



**GRAND OPENING - 2 DAYS ONLY: SAVE \$10,000 ON ALL RA**

**ABQJournal requires a paid subscription.**  
This story is available free without registration.  
● [Subscribers register now.](#)  
● Or [subscribe to the Albuquerque Journal newspaper.](#)  
● [Archives and Journal Library](#)

**Journal North:** [Home](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obits](#) | [Entertainment](#)

[Front Page](#) ▶ [north](#) ▶ [venuenorth](#)

Friday, April 11, 2008

## Natural Images Inspire Welsh Composer Tann

**By Emily Van Cleve**  
*For the Journal*

Twenty-five years ago a violist paid a compliment to Hilary Tann that sums up Tann's intention as a composer. "She wrote a note to me that said listening to my music is like living in a landscape," said Tann by phone from her office at Union College in Schenectady, New York. "That's exactly what I want it to feel like."

Tann's mind is filled with visual images whenever she writes music. Thoughts of Wales during childhood bring up memories of short mountain grass, lichen and bracken hugging layers of sandstone that form the gentle mountains in the southern part of the country. "Llef," which means cry from the heart in Welsh, is a flute and cello piece that was written with these specific visual images in mind.

New York's Adirondack Mountains have inspired a number of works, including "Nothing Forgotten," a piece for violin, cello and piano which takes its title from a poem by Jordan Smith. Tann's compositional style is often influenced by words.

"In the 'Allegretto' movement of 'Nothing Forgotten,' I represent the words 'all that light caught forever in the pine boughs, bound between the stones and current' by tangling notes up with each other," she explained.

"Nothing Forgotten" and "Llef" are two of three works by Tann that will featured during Taos Chamber Music Group's "Mountain Currents" concert this weekend at the Harwood Museum of Art in Taos. Tann's third piece on the program is "Gardens of Anna Maria Luisa De Medici," a work for flute, cello and piano that was composed at the request of flutist Christiane Meininger.

"At first, it was hard for me to get into writing the piece," said Tann. "Anna Maria Luisa De Medici was a remarkable woman, but I needed a natural image for inspiration. In one of her letters, she wrote that she kept dark yellow tulips in her sleeping room just to see something beautiful. These words inspired the first movement which begins slowly, regally and then blossoms at its conclusion. The inspiration for the final movement comes from the formal garden that Anna Maria Luisa created in a villa near Florence to console herself after the death of her father."

The program also features Antonin Dvorak's "Dumky Trio" for violin, cello and piano and "Zephyr," a work for alto flute and cello written by Taos Chamber Music Group's founder and flutist Nancy Laupheimer. Photographs of the Southwest and the Adirondack Mountains that were taken by photographers Caitlin Legere, Geraint Smith, Richard Hasbrouck, Robert Fitch and Lawrence White will be projected throughout the concert.

"It is really exciting to have photography projected during the performance that will reflect these musical ideas and inspiration," Laupheimer said. "I love collaboration and the interplay of different creative medium and am always looking for ways to expand the more conventional chamber music setting."

**WHAT:** Taos Chamber Music Group: "Mountain Currents"

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday

5:30 p.m. Sunday

**WHERE:** Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux St., Taos

**COST:** \$17 in advance; \$10 for children under 16; \$20 at the door

**CONTACT:** (575) 758-2052