

*Canta Libre*  
Website -- <http://www.cantalibre.org/>

*Full Biography*

We are pleased to introduce you to *Canta Libre*, a wonderfully unique chamber ensemble of harp, flute and three strings. This quintet combination of instruments was extremely popular with French composers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and as such, *Canta Libre* specializes in this ravishing repertoire that brings the music and cultural atmosphere of turn-of-the-century Paris to audiences of the twenty-first century. In addition, ensemble performs music of the Classical and Baroque periods, and also actively commissions and supports living composers, ensuring the evolution of this unique repertoire for generations to come.

Founded in 2002 by flutist Sally Shorrock to foster the performance and enjoyment of music specifically written for flute, harp and strings, the members of *Canta Libre* are considered experts in this ephemeral, rare style of chamber music. *Canta Libre* was recently featured at Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, at the American Harp Society 50th Anniversary National Conference, and has appeared at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, on WNYC Radio at The Green Space, The Music Festival of the Hamptons, Bargemusic, Concerts at One at Trinity Church in Manhattan, WLIW TV, National Public Radio of Long Island, the Salmagundi Art Club of Manhattan and the Brooklyn Public Library. They have also performed at colleges, music festivals, libraries, community centers and historic sites throughout Connecticut, Westchester County and Long Island.

Included among notable living composers *Canta Libre* has supported and or commissioned are ASCAP award winning composer, Jerry Ulrich, Beth Anderson, Gary Schocker, and Geoffrey Gardner. They have also performed contemporary works by Michael Colina, Barbara Harbach, Joseph Russo and Marjan Mozetich.

Each musician of *Canta Libre* is preceded by his/her reputation in their field, all academics and/or principals in the finest orchestras and ensembles in Manhattan and beyond. Individuals from *Canta Libre* are frequently called upon to educate/perform throughout country and around the globe. As members of *Canta Libre*, the joy they bring as an ensemble to audiences is indeed infectious. Ensemble members of the core quintet often mix combinations within any given performance, in order to better highlight each musician's unique talents.

Their critically-acclaimed CD of music by Jean Francaix, Joseph Guy Ropartz, Jean Yves Daniel-Lesur and Maurice Ravel is available on the 4Tay label from <http://www.classicalcds.net/4tay/chamber.html>. It is also available digitally from the Naxos Music Library at <http://www.naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=4TAY-CD-4033>. This CD, their first, was designated "the best new U.S. release" by BBC Music Magazine in March of 2011.

Their second CD, released in 2013, features the music of Long Island composer, Geoffrey Garder.

Canta Libre is represented by Jeffrey James Arts Consulting. Their website is at <http://www.cantalibre.org/>.

(433 words) 11/11/15

## **Program Biography**

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135 words – 11/11/15

## **Critic's comments about Canta Libre**

### BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE

"...vivacious and youthful...beautifully nuanced."

### FANFARE MAGAZINE

"What an utterly delightful disc!...This is (Canta Libre's) debut CD, and it is a winner....Canta Libre plays with enthusiasm, polish, rhythmic acuity, and lyrical sweep...Highly recommended."

### AUDIOPHILE AUDITION

"...these folks play with a warmth and easy relaxation that show each of these neo-classical and neo-medieval pieces to best effect...hauntingly beautiful works with some soul-soothing sounds meant to tenderize the spirit. The works are lovingly tended and beautifully captured in some very breathable sound...you can't go wrong with the music or the performances."

### MUSIC WEB INTERNATIONAL

"...fine and thoughtful musicianship by Canta Libre."

### CLASSICAL.NET

"These pieces are all likable, pleasant, and – except for the Ravel – most likely unfamiliar to very many listeners, particularly outside of France. What is especially interesting about this selection is that it represents a range of styles covering most of the last century: impressionism, neo-classicism, and the Groupe Jeune France...this group...offers special thanks to their "fantastic audiences." I would say that they are worth supporting."

### DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM AT LINCOLN CENTER

"We were blown away by your artistry...the night had such a celebratory quality."

“Completely enchanting with a sense of tight ensemble... *Canta Libre* stepped up to take on the task with aplomb, delighting in the pleasure of a gorgeous melody.”

*The Southampton Press*

“...brilliant, with a beautifully measured and exciting performance.”

*Shelter Island Reporter*

“An imaginative program of major works.”

*The Southhampton Cultural Center*

“*Canta Libre*’s compelling sensitivity and stunning virtuosity immediately captivated the audience...a truly outstanding performance.”

*Heckscher Museum of Art*

“This group is world class.”

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich Concerts*

“A rare musical treat...Canta Libre makes the stage sing.”

*The Times of Northport*

“...Well, the long and short of it is, your passionate program of life affirming music put my heart in order and now I can go on. Sometimes the planets are all in the right place, and I am so thankful you were there and so was I.” *Congregational Church of Patchogue*

“The group’s professionalism and their diversity was so entertaining.”

*The Garden City Community Club*

“Canta Libre was resounding – our bodies were one with the music.”

*Treetops Concert Series*

“Thank you for *Canta Libre*’s engaging performance yesterday at The Long Island Museum. The group’s professionalism and obvious passion for their music was clearly evident to the audience.”

*The Long Island Museum*

### ***Canta Libre Press questions***

The following questions are intended for print and broadcast journalists in connection with interviews with *Canta Libre* chamber ensemble. These topics are designed to facilitate conversation with them and will make for a fascinating interview:

1. Tell me about how *Canta Libre* came together as an ensemble.

2. How easy or difficult was it to find repertoire for your particular and unusual instrumentation?
3. Tell me about you select composers for your commissioning projects?
4. Are there any composers that you haven't commissioned yet that would be a sort of dream project for you?
5. How do you decide what repertoire to include on a program?
6. What can one expect at a *Canta Libre* concert? How do you engage your audience?
7. What kind of support have you received from your community? How about support from grants or other sponsors?
8. Tell me about recording your CD of music by Jean Francaix, Ravel and other French composers.
9. How are you responding to the changing face of classical music in the 21st century?
10. What does the future hold for *Canta Libre*?

*Canta Libre*'s website is at <http://www.cantalibre.org/>.

All press inquiries should be directed to Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or [jamesarts@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jamesarts@worldnet.att.net).