

St. Cloud State University

Department of Music

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# SCSU professors blend voice, instruments in unique trio

By Liz Kohman

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Three St. Cloud State University professors have formed an unlikely trio, blending flute, percussion and soprano vocals into a chamber group.

Terry Vermillion, percussion; Catherine Verrilli, soprano; and Melissa Krause, flute, formed Trio Lorca about two years ago, after performing "Madrigals, Book II."

The piece by George Crumb features poetry from Federico Garcia Lorca. The poet provided inspiration for the group's name.

"We had such a great time working together," said Vermillion, an associate professor of percussion at St. Cloud State.

The group decided to continue performing together, and they also started offering master classes and workshops.



Photo courtesy of Trio Lorca

**Melissa Krause (from left), Terry Vermillion and Catherine Verrilli comprise Trio Lorca.**

Trio Lorca performs two concerts in the next week — one in Minneapolis and another at

St. Cloud State University.

"We recognized a need to remain active as creative artists," Vermillion said.

Balancing a full class load and finding time to rehearse once a week can be strenuous, but the results are worth it, he said.

"How can you continue to teach if you don't play? It feeds you and that goes to your students," Vermillion said.

The professors also use the trio to reach a new audience of students.

"Part of our mission is to get out in the schools," Vermillion said. "We wanted to present this music to young kids."

Last year, Sandy Nadeau, the executive director of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, asked the trio to perform at a pizza party for sixth-graders to introduce the students to chamber music. Nadeau said it was

## If you go...

**What:** Trio Lorca concerts.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday.

**Where:** St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis.

**Tickets:** Free.

**Information:** <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/triolorca>.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25.

**Where:** Ruth Gant Recital

Hall, St. Cloud State University.

**Tickets:** \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens. Admission is free with an SCSU ID. On sale at the door.

**Information:** 308-3223 or <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/triolorca>.

great to have the trio in to talk about their music.

The trio is one of the local groups the symphony decided to partner with, offering help with booking its shows and promoting its music. The organization also has ties to the Paramount Jazz Orchestra and the Riverside Brass Quintet.

"We want to support local musicians," Nadeau said. "We have the connections to sup-

port them."

Since they've formed such an unusual trio combination — there isn't a lot of music made for flutes, drums and soprano singers — the group members often have to arrange their own music.

They perform contemporary music and have arranged songs by Rufus Wainwright and Bjork. The group hopes to commission a piece, Vermillion said.