

## ALICIA EPPINGA

Alicia Eppinga has been a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony since 1989. She was appointed Assistant Principal Cello in 1990. Ms. Eppinga was raised in Grand Haven, MI and attended the Interlochen Arts Academy from 1980 - 1983. She received her Bachelor in Music Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music as a student of Richard Kapuscinski and her Masters in Music at the Eastman School of Music with Steven Doane.

Since arriving in Grand Rapids, Ms. Eppinga has been a frequent performer in solo and chamber music concerts. Her quintet, Supernova, performs educational programs in the Grand Rapids area schools. She is also a member of Ensemble Montage, a group of musicians dedicated to bringing unique and contemporary chamber music to West Michigan.

## **MARY SCANLAN**

Mary Scanlan received her doctorate in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Illinois and degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Iowa. In 1988 she began teaching piano, music history, and served as keyboard department chair at Grand Rapids Community College. She retired from this position in May, 2008.

Dr. Scanlan has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and GRCC to assist in her research of music by women composers, a topic of special interest to her. In the summer of 1997 she spent two months in Romania and Bulgaria as a Fulbright-Hayes recipient. From 1998-2000 Dr. Scanlan performed in recitals in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Ireland and also gave lectures on American piano music to the European Piano Teachers' Association. In addition to solo and two-piano repertoire Mary Scanlan has performed extensively as a collaborative pianist. As a vocal accompanist she performed in Germany, Italy, and France, as well as serving as lieder and chamber pianist for the Yale at Norfolk Summer Music Festival. She has also served as accompanist for the National conventions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Dr. Scanlan is a frequent adjudicator and clinician in the Midwest and was president of the Grand Rapids Piano Forum (Music Teachers' National Association) from 1996-98. This organization named her "Teacher of the Year" in both 1997 and 1998. From 2000-2002 she served as President of the Great Lakes Chapter of the College Music Society.

Since retiring Mary Scanlan continues to teach privately and is enjoying the time to pursue her musical interests. This summer (2009) she will be performing chamber music for four weeks in Lake George, New York as pianist with the Silver Bay String Quartet.

## JOEL SCHEKMAN

A California native, Joel received his Bachelor's at Indiana University before returning to Los Angeles for his Master's at USC. He studied with Eli Eban and James Campbell at Indiana and with Yehuda Gilad at USC. Joel joined the Grand Rapids Symphony as Bass Clarinetist in 2006 and before that he played in the Spokane Symphony, also on Bass. He also can play the regular clarinet.

While in Los Angeles, Joel maintained an active teaching schedule and played with the Santa Monica Symphony and the American Youth Orchestra. An advocate of new music, Joel was a founding member of the group, Music of Changes, performing premieres of many works. He also performed in the L.A. philharmonic's Green Umbrella concerts, a new music series.

Joel also composes himself. Joel has participated in the Sarasota and Spoleto festivals and has also played concerts with the New World Symphony and the Charleston Symphony. Locally Joel has played with the Kalamazoo Symphony, the West Shore Symphony, and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

In his spare time, Joel enjoys photography, delicious food, exercise, and travel.

## LESLIE VAN BECKER

Leslie Van Becker has been principal viola of the Grand Rapids Symphony since 1978. She earned a bachelor of music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and master's in music from the Yale University School of Music. She attended the Conservatory with a four-year full tuition Rockefeller Grant and held a School of Music Assistantship at Yale. Her principal teachers included Raphael Hillyer and William Lincer, and she studied chamber music with Broadus Earle and the Lennox and Concord Quartets.

In recital, Ms. Van Becker has appeared with Ghandarva Piano Quartet, Trio Nouveau, New World String Quartet, and Lakeshore Chamber Players. She has appeared as a soloist with the Grand Rapids Symphony on its Casual Classics Series in 1987, 1989, 1995 and 2005 performing Hindemith's *Der Schwanendreher*, Will Gay Bottje's *Concerto for Piano and Viola*, Walton's *Viola Concerto* and Bruch's *Romanze* and Von Weber's *Andante* and *Rondo Ungararese*. In addition, she was featured in *Don Quixote* on the Symphony's Grand Series in DeVos Performance Hall. She participates each year as principal viola in the Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz, California, where she plays orchestra and chamber music exclusively from the 20th century. Ms. Van Becker serves on the faculty of Calvin College and Grand Rapids Community College and maintains an active class of viola students in Grand Rapids.

She and her husband Edward Clifford, a flutist who often performs with the Symphony, have two children: Matthew, who is a jazz bass major at Michigan State University, and Genevieve who is attending the School of the Chicago Art Institute. Leslie and Edward share their 98-year-old Heritage Hill home with their two cats.

## JENNIFER WALVOORD

Jennifer Walvoord of Holland, Michigan recently graduated with her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ms. Walvoord has Masters degrees in both violin performance and chamber music from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelors degree in violin performance from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Her former teachers include Andrew Jennings, Mihai Craioveanu, and Joan Conway.

In addition to her position as West Shore Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, Jennifer is member of the Grand Rapids Symphony. She is also part of the Grand Rapids Symphony Artists in Residence (AIR) program as a member of an educational outreach ensemble. In August 2008, Jennifer collaborated with her sister, Martha, on a recording called "American Perspectives" which will be released soon on the Centaur Records Label. While at the University of Michigan, Jennifer performed electric violin on the Grammy Award-winning recording of William Bolcom's Songs of Innocence and Experience conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

Jennifer regularly performs recitals with her husband, pianist Dr. Andrew Le. Jennifer and Andrew were recently appointed as Artistic Directors for the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck. In February of 2007, Jennifer's piano quintet performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as part of the Millennium Stage Concert Series. In November of 2005, Jennifer performed the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Holland Symphony Orchestra in Holland, Michigan.

Currently, Jennifer is on the violin faculty of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. During the spring of 2007, Jennifer served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Violin at Hope College. Jennifer spends a portion of her summers teaching and performing at Friends Music Camp in Barnesville, Ohio. She has attended such music festivals as National Repertory Orchestra, Musicorda Chamber Music Festival, Hengrave Hall International Masterclass, and Interlochen Arts Camp.