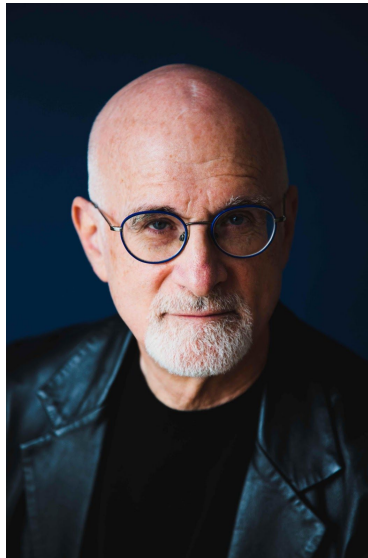


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**World Premiere of Composer Robert Sirota's *Dancing With the Angels*
as part of Only at Merkin with Terrance McKnight: Carol Wincenc**



The concert is the second in a three-concert series *Carol Wincenc 50th Anniversary: It's Golden!*

as well as part of Robert Sirota's 70th Birthday Series *Sirota @ 70*

Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 5pm

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center | 129 W. 67th St. | NYC

Tickets: \$40 at 212.501.3330 or www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org

www.robertsirota.com | www.carolwincencflute.com

New York, NY – On **Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 5pm**, flutist **Carol Wincenc** and her trio, **Les Amies**, with **Cynthia Phelps**, viola, and **Nancy Allen**, harp, will give the world premiere of composer **Robert Sirota's** *Dancing With the Angels* as part of *Only at Merkin with Terrance McKnight: Carol Wincenc* at **Merkin Hall, Kaufman Music Center** (129 W. 67th St.). This is the second of a three-concert series, *Carol Wincenc 50th Anniversary: It's Golden!*, that celebrates the acclaimed flutist's half-century onstage. It is also part of *Sirota @ 70*, a celebration throughout the 2019-2020 concert season featuring residencies, performances, and premieres in honor of Robert Sirota's 70th birthday. Throughout the performance, WQXR host **Terrance McKnight** will talk with Carol Wincenc, the composers, and the guest artists, about the music and the artists' creative process.

Sirota's new work has been commissioned by Wincenc as part of her anniversary season. Sirota says of the piece: "The title, *Dancing With the Angels*, is drawn from the closing statement of the late Rep. Elijah

Cummings, Chair of the House Oversight Committee, which ended the Michael Cohen hearing in February 28, 2019: 'When we're dancing with the angels, the question we'll be asked: In 2019, what did we do to make sure we kept our democracy intact? Did we stand on the sidelines and say nothing?' The angels I invoke for this narrative are the most powerful of all, the Archangels – defenders of the righteous, bringers of hope and healing: Gabriel the Messenger, Raphael the Healer, Uriel the Wise, and Michael the Warrior."

The February 23 concert also includes the world premiere of Sato Matsui's *The Goldenrod Sonata* for flute and piano performed by Carol Wincenc with Bryan Wagorn, and Minuet and "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" from Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

Carol Wincenc is one of the most celebrated flutists performing today. A Grammy-nominated artist, she has performed worldwide with major orchestras and at name festivals and has collaborated as a chamber musician with eminent ensembles and soloists. Her virtuosity, deeply heartfelt musicality, and ebullient charisma have combined to make her that rare musician – a star solo flutist – for five decades.

Over five decades, composer **Robert Sirota** has developed a distinctive voice, clearly discernible in all of his work – whether symphonic, choral, stage, or chamber music. Writing in the *Portland Press Herald*, Allan Kozinn asserts: "Sirota's musical language is personal and undogmatic, in the sense that instead of aligning himself with any of the competing contemporary styles, he follows his own internal musical compass."

Sirota's work has been performed by orchestras across the US and Europe; ensembles such as Alarm Will Sound, Sequitur, yMusic, Chameleon Arts, and Dinosaur Annex; the Chiara, American, Ethel, Elmyr, Blair, and Telegraph String Quartets; the Peabody, Concord, and Webster Trios; and at festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Yellow Barn, and Cooperstown; Bowdoin Gamper and Bowdoin International Music Festival; and Mizzou International Composers Festival. Recent commissions include the American Guild of Organists, the American String Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, the Naumburg Foundation, the Sierra Chamber Society, Les Amies, Concert Artists of Baltimore, and yMusic.

Recipient of grants from the Watson and Guggenheim Foundations, United States Information Agency, National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and the American Music Center, Sirota's works are recorded on the Capstone, Albany, New Voice, Gasparo and Crystal labels. His music is published by Muzzy Ridge Music, Schott, Music Associates of New York, MorningStar, Theodore Presser, and To the Fore.

In addition to his active career as a composer, Sirota has held top leadership positions in four major music schools: Boston University (Director 1986-91), New York University (Chair, Music Dept. 1992-95), the Peabody Conservatory (Director, 1995-2005), and Manhattan School of Music (President, 2005-2012).

A native New Yorker, Sirota studied at Juilliard, Oberlin, and Harvard and divides his time between New York and Searsport, Maine with his wife, Episcopal priest and organist Victoria Sirota. They frequently collaborate on new works, with Victoria as librettist and performer, at times also working with their children, Jonah and Nadia, both world-class violists.

Carol Wincenc, hailed "Queen of the flute" by *New York Magazine*, was first prize winner of the 1978 (sole) Naumburg Solo Flute Competition, as well as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from

both the USA and CHINA National Flute Associations, the National Society of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Music, and Distinguished Alumni Award from Manhattan School of Music. In the 2019-20 season she celebrates at The Morgan Library and Museum, Merkin Concert Hall and the Staller Center for the Arts, her 50th Golden Anniversary Legacy Series with five newly commissioned works by Jake Heggie, Pierre Jalbert, Robert Sirota, Larry Alan Smith and Sato Matsui. This grand celebration includes the release of the all-Yuko Uebayashi album on Azica Records with the Escher String Quartet. Recently as part of the Naumburg Looks Back Series she performed at Carnegie's Weill Hall with her collaborator/pianist Bryan Wagorn of the Metropolitan Opera.

She has appeared as soloist with such ensembles as the Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and London symphonies, the BBC, Warsaw, and Buffalo Philharmonics, as well as the Los Angeles, Stuttgart, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestras. She has performed in countless festivals such as Mostly Mozart, Aldeburgh, Budapest, Frankfurt, Santa Fe, Spoleto, Music at Menlo, Aspen, Yale/Norfolk, Sarasota, Banff, and Marlboro. A Grammy nominee, she has received a Diapason d'Or Award for her recording of the Rouse Flute Concerto with the Houston Symphony, a Recording of Special Merit Award with pianist András Schiff, and Gramophone magazine's "Pick of the Month" with the Buffalo Philharmonic. She is a member of the New York Woodwind Quintet and a founding member of Les Amies with New York Philharmonic Principals, harpist Nancy Allen and violist Cynthia Phelps. For over a half century combined, Ms. Wincenc continues to teach on the faculties of The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University. She is renowned for her popular series with Lauren Keiser Music Publishers, the Carol Wincenc 21st Century Flute. Carol spent years training as a ballet dancer.