

Fredericksburg Music Club, Inc. Presents River Oaks Chamber Orchestra In Concert January 21, 2018

ROCO Brass Quintet

ROCO (The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra)

The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra is a forty-piece professional chamber orchestra that was founded in 2005 by Alecia Lawyer. A Juilliard-trained musician with an eclectic background as a performer, recording artist, adjunct professor and radio host, Ms. Lawyer had a vision to redefine the orchestral experience for both audience and musicians. The result is ROCO: an orchestra of all-star musicians, distinguished conductors and famous composers who come together from all over the world to present unexpected classics, original compositions and delightful performances that dissolve the barriers between audience and orchestra. ROCO has been called the most fun you can have with serious music!

George Chase, trumpet and flugelhorn

A native of upstate New York, George Chase attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA, and attended graduate school at Rice University. He studied with Frank Kaderabek (Philadelphia Orchestra), Jim Wilt (LA Philharmonic) and Armando Ghitalla (Boston Symphony). While in school, he performed with the Albany Symphony, the Philadelphia Opera, the Harrisburg Symphony, the St. Cecilia Chamber Orchestra, and performed with the Berkshire Opera during the summer. After his graduation from Rice, he joined the Symphony Orchestra of the State of Mexico in Toluca, Mexico as associate principal trumpet. Upon his return to the United States, he began performing with area groups such as the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Bach Society, Houston Chamber Orchestra, American Radio Chamber Orchestra, Moores Brass Quintet, Theatre Under the Stars, and Opera in the Heights. For nearly a decade, he taught trumpet at the University of Houston Moores School of Music and has also taught trumpet at Houston Baptist University. He also served on the Curtis Alumni Council, and on the boards of the Houston Professional Musicians Association and the Houston Youth Symphony. He currently performs with ROCO (the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra), the ROCO Brass Quintet, Opera in the Heights, Jazz Forever, and appears frequently with the Boomtown Brass Band. He can be heard nationally on ROCO's performances broadcast on American Public Media's Performance Today. George serves on the ROCO Board, teaches trumpet at the University of St. Thomas, and lives in the historic Woodland Heights with his wife (an author and piano teacher), daughter and two incorrigible but sweet dogs.

Jason Adams, trumpet and flugelhorn

Jason Adams has been teaching and playing the trumpet for over 30 years. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and studied trumpet with Roger Murtha and Chris Gekker at the Hartt School and the Manhattan School of Music. He has played, recorded, and appeared as soloist all over the United States and internationally with numerous groups. Jason appears regularly with the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral Brass, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Brass Quintet, and stays busy with his studio of private students of all ages.

James Lee, tenor trombone

Trombonist James Lee is a proud native Houstonian and works as a freelance musician in a wide array of settings. James studied with John Kitman at Southern Methodist University, Michael Warny at the University of Houston, Bradley White of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and Lucio Alvarez. He has performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the River Oaks Chamber

Orchestra, the Opera in the Heights, Mid-Texas Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Brazos Valley Symphony, and has been a participant in the Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York. James has been an active chamber musician having collaborated in a variety of projects and has been a founding member of various brass ensembles performing all kinds of music from standard brass literature to pop cover tunes! In other realms of music he has enjoyed being active as a pit musician in Houston's vast musical theater culture and playing with different bands in various venues and clubs. James has also had the privilege of being an active participant in the deep Latin music scene having had opportunities to play with groups such as La Orquesta Salmerum, Tumbaka Orquesta, Grupo Kache, Guarare Orquesta and has shared the stage with renown artists such as Eddie Santiago, Ray Sepulveda, Maelo Ruiz, Los Adolescentes Orquesta, Yan Collazo, Menique, and Pin Jose Zapata.

Jill Smith Rodriguez, horn

Jill Smith Rodriguez currently holds the position of Third/Assistant Principal Horn with the Austin Opera and also performs regularly with the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Other performing credits include the Breckenridge Music Festival and the Dallas Opera Orchestra. She has been on the music faculty of Texas Lutheran University since 1997 where she teaches general music classes. Ms. Rodriguez earned a MM degree at the University of North Texas and a BME from DePauw University. She resides in New Braunfels with her husband, Raul, and their two teenagers, Benjamin and Marisa.

Raúl I. Rodríguez, tuba

Appointed in 1995, Raúl I. Rodríguez is Professor of Music at Texas State University teaching applied tuba and euphonium and working with chamber music ensembles. Since 2001 he has performed as principal tuba with the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra in Colorado and has performed with the symphony orchestras of Austin, San Antonio, Santa Fe, Ft. Worth and the Victoria Bach Festival, in addition to serving as principal tuba with the symphonies of Garland and Las Colinas from 1992-95. Other performance credits are quite diverse having performed with a variety of chamber ensembles, rodeo bands, polka bands and many brass quintets including the SouthWest BrassWorks, Breckenridge Brass plus the tubajazz combo TubaTzars. His book, *Low Blows for Tuba*, released in April 2015, is published by and available at Balquhider Music. He still continues his involvement in youth education by dedicating time to presenting clinics and master classes in the public schools. In the summer of 2002, Mr. Rodríguez was appointed principal tuba of the Texas Philharmonic to record the soundtrack for the musical score *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams*.