

gary schocker
healing music



Azica

Flutist-composer-pianist Gary Schocker is an accomplished musician of outstanding versatility. As a flutist, Mr. Schocker has performed with many of the world's great orchestras including performances with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra (while still in his teens), I Solisti Italiani, the Dallas Symphony, and the New Jersey Symphony. He has performed in recital throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Panama, Taiwan, Germany, Italy, France, Japan and Canada. He is often heard in concert with guitarist Jason Vieaux. Schocker teaches many students who travel to his home base of New York as well as in master classes throughout the world.

In addition to being the most widely published living composer for flute, Gary Schocker has composed sonatas and chamber music for most instruments of the orchestra. He has also written several musicals and children's musicals, including FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD and THE AWAKENING, which can be heard on the Original Cast Recordings label. FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD was given its debut in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2000. In fall 2004 the show received its first fully-staged professional production at the 47th Street Theatre in New York City, as part of the first New York Festival Of Musicals. Both musicals have been performed in Cardiff as winners of the Global Search for New Musicals in the U.K.. FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD was produced (as one of the winners of that same competition) at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2005.

Schocker has won the International Clarinet Association annual composition competition twice and the National Flute Association annual Newly Published Award numerous times. Sir James Galway premiered his three-movement concerto GREEN PLACES at Ireland's Adair Festival and has also performed the work with the New Jersey Symphony. Mr. Galway performed Schocker's MUSIQUE FRANÇAISE on his U.S. tour in 2002.

Gary Schocker can be heard in his debut recording, REGRETS AND RESOLUTIONS, on Jonathan Digital, and on four other highly-acclaimed CDs on the Chesky label. The 1998 Jonathan Digital recording titled AIRBORNE features his own works for flute, with piano and harp. DREAM TRAVELS, on the Azica label, presents Schocker in duo with guitarist Jason Vieaux. ARIOSO, also on Azica, is a program of all baroque music featuring Schocker's realizations of sonatas by Bach, LeClair, and Vivaldi. CONVERSATIONS features flutist Angela Kelly, with Schocker at the piano in a program of all-Schocker works for flute and piano. Gary Schocker's concert music may also be heard on the Koch, Troy, Sazas, Gionata, SNE, Paulinas Comep, Fleur de Son, and Innova labels.

Mathieu Dufour is principal flute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 1999. Before coming to Chicago, he was principal flute of the Paris National Opera Orchestra from 1996 to 1999. Prior to his appointment there, he served as principal flute of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse for three years.

Dufour frequently appears as soloist in recitals and concerts around the world. He made his Carnegie Hall and Lucerne Festival debuts as soloist with the Chicago Symphony under Daniel Barenboim in 2002, and he also has performed under conductors Pierre Boulez and Christoph Eschenbach, among others. He is in demand as a coach and teacher, and has led master classes in Canada, Japan, Europe, and the United States. As a member of the Georges Cziffra and Juventus foundations, Dufour has given many recitals and concerts as part of their Young European Soloists Ensemble. He is a member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and he serves on the faculty at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Dufour's discography includes a recently released solo recital of sonatas by Prokofiev, Martinu, and Hindemith; Poulenc's complete chamber music; and the complete works for flute by Roussel. Mathieu Dufour first appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at a special donor appreciation concert in May 2000, in Devienne's Seventh Flute Concerto with William Eddins conducting. He made his debut as soloist on subscription concerts in November and December 2000, in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp in C major, with Sarah Bullen as harp soloist and Daniel Barenboim conducting. Dufour most recently appeared as soloist on subscription concerts in May 2003, in Bach's Second Orchestral Suite with Jaime Laredo conducting. He first appeared as soloist with the Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in June 2000, in Jolivet's Flute Concerto with Christoph Eschenbach conducting, and most recently in July 2002, in Mozart's First Flute Concerto with Christoph Eschenbach conducting, and in Bach's Second, Fourth, and Fifth Brandenburg concertos with Nicholas McGegan conducting.



Mathieu Dufour

Jason Vieaux is changing the face of guitar programming. Highlights of the 2006-2007 season include debuts with Ft. Worth Symphony and Iris Chamber Orchestra, and solo recitals for Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, The Lied Center and Vancouver's Music in the Mornings series. He has recently performed in such renowned halls as the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Spivey Hall, and New York's 92 St. Y and Merkin Hall.

Jason Vieaux's latest Azica solo CD, "Images of Metheny," is a disc of music by American jazz guitarist/composer Pat Metheny. Metheny, after listening to this landmark recording, declared: "I am flattered to be included in Jason's musical world". "Sevilla: The Music of Isaac Albeniz," was rated one of the Top Ten Classical CDs of 2003 by The Philadelphia Inquirer and Cleveland's Plain Dealer. Mr. Vieaux also has two duo CDs with Gary Schocker, "Dream Travels" and "Arioso." Mr. Vieaux's recordings and live performances are broadcast nationally on the radio and worldwide via the Internet, and he is featured regularly on NPR programs "Performance Today", "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition."



Jason Vieaux

Jason Vieaux began guitar studies at age eight with Jeremy Sparks in Buffalo, New York, and continued at The Cleveland Institute of Music with John Holmquist. He is the youngest First Prize winner in the history of the prestigious GFA International Guitar Competition, a Naumburg International Guitar Competition prizewinner, and a recipient of The Cleveland Institute of Music's Alumni Achievement Award.

Mr. Vieaux has performed as concerto soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia, Santa Fe Symphony and San Diego Symphony, working with such conductors as Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Jahja Ling, Stefan Sanderling, Steven Smith and Carl Topilow. As a passionate advocate of new music, Mr. Vieaux frequently plays works by José Luis Merlin, Eric Sessler, Allen Krantz, Mario Davidovsky, Augusta Read Thomas and John Corigliano. He has toured Europe, Mexico, South America, Canada, the Far East, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Jason Vieaux currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is head of the Cleveland Institute of Music Guitar Department.

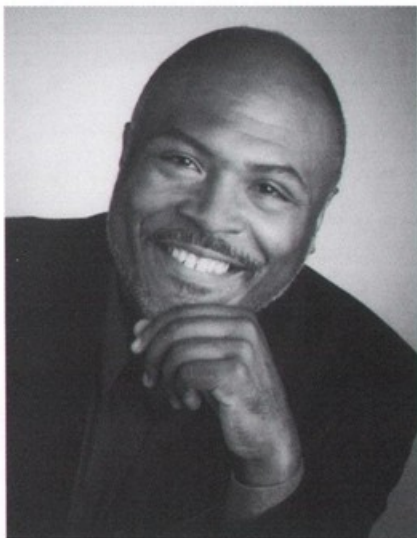
Cliff Jackson, native of Gary, Indiana received his bachelor of music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and pursued graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music. Cited for his sensitive accompaniments and insightful musicianship, Mr. Jackson has been the pianist for many internationally renowned artists, including Kathleen Battle, Renata Scotto, Simon Estes, Edda Moser, Felicia Weathers, and Gwendolyn Bradley. His work as a highly sought after collaborative artist has brought him to the stages of Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wiener Musikverein, Teatro Colon, Teatro Municipal in São Paulo, and Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Having studied with such esteemed pianists as Leon Bates, Frances Walker, Martin Katz, and Warren George Wilson, Mr. Jackson has not only been recognized as a leading pianist, but has gained a wide reputation as an outstanding coach of vocal repertoire ranging in scope from baroque through 20th-century opera, and song literature encompassing the vastly divergent stylistic periods.

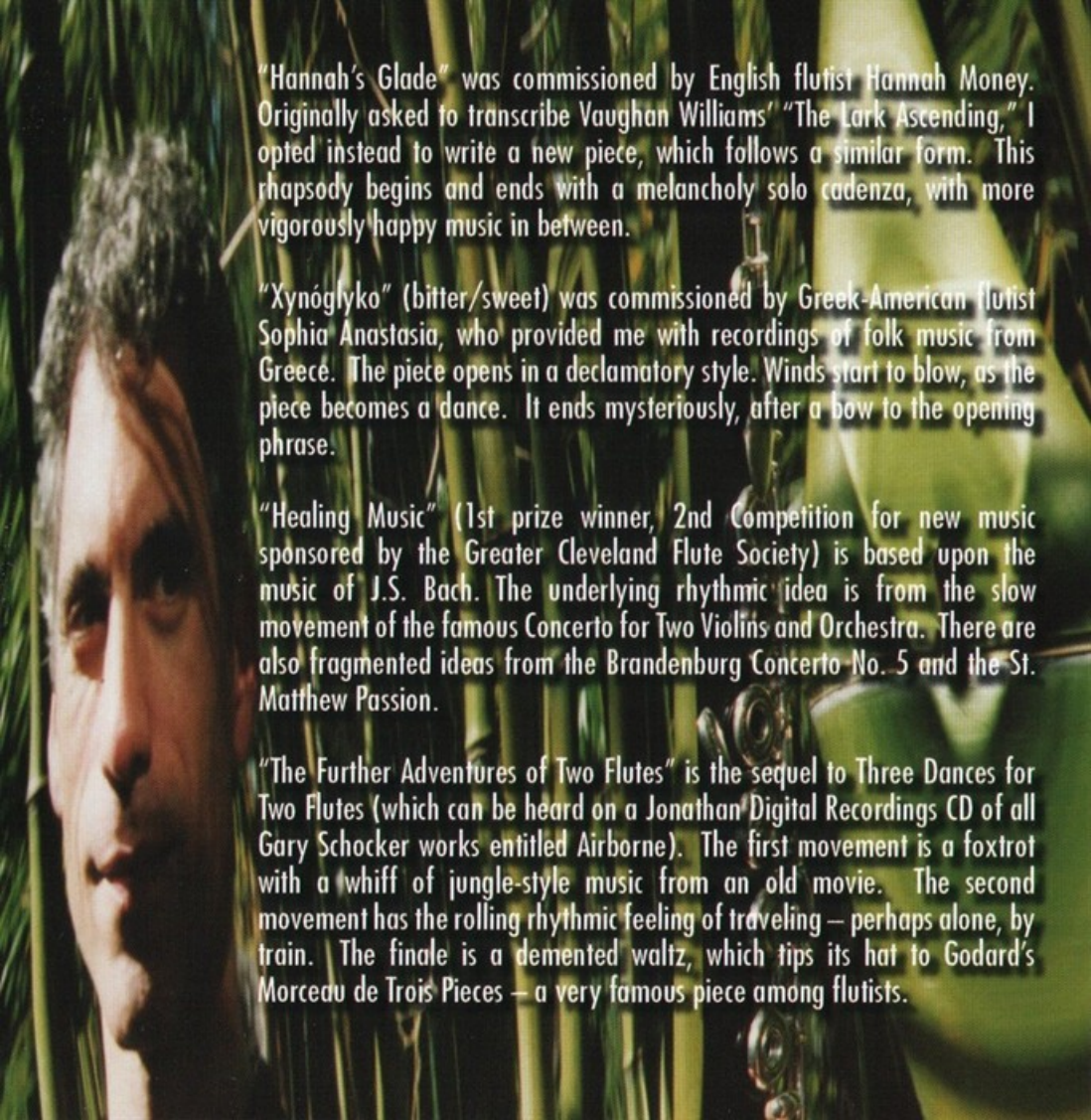
He was awarded a coaching fellowship by the American Opera Center at the Juilliard School, where he was a coach for two years, and was a member of the musical staffs of Miami Opera, Tulsa Opera, and the Mobile Opera. He has served as the head coach for the Central City Opera Festival and for the Chautauqua Opera Festival.

He was the recipient of the Gamma Fisher Scholarship by the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria and has performed as piano soloist for the Dance Theatre of Harlem, rendering critically acclaimed performances of Tchaikovsky's Third Piano Concerto and Hindemith's Four Temperaments.

In 1992 Mr. Jackson joined the faculty of the University of Kentucky's School of Music, where he is currently an associate professor serving as vocal coach for the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre and Voice Curriculum.



Cliff Jackson

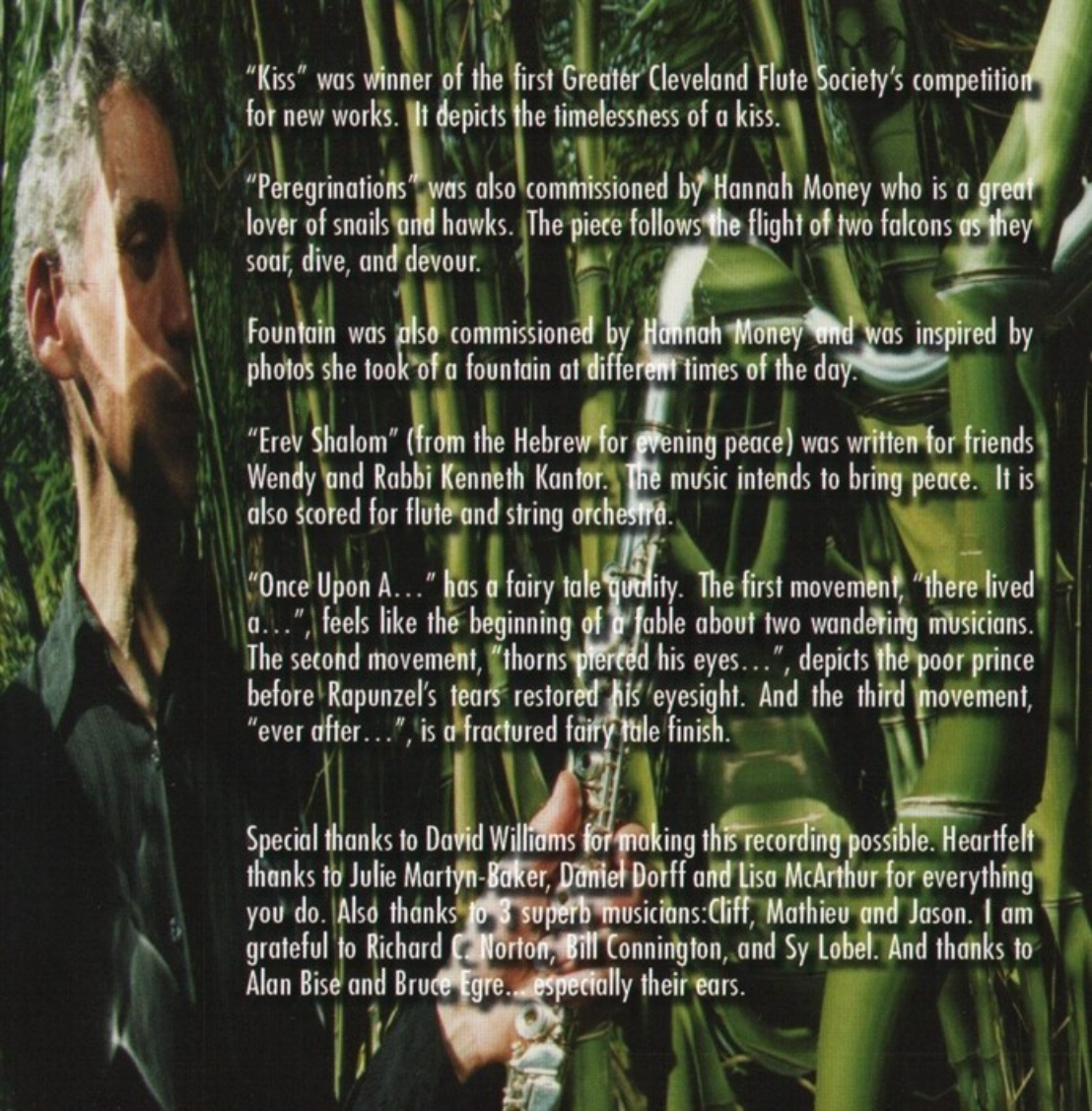


"Hannah's Glade" was commissioned by English flutist Hannah Money. Originally asked to transcribe Vaughan Williams' "The Lark Ascending," I opted instead to write a new piece, which follows a similar form. This rhapsody begins and ends with a melancholy solo cadenza, with more vigorously happy music in between.

"Xynóglyko" (bitter/sweet) was commissioned by Greek-American flutist Sophia Anastasia, who provided me with recordings of folk music from Greece. The piece opens in a declamatory style. Winds start to blow, as the piece becomes a dance. It ends mysteriously, after a bow to the opening phrase.

"Healing Music" (1st prize winner, 2nd Competition for new music sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Flute Society) is based upon the music of J.S. Bach. The underlying rhythmic idea is from the slow movement of the famous Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra. There are also fragmented ideas from the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 and the St. Matthew Passion.

"The Further Adventures of Two Flutes" is the sequel to Three Dances for Two Flutes (which can be heard on a Jonathan Digital Recordings CD of all Gary Schocker works entitled Airborne). The first movement is a foxtrot with a whiff of jungle-style music from an old movie. The second movement has the rolling rhythmic feeling of traveling — perhaps alone, by train. The finale is a demented waltz, which tips its hat to Godard's Morceau de Trois Pieces — a very famous piece among flutists.

A man with grey hair, wearing a dark shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up, playing a silver flute. He is standing in a dense bamboo forest. The background is filled with vertical bamboo stalks and green leaves, creating a textured, natural setting. The lighting is soft, highlighting the man's face and the instrument.

"Kiss" was winner of the first Greater Cleveland Flute Society's competition for new works. It depicts the timelessness of a kiss.

"Peregrinations" was also commissioned by Hannah Money who is a great lover of snails and hawks. The piece follows the flight of two falcons as they soar, dive, and devour.

Fountain was also commissioned by Hannah Money and was inspired by photos she took of a fountain at different times of the day.

"Erev Shalom" (from the Hebrew for evening peace) was written for friends Wendy and Rabbi Kenneth Kantor. The music intends to bring peace. It is also scored for flute and string orchestra.

"Once Upon A..." has a fairy tale quality. The first movement, "there lived a...", feels like the beginning of a fable about two wandering musicians. The second movement, "thorns pierced his eyes...", depicts the poor prince before Rapunzel's tears restored his eyesight. And the third movement, "ever after...", is a fractured fairy tale finish.

Special thanks to David Williams for making this recording possible. Heartfelt thanks to Julie Martyn-Baker, Daniel Dorff and Lisa McArthur for everything you do. Also thanks to 3 superb musicians: Cliff, Mathieu and Jason. I am grateful to Richard C. Norton, Bill Connington, and Sy Lobel. And thanks to Alan Bise and Bruce Egge... especially their ears.

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Gary Schocker, *composer/flutist*

Cliff Jackson, *piano*

Mathieu Dufour, *flutist*

Jason Vieaux, *guitarist*

1. Hannah's Glade 10:07

2. Xynóglyko 9:17

3. Healing Music 6:42

The Further Adventures of Two Flutes 11:07

4. Jungle Charleston 2:33

5. Rain Train 3:51

6. Whoosh! 4:33

7. Kiss 3:23

8. Peregrinations 4:21

Fountain 6:07

9. 10 a.m. 1:56

10. 1 p.m. 1:53

11. 12 a.m. 2:08

12. Erev Shalom 4:03

Once Upon A ... 11:51

13. there live a ... 4:53

14. thorns pierced his eyes ... 4:12

15. ever after... 2:36

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 66:33

Producer: Alan Bise

Recording Engineer: Bruce Egge

Digital Editor: Alan Bise

Photography: Kate Raudenbush

Design: Azica Graphics



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