

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Music at St. Paul's presents Serafin String Quartet with pianist
Roberta Rust**

Sunday, February 18, 3pm

(pre-concert lecture by Prof. Allen Webber at 2:30pm)

\$20 general admission / 18 and under FREE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is handicapped accessible

For more information, visit <http://www.music.stpaulsdelray.org>

On Sunday, **February 18, 2018** at 3pm, pianist Roberta Rust will join Delaware-based Serafin String Quartet in a program featuring William Grant Still's *Danzas de Panama* for string quartet, Felix Mendelssohn's String Quartet in E minor, Op. 44, No. 2, and Antonín Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81. The concert will be preceded by a 2:30pm pre-concert lecture given by Prof. Allen Webber of Palm Beach State College.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door on the day of the concert. For more information on this event and Music at St. Paul's 30th Anniversary Season, visit music.stpaulsdelray.org. St. Paul's is handicapped accessible.

For this concert, Serafin violinist Kate Ransom reunites with long-time colleague and friend, pianist Roberta Rust. The two musicians met in the 1990's at The Harid Conservatory of Music (now the Conservatory of

Music at Lynn University) where Ms. Ransom served as founding director and Ms. Rust served as artist faculty. Ms. Ransom and Ms. Rust have shared the stage on numerous occasions over the years, both in collaborations of duos and other chamber works. “I am thrilled to have the chance to play one of the most ravishingly romantic piano quintets in the repertoire—the Dvořák Quintet—with the Serafin String Quartet,” comments Roberta Rust. “It will be an inspiring and memorable experience.”

Hailed for "silken finesse and gritty vibrancy" by Gramophone Magazine and for "playing with style and sophistication" by The Strad Magazine, **Serafin String Quartet** debuted at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2004 and has consistently received superlatives in the press and ovations by audiences around the nation. The Quartet's highly acclaimed Naxos (2013) release featuring world premiere recordings of early chamber works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon was listed as "Top 10 Classical Albums in 2013" by Philadelphia's City Paper. The Quartet's debut recording on Centaur (2010) is an "American Tapestry" of works by American composers and composers influenced by American sounds, including Barber, Dvořák, Gershwin and William Grant Still. Featured by Strings Magazine for innovative concert programming, Serafin String Quartet has been applauded at performances around the nation. The Quartet serves as Quartet in Residence at the University of Delaware and takes its name from master violin maker, Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by SSQ violinist Kate Ransom. The other members play Testore instruments from the same era, thanks to generous support from Dr. William Stegeman.

Roberta Rust has concertized to critical acclaim around the globe, with performances at such venues as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, New York's Merkin Concert Hall, Rio de Janeiro's Sala Cecilia Meireles, Washington's Corcoran Gallery, and Seoul's KNUA Hall. Hailed for her recordings on the Centaur and Protone labels, Rust has appeared with the Lark, Ying, and Amernet String Quartets and at Miami's Mainly Mozart Festival, the Philippines' Opusfest, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, Festival Miami, Long Island's Beethoven Festival, and France's La Gesse. Her concerto appearances have included engagements with the Houston Symphony, Philippine Philharmonic, New Philharmonic, Redlands Symphony, Boca Raton Symphonia, Knox-Galesburg Symphony, New World Symphony, Lynn Philharmonia, and orchestras in Latin America.

Dr. Rust serves on the artist faculty as professor of piano and head of the piano department at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida. In 2016 she received the Deanne and Gerald Gitner and Family Excellence in Teaching Award. She has given master classes throughout Asia and the Americas and at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, the University of Florida International Piano Festival and the Fondation Bell'Arte International Certificate of Piano Artists program. Rust has served as a competition adjudicator for the New World Symphony, the Chautauqua and Brevard Festivals, and the Colburn School's Music Academy. A National Endowment for the Arts grant recipient, she has served as US artistic ambassador and has received prizes and recognition from the Organization of American States, National Society of Arts Letters, and International Concours de Fortepiano (Paris).

Born in Texas of American Indian ancestry, Rust studied at the Peabody Conservatory, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin, and earned performer's certificates in piano and German Lieder from the Mozarteum in Salzburg. A student of Ivan Davis, Artur Balsam, John Perry, and Phillip Evans, she received a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a doctorate from the University of Miami. Master class studies were with Gary Graffman, Leon Fleisher, Carlo Zecchi, and Erik Werba.

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