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For Immediate Release
February 8, 2011



Flutist Karen Johnson's Spirited *Dancing Heart* Debuts at Hylton Center

"Karen Johnson wrought unforgettable magic..."
(Washington Post)

Renowned American flutist **Karen Johnson** and her trio, *'Dancing Heart,'* will perform *'From Poulenc to Piazzolla'* at the Gregory Family Theater of the **Hylton Performance Arts Center** in Manassas, Virginia, on **February 20, 2011 at 3:00 pm.** The concert, marking the inaugural season of the new state-of-the-art venue, features the trio, with pianist Carlos-César Rodríguez and percussionist John Kilkenny, in an exciting, innovative program of works by **Poulenc, Anne Boyd, Astor Piazzolla, Mike Mower, Gareth Farr and J. S. Bach.**

Founded by Karen Johnson in 2010, *'Dancing Heart'* is an ensemble with a mission - to showcase distinctive, stimulating programs of commissioned pieces and classical works - in an interactive, engaging and transforming fashion which often includes intimate exchanges between the performers, their guests and their audience. The three musicians, passionately dedicated to enhancing their audience's experience, offer several novel programs in various configurations. Their programs for **piano and flute** are titled *Meet the Composers; Modern Masterworks for Flute and Piano; From the Americas, and Music from Other Lands.* As a **full trio**, they perform *Music and the Elements; The contemporary Mystic; Ecstasy of Longing, and The American Spirit.*

Asked how she came about creating her trio '*Dancing Heart*', the flutist said: "I met **Carlos-César Rodríguez** at the Levine School of Music in Washington where we both teach, and we clicked immediately, both personally and musically. He is a free spirit – an immense talent who came to this country from his native Venezuela as a child prodigy, graduated from Julliard and established a successful career coaching at Washington Opera and accompanying opera stars **Placido Domingo** and **Jessye Norman**. We gave a few performances together and I was enchanted by his exuberance and rapport with the audience, so we decided to team up and celebrate our shared vision and passion."

Ms. Johnson met **John Kilkenny**, a percussion teacher at George Mason University, in performances at various venues in Washington, DC. "John is remarkable – he is eclectic, engaging, and extremely articulate - he is also an accomplished, compelling musician who composes percussion music for choirs, conducts percussion master classes all over the US and premieres new works by the likes of **Philip Glass**. We have each commissioned new pieces from various composers, so naturally, we began playing those together, and that led to our current collaboration."



Karen Johnson, co-principal flutist of the Chesapeake Orchestra and formerly principal flutist of the Washington Bach Consort, combines instrumental mastery, great beauty of sound, and a poetic sensibility in her distinctive and memorable performances. Her many collaborations include appearances with pop star **Stevie Wonder**, the **Takacs String Quartet** and the **Bach Aria Group**. On the festival circuit she performed at the Bethlehem Bach Festival, the Shelter Island Music Festival and the Glimmerglass Chamber Music Festival. Her recent recital venues include the Kennedy Center, the Washington National Cathedral and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Ms. Johnson, whose artistry has been described as "exquisite" and "mesmerizing," continues to explore new vistas with the commission and premiering of new works by distinguished composers including Sotireos Vlahopoulos, William Albright and Jeffrey Mumford. In the coming months she will be appearing on composer **Jeffrey Mumford's** '*Signature Series*' at the Lorain Country Community College (Oberlin, Ohio), and complete recording works for flute and piano (with Carlos-César Rodríguez) for an upcoming release titled '*From the Americas With Love.*'

Ms. Johnson is a winner of numerous competitions and awards, including the Individual Artist Award of the Maryland State Arts Council. She is currently on the faculties of both the Levine School of Music and St. Mary's College in Maryland.

Dancing Heart - From Poulenc to Piazzolla

Concert Details:

Program: works by Poulenc, Anne Boyd, Astor Piazzolla, Mike Mower, Gareth Farr and J. S. Bach

Date: February 20, 2011 at 3:00 pm

Place: Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, VA 20110

(<http://www.hyltoncenter.org/calendar/20/>)

Tickets: \$15

Box Office: Tel: 888-945-2468. Order online: www.hyltoncenter.org/tickets/

For more information about Karen Johnson, visit her official website:

www.karenflute.com

Join *Dancing Heart* on Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_199046410110503

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