



## Mesa St. Trio

### Oscar Macchioni, Lesley Chen & Benjamin Vickers



*Lesley Chen*, violin, *Benjamin Vickers*, cello, and *Oscar Macchioni*, piano, joined forces in 2007 to establish the Mesa St Trio. Hailing from all parts of the world, their goal is to inspire audiences through creative and eclectic programs. In its short life, the Mesa St. Trio has been featured at the El Paso Conservatory, Las Cruces Friends of Chamber Music, and UTEP.

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Born and raised outside of Boston, Massachusetts, violinist *Lesley Chen* enjoys a diverse musical career. For three years, she was a member of the Young Artists String Quartet at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Also an active performer and advocate of new music, she

has collaborated with and premiered works by many contemporary composers, and performed with the Peabody Camerata in Baltimore as well as the Ensemble for Contemporary Music and the Current Sounds New Music Consortium in Santa Barbara. Her orchestral experience has included positions with the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, and Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Her principal teachers include Yuval Yaron, Shirley Givens, Marylou Speaker-Churchill, Magdalena Richter, and Melba Sandberg. Also a composer, she has studied with Rodney Lister and Chen Yi. Lesley holds a Bachelor of Music and a Graduate Performance Diploma in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music in violin performance from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Currently, Lesley teaches at the El Paso Conservatory of Music and performs with the El Paso Symphony, El Paso Opera, and Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra. She is also Administrative Director of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras.

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*Benjamin Vickers* is a cellist in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, and is staff conductor of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras. He is also a member of the faculty at the El Paso Conservatory of Music, teaching cello and music theory. A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Benjamin holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico; the Master of Music degree from Arizona State University; and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of Michigan. He has performed with the Santa Fe and Roswell Symphony Orchestras in New Mexico; collaborated in performances of the works of George Crumb with the composer in attendance; and played in the pit for Ballet Arizona and the Bolshoi Ballet on a U.S. tour in Phoenix, Arizona. Benjamin was featured as continuo player in several scenes from Monteverdi's opera *The Coronation of Poppea*, presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C. by the University of Michigan; and performed on the multiple-Grammy winning recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

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*Oscar Macchioni*, a native of Argentina, is an active teacher, pianist, lecturer and adjudicator. He has performed extensively in his native Argentina, Italy, Poland, Mexico, and in the USA, which has included such notable locations as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Columbia University, Steinway Hall in New York, and at the esteemed Myra Hess Memorial Concerts Series in Chicago (broadcast available in YouTube). He has been sponsored by many prestigious national and international

organizations including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., the Polish Government, the Organization of American States, and most recently he received the "StAr" award by the Music Teachers National Association.

Oscar has been invited to serve as an adjudicator in national and international piano competitions such as the World Piano Pedagogy Competition, MTNA Piano Competition, Arizona Music Teachers Association, and the El Paso Music Teachers Association. In July of 2006, he was hired by the International Piano Performance Committee of Taiwan to conduct piano examinations to about 1,200 students nationwide.

He earned three degrees in music from the Universidad Nacional de Tucuman (Argentina), a post-graduate degree from the Krakow Academy of Music (Poland), a Master in piano from Louisiana State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance with a minor concentration in ethnomusicology from the University of Arizona. In 2003, Oscar joined the faculty at the University of Texas at El Paso where he is an Assistant Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy.

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