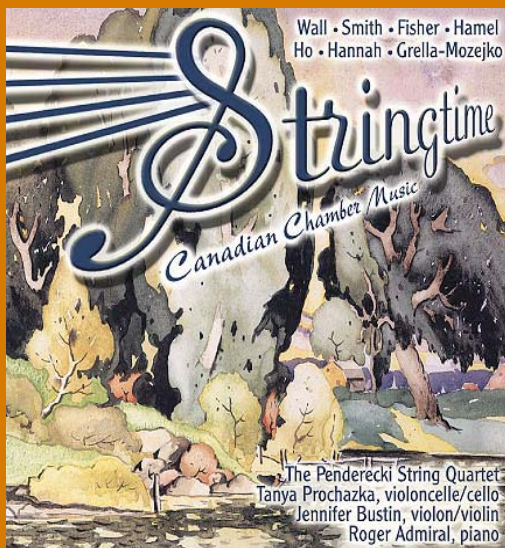


# The SOUND MESSENGER

An Electronic Newsletter of the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society  
Volume I No. 2, February 2001

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STRINGTIME (Canadian Chamber Music). ECLECTRA ECCD 2050

*Stringtime* is more than another technically skilled CD - it's sonically lovely, the performances are energetic and accomplished, and the compositions are beautifully balanced in time and style.

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

Kalvos & Damian's New Music Bazaar

WGDR 91.1 FM, February 2001

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the second issue of *The Sound Messenger*, an online publication of the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society. Our newsletter, let me remind you, is an addition to the "real" journal, **The Alberta New Music & Arts Review**.

Here, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you, who spent a considerable amount of time analysing the first issue and, later on, offering thorough remarks pertaining to it.

I would heartily like to invite you to submit texts, especially those which may deal with practical topics interesting to all of us, as well as those which deal with your own activities - it is very important to stay in touch, inform each other about ongoing and future projects, and exchange ideas.

The current issue brings another portion of information on our members and their activities.

I dearly hope that you will find this issue to your liking - and useful.

## CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENTS

# The Strathcona String Quartet

March 18, King's University College Recital Hall (9125-50th St.), 8:00 PM

Tickets: \$10 or \$7 students and seniors

For more information:

Jennifer Bustin, (780) 439-6950

### Programme

*Canyon Anthology* by George Andrix (ECCS)

(Edmonton premiere)

*Quartet 44 in C*, Joseph Haydn

*Quartet opus 67, #3 in Bb*, Johannes Brahms

*Boxcar Boogie* by Roger Deegan (world premiere)



Left to right: George Andrix, viola (ECCS); Rebecca Schellenberg, violin; Josephine van Lier, cello; Jennifer Bustin, violin (ECCS)



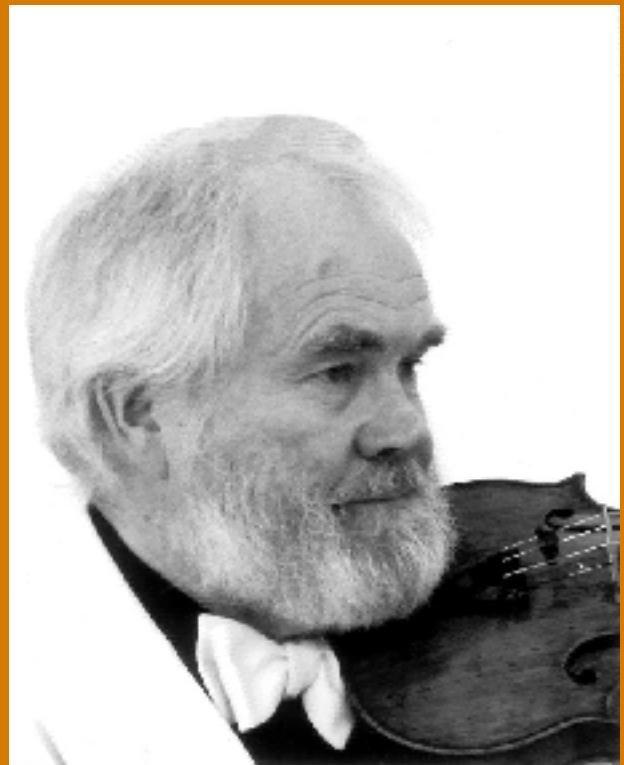
The Strathcona String Quartet is arguably Edmonton's busiest string quartet. They have been performing regularly in the city for over 12 years, sharing the stage with Mile Zero Dance Company and Brian Webb, and performing as featured artists for the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society New Music Festivals. Individual members perform frequently as soloists and chamber musicians throughout the province.

For more information on The Strathcona String Quartet please visit:

<http://www.strathconastringquartet.com/>

**George Andrix** was born in Chicago where he majored in music at Lane Technical High School and studied violin at the Chicago Musical College. He earned Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees at the University of Illinois, and did post graduate work at the Trinity College of Music in London, where he studied with Richard Arnell and Matyas Seiber.

Mr. Andrix' early compositions are largely for brass and percussion instruments, including *Five Pieces for Bass Trombone and Strings* (published by G. Schirmer), a *Brass Quintet* (available on Golden Crest Records) and a complete concert for large percussion ensemble entitled *Concert for Percussion*. His orchestral compositions have been commissioned and/or performed by numerous orchestras in the United States and Canada, including the St. Louis and Victoria Symphony Orchestras.



George Andrix now resides in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where he makes his living as a freelance violinist (member of The Strathcona Quartet), violist, composer, arranger and conductor. His first solo CD, *The Complete Blues Viola*, was released in 1998 to high critical acclaim.

#### *Canyon Anthology:*

The composer has participated in several white-water raft trips down the Grand Canyon for the purpose of playing string quartet concerts. It is these trips that were the inspiration for *Canyon Anthology*. The piece is an expression in music of the composer's impression of the geology, anthropology, flora and fauna of the region. At times this expression is quite programmatic, at other times it is rather abstract. Andrix states: *To accurately depict in music a natural phenomenon as spectacular as the Grand Canyon is quite likely impossible. I would hope, however, that some enjoyment can be derived from my attempt to do so.*

More information on George Andrix please visit:

<http://www.andrix.ca/>

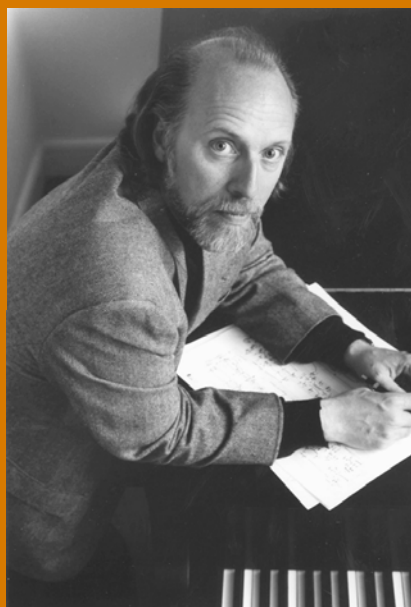
## MEMBERS' NEWS

ECCS member composer **Kenneth Girard's** (Arlington, Massachusetts, USA) **DUO for Violin and Piano, Op. 17** was given its United States premiere by renowned violinist Marylou Speaker Churchill (recently retired Principal, 2nd Violins of the Boston Symphony Orchestra) and her accompanist, Sayuri Miyamoto at the Newton Free Library on January 7, 2001.

Mr. Girard was able to experience a rare occurrence for a composer: namely, three performances of his work on a single day. Ms. Speaker Churchill had scheduled the piece to be played twice with the composer speaking about his work in between each of the performances. However, the hall was literally filled beyond capacity (audience members were sitting in the aisles, on the windowsills, the stage, and standing in the rear) and the response to Mr. Girard's work and the recital as a whole was so enthusiastic, that Ms. Speaker Churchill graciously and generously repeated the entire recital (minus one short work by Brahms) for the overflow crowd that could not originally gain entrance - ten minutes after the completion of the first extremely demanding, one and a half hour recital.

The second recital was again filled to capacity and the reception was equally enthusiastic (due to time constraints, Mr. Girard's **DUO** was played only once the second time). As a result of the impact of the **DUO**, the performers will be playing the work in May of 2001 as part of a concert series at The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA.

The world premiere of the **DUO** took place at *The 6th Annual Edmonton New Music Festival* in November of 1997 and was performed by Dianne New; violin and Roger Admiral; piano (both members of St. Crispin's Chamber Ensemble) where it received a very enthusiastic response from both the press and the audience.



**Kenneth Girard** is a composer living in Arlington (a suburb of Boston), Massachusetts, USA. He received his degrees in composition (B.M., 1977; M.M. with Honors, 1979) from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. While at the Conservatory, Mr. Girard studied composition with Malcolm Peyton, and he was the teaching assistant for the Composition Department while in graduate school. Prior to that, he studied composition and counterpoint privately for five years with Dr. Avram David of Boston. In 1999, Mr. Girard was selected to be an Auditor for "The Pierre Boulez Workshop" at Carnegie Hall (a workshop for performers, composers, and conductors from around the world).

Mr. Girard has produced a significant body of work including a symphony, a work for piano and orchestra, a violin concerto, numerous works for various chamber ensembles, solo pieces, and a five movement work for soprano and piano, in addition to a variety of works in progress (among which are several symphonic pieces).

Girard's music has been performed to critical acclaim in the United States and Canada. His Second Piano Sonata will soon be recorded on CD by the ECCS member, Dr. Roger Admiral.

He is also a member of The American Music Center, the National Association of Composers/USA, The Society of Composers, Inc., and the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society. Mr. Girard is also listed in The Living Composers Project (a web site encyclopedia of contemporary composers).

For more information on Kenneth Girard and his musical activities, please visit his web site at:  
<http://www.kennethgirard.com>

# CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE EDMONTON COMPOSERS' CONCERT SOCIETY

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**Reinhard Berg**

**Rolf Boon**

**John Bouz**

**Trevor Brandenburg**

**Jennifer Bustin**

**Barbra Churchill**

**Andrew Creaghan**

**Chrissie-Jane Cronjé**

**David Eagle**

**Kurt Ellenberger**

**Alfred Fisher**

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**Marnie Giesbrecht**

**Kenneth Girard**

**Piotr Grella-Możejko**

**Ron Hannah**

**Jacobus Kloppers**

**Agnes Siaw-Kin Lee**

**Deborah Kam-Kuen Ling**

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Edmonton Composers' Concert Society

P.O. Box 52204

Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

CANADA

tel.: (780) 432-1618

eMail: [piotrgm2@telus.net](mailto:piotrgm2@telus.net)

<http://eccsociety.com/>

ECCS has been generously supported by The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian Heritage, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The SOCAN Foundation, FACTOR, Edmonton Community Foundation, Clifford E. Lee Foundation, The Edmonton Journal, The Edmonton Sun, See Magazine, Vue Weekly, The Gramophone, Mrs. Rebecca & Dr. Kurt Ellenberger (Grand Rapids, MI), Mr. Mark Kizilos (Minnetonka, MN), Mrs. Annette & Dr. Monte Pishny-Floyd (Saskatoon, SK), Mr. Elgar Schmidt (Edmonton, AB) as well as numerous private donors and volunteers.