

LIZ CARROLL

At age eighteen, Liz Carroll won the Senior All-Ireland Championship and ever since has amazed audiences with her fiddle playing. Carroll's music was nominated for a 2010 Grammy with John Doyle for their duet album, *Double Play*. In April 2011, she received the Cumadóir TG4 prize and became the first American-born composer honored with Ireland's most significant traditional music award.

Carroll's recordings of her own compositions mirror the quality of her live performances. She is known to invigorate the traditional styles of Irish music, and her tunes have entered into the repertoire of Irish and Celtic performers throughout the world. Her highly praised, solo recording, *On the Offbeat* (2013; produced by Seamus Egan of Solas), is a collection of twenty-four original compositions—twenty-three of them by Carroll.

Carroll's book of compositions, titled *Collected* (2010), is now in its second printing and includes the music she composed as a child. Her compositions and performances on stage, television, and radio have established her as one of traditional music's most notable performers. Neil Tesser of the *Chicago Reader* marvels that "her quicksilver lines can captivate violin admirers way beyond the bounds of Hibernia." P.J. Curtis of the *Irish American* says that Carroll "conjures up a dizzying mixture of the sweetest tones, the fastest runs, and the most dazzling display of musicianship imaginable."

Carroll has been a frequent artist at folk festivals sponsored by the National Council for the Traditional Arts, including those in Richmond, Virginia; Bangor, Maine; and Butte, Montana. In recent years, she has appeared as a special guest of well-known Irish music groups celebrating St. Patrick's Day with tours in the United States. She has toured with Altan in 2015 and with Cherish the Ladies in 2016. In 1994, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded her a National Heritage Fellowship for her significant influence on Irish music in America, as a performer and a composer.

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

The department of music produced these program notes. Copyright © 2017 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

nga.gov/music

76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

DECEMBER 17, 2017 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



Program

Turtle Island Quartet

Alex Hargreaves, violin

David Balakrishnan, violin, baritone violin

Benjamin von Gutzeit, viola

Malcolm Parson, cello

With special guest Liz Carroll, violin

DECEMBER 17, 2017 / 4:00 PM

WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT

Winter's Eve

The program will be announced from the stage.

Cover Cornelis Ploos van Amstel after
Hendrick Avercamp, *The Winter King on
the Ice* (detail), 1766, National Gallery of
Art, Gift of Sherwood B. Smith, Jr.

The Musicians

TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET

Since its inception in 1985, Turtle Island Quartet has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings—an initiative befitting the derivation of its name from Native American creation mythology. Winner of the 2006 and 2008 Grammy award for Best Classical Crossover category, Turtle Island Quartet fuses the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles, and by devising a performance practice that honors both, the ensemble has redefined the state of the art. Yo-Yo Ma has proclaimed Turtle Island Quartet “a unified voice that truly breaks new ground—authentic and passionate—a reflection of some of the most creative music-making today.”

The quartet's birth was the result of violinist David Balakrishnan's brainstorming explorations and compositional vision while writing his master's thesis at Antioch University West. The journey has taken Turtle Island Quartet through forays into folk, bluegrass, swing, be-bop, funk, R&B, new age, rock, and hip-hop, as well as the music of Latin America and India—a repertoire consisting of hundreds of ingenious arrangements and originals. The ensemble has produced more than a dozen recordings on the Windham Hill, Chandos, Koch, and Telarc labels, as well as soundtracks for major motion pictures. The group has also participated in television and radio programs, including the *Today Show*, *All Things Considered*, *Prairie Home Companion*, and *Morning Edition*, and has been featured in *People* and *Newsweek* magazines. Turtle Island Quartet has collaborated with such renowned artists as clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, vibraphonist Stefon Harris, guitar legends Leo Kottke and the Assad Brothers, The Manhattan Transfer, pianists Billy Taylor, Kenny Barron, Cyrus Chestnut, and Ramsey Lewis, singers Tierney Sutton and Nellie McKay, the Ying Quartet, and the Parsons and Luna Negra Dance Companies.

Another unique element of Turtle Island Quartet is its revival of venerable, improvisational, and compositional chamber traditions that have not been explored by string players for nearly two hundred years. At the time of Haydn's apocryphal creation of the string quartet form, musicians were more akin to today's saxophonists and keyboard masters of the jazz and pop world—that is, improvisers, composers, and arrangers. Each Turtle Island Quartet member is accomplished in these areas of expertise, as well as having extensive conservatory training.

As Turtle Island Quartet members continue to refine their skills through the development of repertory by some of today's cutting-edge composers, performances and recordings with major symphonic ensembles, and a determined educational commitment, they stake their claim to being the quintessential “New World” string quartet of the twenty-first century.