

Music @ St. Alban's

Sunday Concerts in Davidson

Performer Profile – February 21, 2021

William Lawing Cynthia Lawing

WILLIAM LAWING

William Lawing enjoys a distinguished career as a solo, chamber and symphonic musician. A lifelong classical symphonic musician, he currently performs with the Western Piedmont Symphony. Concerto and solo performances have included concerts with the Charlotte Symphony and Charlotte Pops, the Chamber Orchestra of Macau, the Western Piedmont Symphony, the Lee County Orchestra, and the Davidson College Symphony Orchestra. He is an original member of Carolina Brass, a quintet largely from the Charlotte Symphony that has performed together for nearly 40 years. With pianist Cynthia Lawing, he gives annual international performance tours. Recent performances have included concerts in Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Over his career, he has had the privilege to perform under the batons of Loren Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Aaron Copland; perform symphonic concerts with Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Sarah Vaughan, Bernadette Peters, Johnny Mathis, Aretha Franklin, Bela Fleck, and the Kruger Brothers.

A music professor at Davidson College since 1976, he is the inaugural holder of the J. Estes Millner Endowed Chair in Music at Davidson. He has received three of Davidson's teaching awards. He directs the jazz ensemble and oversees the Davidson's jazz program. His current classes focus around different distinctly American musical genres, and also include a class in music production. He is a frequent teacher for Davidson Learns.

Outside of music, he spends much of his free time mentoring high school refugees in Charlotte guiding them through the college application and enrollment process. he has recently volunteered to become a Guardian ad Litem advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system.

CYNTHIA LAWING

Cynthia Lawing was recognized as an outstanding concert pianist at an early age. She studied at Wittenburg University and at The Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was a student of William Kurzban, Vitya Babin-Vronsky, and Elsa Findlay, receiving advanced degrees in both piano and in Dalcroze Eurythmics. Her performance career has taken her throughout the United States and Asia, Europe and South America where she is highly respected as a concert soloist and chamber artist.

Cynthia has performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Charlotte Symphony, the Davidson College Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony, the Piedmont Concert Band, Western Piedmont Symphony and the Salisbury Symphony. She has been privileged to perform notable private recitals, including an Inauguration concert for Vasco Leotte de Almeida Costa, Royal Governor of Macau, and a private recital for Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. She has performed a concert tour in Chile with William Lawing in Santiago at the Cultural Center of Providencia and the Universidad Alberto Hurtado, recitals at the Schloss Esterházy and the Haydn Konservatorium, recitals and master classes in Suzhou and most recently, in Agios Nikolaos, Crete. She has also performed and produced a CD of Christmas Music for piano and organ with Lewis Deaton. The CD contains Lawing's original arrangements for piano and organ.

Along with her activities as a concert pianist Cynthia Lawing teaches piano at Davidson College and, frequently in demand as a chamber-music player, a member of the keyboard section of the Piedmont Symphony, a popular judge at piano competitions, and turns out generations of former students who have professional careers but are still passionate about playing the piano!

In January of this year Cynthia wrote an anthem based on "Wondrous Love" for her grand-daughter Abigail's baptism at Davidson College Presbyterian Church, beautifully and lovingly sung by the choir.

Recent honors include being inducted into the Steinway Teachers Hall of Fame where the induction ceremony, with much fanfare, took place in New York!