

The Latonton Messenger

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What's in art center's residence artist's name?

By Lydia Ivanditti

I learned to read music during my fourth-grade flutophone lessons and picked up a musical term or two, like "allegro" and "crescendo," over the years. But I knew I was out of my league when Kazanetti became our resident string quartet (which, by the way, means they use our center as home base, they work in our local schools and represent our community as they travel the world doing concerts). I was certain the origin of their name came from some exotic musical expression. Turns out it's whimsical (think "cousin Eddie"), which is pretty funny since they have some heavy-duty credentials, education and experience.

Michele R. Mariage-Volz attended Indiana State and Georgia State universities. She has performed regularly with regional orchestras in Illinois, Indiana, Georgia and Alabama and was once a member of the Colorado Philharmonic. She's been a core member of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra since 1992 and often substitutes with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, while also serving as concertmaster of Opera South in Atlanta. Not only that, but Michele is constantly in demand as a studio musician and has recorded for Usher, Goodymob and Tasha.

Elizabeth Alvarez, violinist and violist, received her bachelor's degree with honors from Indiana University, then came to Atlanta to continue her education with a teaching assistantship at Georgia State and earned a Masters of Music in Music Theory. She



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The Kazanetti String Quartet continues its residency at the Plaza Arts Center with a concert Saturday.

continued with doctoral studies in Musicology at the University of Maryland. Elizabeth has performed with orchestras from Columbus, Alabama, and Charleston as both violinist and violist and was in a production at this year's Piccolo Spoleto.

Julie Rosseter (yes, they're related) is an award-winning violinist, core member of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra, and graduate of the Indiana University School of Music. She won the prestigious Blumfield Fellowship, and completed her masters degree at Wichita State University. While there, was assistant principal violist of the Wichita Symphony. In 1992, she was awarded an Artist Diploma Fellowship at Duquesne University. Along

the way, Julie was a member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Keystone Chamber Players and was named Young Artist in Residence at Penn State's Penn's Woods Festival. She has served for years as violist with the Columbus and Alabama symphonies, as well as the Atlanta Virtuosi. An incredibly diverse performer, Julie appears regularly with the Celtic rock band Mickle-a-do and Gypsy jazz band Kamayacha.

Last, but not least, George Butler is a graduate of College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He studied at Westminster Choir College and Cincinnati Christian University and, at 17, was the only instrumentalist from the state of Ohio chosen to per-

ever since.

And if all that isn't enough, each of them is in high demand as teachers and mentors while raising children and being spouses. Nothing whimsical here.

Turns out, in college, Elizabeth and Julie had a couple of really good guy friends – "Kaz" and "Eddie" – who had a house where everyone gathered to practice their music and hang out. (There may have been a beer

or two consumed along the way). Since they spent so much time at Kaz-n-Eddie's, the name stuck.

If you can guess how many years of combined performing experience these four musicians have by sending me your answer in an e-mail, I'll give the best guesser two free tickets to the concert Saturday night.

(Lydia Ivanditti is director of the Plaza Arts Center.)