

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUSIC AMONG FRIENDS:
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble
Kicks Off 2007/2008 UCP Season, October 5**

Chicago, Sept. 19, 2007 – After four months of darkness in Mandel Hall, The University of Chicago Presents' 2007/2008 season will swing into full gear with a first-time appearance by the world-renowned **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble** on October 5 at 7:30 p.m. The season, titled "Music Among Friends," features an all-star lineup in October, performing a variety of works running the gamut from J.S. Bach to groundbreaking pieces of the 21st century.

On October 14, **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** (SPCO) continues to delight Chicago audiences in third year of its residency on campus. SPCO Artistic Collaborator Scott Yoo, who made a triumphant Mandel Hall debut last season, will conduct the first concert, featuring a piece by living composer Dan Coleman, as well as works by Richard Strauss and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. The **Brentano Quartet** returns on October 19, with soprano **Susan Narucki**, to perform a program that includes J.S. Bach, Beethoven and Schoenberg's seldom-heard Second Quartet with voice. Now under the University of Chicago Presents (UCP) banner, the **Contempo** series returns with a performance by *eight blackbird* at the Harris Theater for Music and and Dance. And because "friends" like to surprise with a little something extra now and then, UCP has invited pianist **Jonathan Biss** to return to the stage where he made his Chicago recital debut, for a special "Encore Discovery Concert" on October 26. At the age of 27, Biss is already one of the fastest rising stars in the classical world and has recently become an EMI recording artist.

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NEW PRICES FOR STUDENTS!

Student prices have been slashed for both series and single tickets to most concerts. With a valid ID, students may purchase single tickets for only \$5/ticket. In addition, series subscriptions are available for as low as \$4/ticket.

NEW FRIDAY NIGHT START TIME

Start times for Friday night concerts have been changed from 8 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 2007 IN DETAIL

Friday / 5 October / 7:30 pm

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble

Kenneth Sillito, leader

Dvorák: Sextet in A major, op. 48

Shostakovich: Two Pieces for String Octet, op. 11

Mendelssohn: Octet in E-flat major, op. 20

The Chamber Ensemble, a vigorous offshoot of its venerable parent, was formed in 1967 to perform larger chamber works, from quintets to octets. Led by violinist Kenneth Sillito since 1980, these eight principals from the Chamber Orchestra form an ensemble unrivaled for cohesiveness and balance. They possess the unique advantage of being long-time playing partners, acutely attuned to one another's styles and moods. The ensemble consistently displays an intellectual understanding of the music, paired with exceptional technique and impassioned performance. Together they have released over 30 CDs on Philips, Hyperion and Chandos. Watching the exchanges between these long-standing partners gives new meaning to the phrase "music among friends."

Sunday / 14 October / 3 pm

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra

Scott Yoo, conductor

Dan Coleman: *Long ago this radiant day*

R. Strauss: *Metamorphosen*, A Study for 23 solo strings, TrV 290

Beethoven: Symphony No. 4 in B-flat major, op. 60

In the third year of its residency at The University of Chicago, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra continues its mission to become the world's own chamber orchestra. The SPCO opens its Chicago season with works for string ensembles by Strauss and living composer Dan Coleman. Inspired by a poem by Anna Akhmatova, the Coleman work was commissioned by conductor Scott Yoo's Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra. In the second half, Maestro Yoo and the SPCO will shine new light on Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. Yoo, who made a triumphant appearance leading the SPCO last season, is an award-winning violinist and Harvard graduate in physics.

Friday / 19 October / 7:30 pm

Brentano String Quartet

Susan Narucki, soprano

J.S. Bach: Final Contrapunctus from *The Art of the Fugue*

Schoenberg: Quartet No. 2 in F-sharp minor, op. 10

Beethoven: Quartet in E-flat major, op. 127

Named for Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," the Brentano Quartet brims with the passion and excitement befitting its muse. In its fourth visit to Mandel Hall, the 15-year-old Brentano brings an audacious program spanning the repertoire from J.S. Bach's Last Contrapunctus, through Beethoven's Opus 127 Quartet, to the rarely heard Schoenberg Second Quartet with soprano Susan Narucki. From their early days when they toppled awards like dominoes, the quartet-par-excellence has never shied from risk-taking. UCP audiences enjoyed their collaboration with poet Mark Strand on Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ* and delighted in the new spin they provided on J.S. Bach's *Art of the Fugue* in their 10th anniversary program *Bach Perspectives*. The last movement of the Schoenberg quartet begins, "I feel a wind from other planets," a motto that this daring ensemble might rightly assume as their own.

Susan Narucki is a Grammy Award-winning American soprano with a special affinity for new music. Her innovative programs have included a series of works by MacDowell Colony artists and a study of the correlation between Dutch and American composers. She has made a staggering 11 CDs in two years, in addition to her 2000 Grammy Award-winning disc of George Crumb's *Star Child*.

Tuesday / 23 October / 7:30 pm

Contempo: Contemporary Chamber Players, A New Music Collective

eighth blackbird

Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park

Frederic Rzewski: *Pocket Symphony*

Martin Bresnick: *My Twentieth Century*

Tamar Muskal: *Sound Mirrors*

Thierry de Mey: *Musique de Tables*

Formerly known as the Contemporary Chamber Players, the Contempo series has joined with The University of Chicago Presents for its 2007/2008 season. Winner of the American Music Center's 2007 Trailblazer Award, Contempo's resident ensemble *eighth blackbird*, opens the season with a concert of new works and exciting finds in its first full Harris Theater concert. The concept of sound as vision is explored in a mixed-media work by the young composer Tamar Muskal in *Sound Mirrors*. Also featured in this performance are works by Martin Bresnick, *eighth blackbird* long-time favorite Fred Rzewski, and Belgian composer Thierry de Mey's *Musique de Tables* for six hands.

For this special performance, UCP is proud to sponsor 400 University of Chicago students to attend this all-expenses-paid performance, which also includes a trip via Metra to Millennium Park and a dessert repast at Harris Theater, provided by Park Grill.

Friday / 26 October / 7:30 pm

Jonathan Biss, piano

Beethoven: Sonata No. 27 in E minor, op. 90

Janáček: In the Mist

Beethoven: Sonata No. 15 in D major, op. 28, "Pastoral"

Janáček: Sonata I.X.1905, "From the Streets"

Beethoven: Sonata No. 30 in E major, op. 109

Returning to the stage where he made his Chicago recital debut as the Regents Park Discovery Artist in 2004, pianist Jonathan Biss offers piano lovers an extra-series treat. In the intervening four years, the now 27-year-old virtuoso completed his tenure as the first and only American to participate in the BBC New Generation Artists program, won the 2005 Leonard Bernstein Award, and signed an exclusive recording contract with EMI. His latest recording, an all-Beethoven recital, releases in October 2007. The first Encore Discovery Concert promises to be an evening of extraordinary piano playing by a young man critics call the "analytical poet" of the keyboard.

The University of Chicago Presents is one of the city's landmark classical music presenters on the campus of The University of Chicago in the heart of the city's South Side. Among the musical legends who made their debuts at Mandel Hall are violinist Isaac Stern, guitarist Andres Segovia, soprano Cecilia Bartoli and The Juilliard String Quartet.

UCP offers four concert series—Classic Concert, the Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Artists-in-Residence Series, featuring the Pacifica String Quartet. UCP also hosts the Contempo series, featuring contemporary chamber music by today's most innovative composers and performers.

TICKETS: By phone with credit card at (773) 702-8068
In person with cash, check or credit card, weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
– Office of Professional Concerts, 5720 S. Woodlawn Ave.
– At Mandel Box Office after 7 p.m. on concert day
– By email at concert-office@uchicago.edu

PRICE: \$32 general public for all Classic Concert and Early Music performances
\$35 general public for all Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts
\$5 students with valid ID

LOCATION: Mandel Hall is located at 1131 E. 57th Street.

PARKING: Street or free in lot at 55th Street and Ellis Avenue

DISABILITIES: Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance may call the Office of Professional Concerts at (773) 702-8068 prior to the concert, but no later than 3 p.m. on concert day.

PHOTOS: Photos of the artists may be obtained upon request to The University of Chicago Presents at (773) 834-7965, or by fax at (773) 834-5888.
To download pictures directly from the web site, visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/news/photos.

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