

**A late summer evening of chamber music to feature the voice of Professor Crosby, Felix Ensemble strings in Howell Hall**

8/20/15

A late summer evening of chamber music at Alfred University (AU) will feature Dr. Luanne Crosby, professor of voice and chorus, performing with the Felix Ensemble in Howell Hall, Friday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. The recital is free and will be followed by a reception where the audience can meet and talk with the performers.

The program will include works for soprano and string ensemble by G.F. Handel, Amy Beach, Andre Previn, Gwyneth Walker, and Leonard Bernstein. The Felix Ensemble includes Rintaro Wada, cello; Ritsuko Wada, piano; and Karino Wada, violin. This same recital was performed last April and May as a part of the Olean Chamber Music Society's program.

Crosby, who has extensive experience teaching and performing, has sung professionally with the Cleveland and Aspen operas and has performed internationally in Bulgaria, Italy, and China. She will be the soprano soloist in the Haydn "Lord Nelson Mass" in Budapest and Vienna in May 2016. Crosby actively performs as a recitalist and has appeared at Chautauqua (NY) Institution, Houghton College, the Fredonia School of Music, and Baldwin Wallace College, Berea, Ohio.

She holds bachelor of music and master of music degrees in music education from the State University of New York at Fredonia and a doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance from Cleveland Institute of Music at Case Western Reserve University.

Rintaro Wada is the artistic/executive director of the Chamber Music Society of Olean, cellist with the WNY Chamber Orchestra, orchestra director for the Olean City School District, and faculty member in the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College. His solo, chamber music, and orchestral performances include Japan, Italy, and the United States. He earned a master of music degree in performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester and a bachelor of music degree and post-graduate diploma from Showa College of Music, Japan.

Ritsuko Wada holds a bachelor of music in piano performance degree from the Showa College of Music, where she studied with Takahiro Sonoda, who was the leading pianist and judge of international piano competitions in Japan. She has performed numerous recitals as soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist in universities and churches. She is pianist with the Allegany Piano Trio, Felix Piano Quartet, Greifen Piano Trio, and Wada Piano Quartet. Mrs. Wada is a member of Music Performance Practice Association of Japan. She currently teaches in her private studio and at Jamestown Community College, Olean.

Karino Wada, an Olean high school student, began studying violin and piano at age 3 and currently studies with Lynn Blakeslee, professor emerita of violin at the Eastman School of Music. She has received eight Young Artists Concert Series awards from the Chamber Music Society of Olean and is a recipient of the Weber Scholarship from the Eastman Community Music School. She has spent the last two summers performing at the NYS Summer School of Music and has performed with the MostArts Festival Orchestra at AU, the AU Orchestra, and the Olean Community Orchestra.