



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 July 2009

**CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERTS
FEATURE WORDS AND MUSIC**

In its second week of concerts this season, the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck will explore the intermingling of two art forms in a program titled "Poetry and Music". "We want to explore the poetic relationship between music and words" says Andrew Le, Artistic Director. Le was inspired to create this program by a concert he saw in New York City. "The audience was really struck by the power created by combining these two forms. I thought it was a great combination to explore for our festival."

Featured in this concert will be noted West Michigan poet Jack Ridl, appearing at the festival for the first time. Professor emeritus at Hope College, Ridl also founded the Hope College Visiting Writers Series. He has published many collections of poetry and received numerous awards. In 1996, he was named by The Carnegie Foundation as Michigan Professor of the Year. "Jack is a local hero and an idol to young writers who have studied with him", says Le. Ridl will read selections from his own works paired with Elegies by Gabriel Fauré, Alexander Glazunov, Gerald Finzi and Josef Suk.

Ridl will also be reading selected poems from "Chamber Music" by James Joyce. When Joyce wrote these poems he intended that some of them be set to music, which composer Samuel Barber did with "Songs".

"Piano Lessons" by Billy Collins is accompanied by "Etude No. 1, "Pour les cinq doigts" by Claude Debussy. As the title hints, both the words and music are "quirky and humorous", promises Le.

Chilean poet Pablo Neruda and Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla betray their Latin heritage with the final work on this concert program. "Neruda's love sonnets are very romantic", says festival Artistic Director Jennifer Walvoord, "and Piazzola's music is hot-blooded and passionate". *Primavera Portena* (Spring) and *Verano Porteno* (Summer) from Piazzola's *Cuatro*



estaciones portenas (The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires) create a fiery combination with Neruda's poems.

Taking the stage to perform the music for this concert will be some performers are new to the festival as well as returning favorites. Diana Cohen, violin, is concertmaster of the Kalamazoo Symphony and has appeared with orchestras and as a chamber musician in performances across the country. Amanda Dykhouse, violin, is the concertmaster of the Holland Symphony Orchestra. Lauren Garza, viola, is the principal violist of the Holland Symphony Orchestra. Timothy Stoddard, lyric baritone, enjoys eclectic interests in the vocal world which have led him to a wide variety of roles and venues from theatrical to opera. Lora Clark Kolean, piano, is a member of Holland's Amici Trio, a part-time faculty member at Hope College and maintains a private studio in her home. Judith Vander Weg, cello, is principal cellist of the Flint Symphony Orchestra, has appeared at the festival for the past eleven seasons and is its Associate Artistic Director. Andrew Le, piano, is a self-described pianist, professor, photographer, violinist, orchestra clinician, and husband. He is also Keyboard Area Head at Hope College where he teaches applied piano, keyboard skills, piano literature and chamber music, and revels in guiding the hearts and minds of young talents

The "Poetry and Music" concert is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th and Friday, July 17th at 8:00 p.m. at the Saugatuck Woman's Club, corner of Butler and Hoffman. A "meet the artists" reception will follow each performance. Tickets are \$18 (\$9 for students). Tickets for the Friday performance can be reserved by calling 269-857-1424. Advance ticket sales for the Thursday concert are closed but standby seating may be available at the door. Visit www.saugatuckmusic.org for further information.

Contact:

Mary Ann Quick
Publicity Director, Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck
P.O. Box 44
Glenn, MI 49416
Phone: (269) 227-3388
Fax: (269) 227-3209
E-Mail: maq@goodnest.net