



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**14 July 2009**

**CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERTS  
CELEBRATE SUMMER NIGHTS**

Listeners can anticipate lush, evocative music that celebrates summer in the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck's aptly named "Summer Nights" concerts scheduled for July 23 & 24. In its third week of concerts this season, the festival "wanted to feature music that embodied the spirit of summer nights in Saugatuck" says Jennifer Walvoord, Artistic Director. She and Andrew Le, who share the title, have selected works that will explore the summer theme through a variety of composers' interpretations.

The perennially popular George Gershwin work "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess* will be one of the pieces featured, as will the less familiar *Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 24* by Samuel Barber. Le describes the latter as "an epic journey through the American psyche of the time and a true tour de force for voice". The Ned Rorem work *End of Summer for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano* is "exciting, frenetic, unusual and fun", Le promises. The program also includes two piano trios, *Three Nocturnes* by Ernest Bloch and *Piano Trio in E flat major, D. 897*, "Notturmo" by Franz Schubert.

Le is particularly excited about performing four etudes from *Twelve Etudes* by Claude Debussy. "The Etudes were Debussy's last solo piano piece", notes Le, "composed in the summer of 1915 in a little cottage on the coast of Normandy during a difficult period in his life. They are beautiful, violent, tempestuous, sublime, unabashedly personal and unabashedly difficult. I programmed all twelve etudes for my Carnegie debut in 2004, and the work I put into them can only be described as obsessive and maniacal. I have put them away, now, for a number of years and am excited to resurrect them for our Saugatuck season."

With this concert Le and Walvoord continue to present talented new performers to the festival audiences while welcoming back many festival favorites. Monica Griffin, soprano, who received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance from the University of Michigan, performs regularly as a concert soloist and in operatic productions and teaches applied voice in the School of



Music at Western Michigan University. Adam Clark, piano, an active soloist and chamber musician who has performed throughout the United States as well as in Europe, earned his DMA in Piano Performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and is Assistant Professor of Music at Hope College. Stephanie Hovnanian, clarinet, received her Bachelor of Music from Eastman School of Music, served a three year fellowship with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas and has been a member of the West Michigan Symphony (formerly West Shore Symphony Orchestra) since 2006 while also performing regularly with the Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Kalamazoo Symphonies. Alicia Eppinga, cello, who earned her Master of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music, is Assistant Principal Cello of the Grand Rapids Symphony and a frequent performer in solo and chamber music concerts. Martha Walvoord, violin, is Assistant Professor of Violin at the University of Texas at Arlington and an internationally active chamber musician, soloist and recitalist who earned her DMA at the University of Michigan. Andrew Le, piano, holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from The University of Michigan, earned his Doctor of Music Arts degree from the Juilliard School and is also a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy. Enjoying his first season as Artistic Director, along with his wife Jennifer Walvoord, of the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Le is also Keyboard Area Head at Hope College where he teaches applied piano, keyboard skills, piano literature and chamber music.

The “Summer Nights” concert is scheduled for Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.saugatuckmusic.org) for further information.



**Contact:**

Mary Ann Quick  
Publicity Director  
Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck  
1223 Ash Drive  
P.O. Box 44  
Glenn, MI 49416  
Phone: (269) 227-3388  
Fax: (269) 227-3209  
E-Mail: [maq@goodnest.net](mailto:maq@goodnest.net)