



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRENCH MUSIC THE FOCUS AT NEXT CHAMBER CONCERT

The Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck will feature works by French composers in the fifth concert of the season, titled “Paris, Je T’aime” set for August 6th and 7th. “We are both big fans of French music”, note Jennifer Walvoord and Andrew Le, Artistic Directors of the festival. Their program will treat the audience to works that are “evocative and colorful”, according to Le. “This music transports me, I feel like I’m sitting in a café in Montmartre, nibbling a croissant whenever I hear it.”

Maurice Ravel’s *Introduction and Allegro For String Quartet, Flute, Clarinet and Harp* will feature the return of The Perugino String Quartet to the festival stage. “This is a difficult work”, notes Le, “so we’re delighted to have a quartet of their stature and skill play a key role in performing it.” The quartet, comprised of Eric Tanner, violin, Diane McElfish Helle, violin, Barbara Corbató, viola, and Stacey Bosman Tanner, cello, is enjoying its twelfth year as quartet-in-residence at Grand Valley State University and performs throughout the state of Michigan. All of the quartet members also perform regularly in the Grand Rapids Symphony.

The Ravel work is also “a benchmark piece in the harp repertoire”, says Le. “Ravel wrote it to show off the instrument.” Appearing at the festival for the first time will be Sylvia Norris, harp, a graduate of the Eastman School of Music who has appeared with the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and is currently principal harpist with the West Michigan Symphony (formerly known as the West Shore Symphony Orchestra). Norris will also perform *Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp* by Claude Debussy, a work which Le identifies as “another notable work in the harp repertoire distinctive for its unusual instrumentation”.

Another performer in this concert who is new to the festival, and one who Le and Walvoord are excited to introduce to the festival, is Henry Wong Doe, piano. Wong Doe, who currently teaches piano and music literature at Hunter College of the City University of New York, earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School in New York where he and Le were class mates. A



winner of many international competitions, Wong Doe has performed in major venues from Sydney, Australia to Tel Aviv, Israel. He will perform *Tarantelle, Op. 6 for Flute, Clarinet, and Piano* by Camille Saint-Saëns and *Piano Quintet in F Minor, M. 7* by César Franck.

In addition to the performers mentioned above, this concert will feature the return to the festival of Christopher Kantner, flute, who joined the Grand Rapids Symphony as principal flutist in 1976 and who has had a long association with the Fontana Ensemble as well as having been a fellow of the Aspen and Bach Aria Festivals. Also returning is Bradley Wong, clarinet, Professor of Clarinet at Western Michigan University, who has performed extensively throughout the United States and around the world

The concert is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th and Friday, August 7th 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.

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