ABAC First Tuesday Concert Features Violin/Guitar Duo on March 3

TIFTON – The First Tuesday Concert Series will feature “A Night of a Classical String Duet” on March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This concert is open to the public at no charge.

The First Tuesday series, now in its 14th year, features regional professional artists on the
first Tuesdays of five months during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, Director of Music for the School of Liberal Arts, is the First Tuesday Program Director.

“A Night of a Classical String Duet” spotlights “Nephina,” a duo comprised of violinist Nina Lutz and guitarist Nephtali Santiago. The duo’s programming features the music of Bach, Nin Culmell, Albeniz Lauro, and Astor Piazzolla, as well as arrangements for guitar and violin works from the “Great American Song Book.”

Lutz is the string area chair at Valdosta State University and has been concertmaster of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and first violinist of the VSU Faculty String Quartet since 1992. She also teaches applied violin, music theory and functional piano at VSU. Lutz maintains a thriving private studio, teaching violin and piano.

A graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Lutz received her B.M. in Performance degree from the University of Illinois and her M.M. in Violin Performance and Literature degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Lutz has performed with a number of symphonies and orchestras including the Chicago Ballet Orchestra, the Savannah Symphony, and the Jacksonville Symphony. She also spent time in Germany studying with Angela Sinell and working with German composer and string player Bertold Hummel, subsequently performing at the American premiere of his Solo Violin Sonata. Lutz has also performed with the Würzburg State Theatre and toured Spain extensively with the Bamberg Symphony.

Santiago’s first teachers included Harold Cobo and Bill Viola. He received a bachelor's degree in guitar performance at Temple University, where he studied with Peter Segal and was active as a teacher and performer. He was also the first Temple guitarist to win the Concerto Soloists Competition.
Santiago earned a Master of Music degree at Yale University where he studied with Benjamin Verdery. He served as a Yale teaching assistant and was awarded the Charles H. Ditson Scholarship for outstanding scholarship and performance. Santiago was also a teaching assistant at Florida State University, where he studied with the renowned guitar master teacher Bruce Holzman, and was twice awarded the FSU Fellowship. During this time he was also a prize-winner at the International Guitar Competition in Puerto Rico.

Santiago has performed in master classes for Oscar Gighlia, Sharon Isbin, Elliot Fisk, Jaap Shroder, and Manuel Barrueco. He teaches guitar in the VSU Department of Music.

For more information on the First Tuesday Concert Series, interested persons can contact Roe at sroe@abac.edu.

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