



Photo courtesy Colorado Chamber Players

The Colorado Chamber Players will perform Mozart's "Dissonant" Quartet in C major, K. 465 and Viola Quintet No. 6 in Eb Major, K. 614, on Jan. 20 at the Longmont Senior Center.

Brilliant minds

'Einstein's Mozart: Two Geniuses' to explore connection between science and music

By Valerie Singleton

The Daily Times-Call

LONGMONT — "Einstein's Mozart: Two Geniuses" pays tribute to something more than the brilliance of scientific and musical minds.

At the core of the concert — the brainchild of Colorado Chamber Players violist Barbara Hamilton-Primus — is the acknowledgment that art breeds art, regardless of form.

The concert also is a celebration, a musical and spoken-word commemoration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday on Jan. 27 and the 101-year anniversary of Albert Einstein's establishment of three of his most famous theories (among them, his theory of relativity).

Together, the anniversaries represent the strange marriage between music and science, a bond with which Hamilton-Primus has become well acquainted.

"I've always wondered about the connection," says Hamilton-Primus, the daughter of a scientist father and musician mother.

When she began asking questions about what linked the two arts, she found one answer in Einstein, a cerebral man who admired and fed off Mozart's compositions while working out scientific formulas.

"I'm not sure he would have been the same scientist if he hadn't listened to (Mozart and

IF YOU GO

What: "Einstein's Mozart: Two Geniuses," featuring the Colorado Chamber Players, guests Kate Light (narrator/poet) and Jeanne Chin (violinist), and paintings by Longmont's Katie Metz

When: Art display opens at 1:30 p.m., with the concert following at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20

Where: Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave.

Cost: \$5

Other performances: The Colorado Chamber Players will perform similar shows at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Mizel Arts Center, Denver (303-316-6360); and at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at University Park United Methodist Church, Denver (303-722-5736).

More info: 303-678-7869 or 303-651-8411

other composers') music," Hamilton-Primus says.

For its upcoming performance, the Colorado Chamber Players will play Mozart's "Dissonant" Quartet in C major, K. 465 and Viola Quintet No. 6 in Eb Major, K. 614, both late works by the composer with a total of eight movements between them. The pieces are on the long side, which is one reason why the

players will break up musical movements with narration by Kate Light, a New York musician and author who has been researching Einstein and Mozart for the upcoming performance for the past six months.

Light's immersion into the two men's worlds has been, in part, for the benefit of her audiences; she has broken down complicated theories in an effort to write understandable narratives and poems about the two artists.

The work also has enriched her mind, she says.

"I feel like I've been in an intensive physics course," Light says by phone from New York, where she continues her research and writing. "I guess the advantage of it is because it's so fresh and new to me, I'll be able to understand that it's fresh and new to other people."

Light's narration and poems will be factual, melding information about the men's work with humor (i.e., she uses rhyming prose to poke fun at Einstein's insistence at always being correct).

And yet, Light says, she feels like there's a whole world of knowledge she has yet to explore.

"I have lots more to learn about (Einstein) — Mozart, too," she says.