

Violinist's influences lead to 'purely personal' style

It is difficult to describe violinist Mark O'Connor's musical style. O'Connor's journey began at the feet of violin masters like Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson and legendary French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. Along the way, he absorbed knowledge and influence from a multitude of musical styles and genres and has since melded and shaped these influences into a new American classical music.

Pittsburg listeners will have an opportunity to hear O'Connor's "purely personal" style in person when he performs with the Hot Swing Trio at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18, in McCray Recital Hall. Other members of the trio are Jon Burr, bass, and Frank Vignola, guitar. This performance is part of the 2005-2006 Solo and Chamber Music Series.

O'Connor is equally at home performing with Wynton Marsalis, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, doublebassist Edgar Meyer, or members of his Appalachia Waltz Trio. Bassist Jon Burr has toured and recorded with many great jazz masters, including Stan Getz, Chet Baker, Horace Silver, Hank Jones, Art Farmer, Stephane Grappelli, and Buddy Rich. Recent appearances with Hot Swing have included concerts at California's Strawberry Festival and Lincoln Center Jazz. By the time Frank Vignola graduated from high school, he was touring extensively as a guitarist. Since then, he has appeared at premier concert halls and major jazz festivals throughout the world. Some of the noteworthy artists he's performed with include Les Paul, Lionel Hampton, John Lewis, and Woody Allen.

The Solo & Chamber season continues on November 1 with pianist Sara Davis Buechner. Individual, package and seasonal tickets are available at the PSU Ticket Office. Individual concert tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for persons over 65 or under 18. A full-season pass is \$46 for general admission and \$32 for persons over 65 or under 18. The any-four package is \$34 for general admission of \$23 for persons over 65 or under 18. Tickets are available to full-time PSU students at no charge.

For ticket information, call the PSU Ticket Office at 620-235-4796, visit them online at <www.pittstate.edu/union/tickets> or at the Overman Student Center on the PSU campus. For other information, contact the Department of Music at 620-235-4466 or visit <www.pittstate.edu/music>. The Solo and Chamber Music Series is supported major funding from the PSU Student Government Association.