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**SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC LAUNCHES
25TH ANNIVERSARY CHAMBER MUSIC CELEBRATION**

**Fall Celebration Concert, Spring Marathon Concert and Other Performances
Honor the Conservatory's Chamber Music Curriculum**

If chamber music is “a conversation between friends,” as the writer and violinist Catherine Drinker Bowen once famously observed, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music will be one of the friendliest places in town during the 2010-2011 season. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of its chamber music degree program, the Conservatory presents a year-long performance series bringing together faculty, students, alumni and guest performers for concerts, master classes and other special events.

Several feature programs—all free of charge—highlight the anniversary celebration. On Sunday, September 12, the Conservatory joins with the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music for **Chamber Music Day Live + Free 2010**, an all-day festival of performances ranging from baroque and classical to contemporary and jazz. This casual, free-flowing event gathers 31 ensembles to perform in half-hour segments on the Conservatory's three concert stages (Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, Sol Joseph Recital Hall, Osher Salon), allowing audiences to sample varied repertory and interact with musicians and presenters.

On Friday, November 5, the Conservatory presents a special **Celebration Concert**, bringing together students, faculty and alumni for a singular performance that touches upon all aspects of the chamber music program. Several distinguished chamber music alumni perform with their ensembles, including the **Peabody Trio**, the **Cypress String Quartet**, the **Delphi Trio** and the **Nexus String Quartet**, along with ensembles of Conservatory faculty and students from both the collegiate and

preparatory divisions. The concert also honors cellist and longtime Conservatory faculty member **Bonnie Hampton**, a driving force behind the chamber music program, with a special student/alumni cello tribute to both her achievements and her 75th birthday.

The festivities continue in the spring with a **Chamber Music Marathon** on Sunday, April 17. This student-centered event, celebrating the end of the chamber music season, comprises four concerts in one day at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Ensembles will be assembled from the roster of currently enrolled chamber music students, with some 15 to 18 groups scheduled to perform.

In addition to these special events, the Conservatory's **Chamber Music Masters** program invites back some favorite guest artists to give free master classes and outstanding chamber music concerts. In November the Conservatory enthusiastically welcomes back former faculty cellist **Bonnie Hampton** for a week-long residency, to include a master class for Preparatory Division students, a public master class featuring students from the Collegiate Division and a concert of chamber works by Carter, Schumann and Brahms with faculty and student colleagues. Also visiting the Conservatory are pianists **Gilbert Kalish** and **Menahem Pressler**, violist **Kim Kashkashian** and violinist **Robert Mann**.

Rounding out the anniversary celebration are the Conservatory's own students, who take center stage throughout the year in numerous performances with an array of string and piano, brass, woodwind and percussion ensembles. Through these performances, audiences can engage directly with students as they display the fruits of their chamber music education.

"Twenty-five years ago, when the Conservatory's chamber music program was created, then-president Milton Salkind expressed a desire to create an environment in which the exceptional young musician could 'live and breathe chamber music,'" says Colin Murdoch, president of the Conservatory. "It seems to me that we have succeeded marvelously well at realizing this vision. As I anticipate this year's performances, we will both celebrate our history and look forward to an ever brighter future for chamber music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music."

Jean-Michel Fonteneau, chair of the Conservatory's strings and piano chamber music department, adds, "Our anniversary celebration seeks to gather as many alumni as possible for a meaningful engagement with faculty and students in the true spirit of the program, reminiscing about how important chamber music has been at the Conservatory for a very long time. In addition, our guest artists have contributed a great deal to the program over the years, and we are delighted to have them back with us again for this celebration."

The Conservatory's chamber music program has roots in the Chamber Music West summer festival, founded in 1976 by then-faculty members **Bonnie Hampton**, **Nathan Schwartz**, **David Abel**

(all members of **The Francesco Trio**) and **Paul Hersh**. Immediately this program attracted a string of renowned visitors, including **Felix Galimir**, **Jaime Laredo**, **Kim Kashkashian**, **Robert Mann**, **Sharon Robinson** and members of the **Tokyo String Quartet**. Following a decade of resounding success, the Conservatory incorporated the program into its regular-year collegiate curriculum in 1985, making it the first American conservatory to offer a degree program in chamber music.

Among that year's inaugural class of seven students were pianist **Seth Knopp** and violinist **Violaine Melançon**, then performing as a duo, who shortly after graduating in 1987 formed the Naumburg Award-winning **Peabody Trio**. Other notable alumni include members of the **Del Sol String Quartet**, two-time winner of the top Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming; the **Nexus String Quartet**, grand prize winner at the 2010 Plowman Chamber Music Competition and this summer's ensemble-in-residence at the Banff Center in Canada and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado; and the **Afiara String Quartet**, 2010 winner of the Young Canadian Musicians Award and graduate resident string quartet at The Juilliard School. Looking ahead to the future of chamber music, efforts are now underway to help institute a chamber music program at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, as part of the two conservatories' brand-new sister-school relationship.

For current info on all the Conservatory's chamber music concerts, visit www.sfcm.edu. Call the Box Office for tickets at 415.503.6275 or purchase online at www.sfcm.edu starting August 30. Ticketed concerts are \$20 general admission, \$15 for students, seniors and *Friends of the Conservatory*. All concerts are held at 50 Oak Street, San Francisco.

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About the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Department:

Established in 1985, the Chamber Music Department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music offers a unique program of study for strings and piano leading to either the Master of Music degree or Artist Certificate in chamber music. An important aspect of this program is the apprentice concept of students, faculty and guest artists rehearsing and performing together on a regular basis. At least four hours of weekly coaching, ten hours of rehearsal and weekly private lessons are offered to chamber music majors.

About the San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate students fully accredited bachelor's and master's degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, most of which are offered to the public at no charge. The Conservatory's Civic Center facility is an architectural and acoustical masterwork, and the Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the "most enticing classical-music setting" in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, visit www.sfcm.edu.

CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

SPECIAL EVENTS

All performances free and open to the public

September 12 12:00 noon–6:30 p.m. Chamber Music Day Live + Free 2010
In Collaboration with San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music

Featuring: Alexander String Quartet | Berkeley Choro Ensemble | The Bernal Hill Players | Earplay | Emergency String (X)tet | Essence | Ives Quartet | The Lee Trio | Left Coast Ensemble | Les Grâces | Lisa Mezzacappa & Nightshade | Luscinia String Quartet | Marcus Shelby Quartet | martha & monica | Melody of China | Dave Mihaly Shimmering Leaves Ensemble | Musica Pacifica | Navitas Ensemble | The Nice Guy Trio | Kate Stenberg and Eva-Maria Zimmermann | Potaje | Quinteto Latino | San Francisco Piano Trio | San Francisco Guitar Quartet | sfSound | TrumpetSuperGroup | The Vnote Ensemble | Ultra World X-tet | Voices of Music | Zofu duet

November 5 8 p.m.

Celebration Concert

Peabody Trio

Cypress String Quartet

Delphi Trio

Nexus String Quartet

Elizabeth Choi/

Hannah Addario-Berry

Other ensembles TBA including a large combined student/alumni ensemble, plus a cello ensemble of past and present students to honor Bonnie Hampton's 75th birthday

Schubert *Trio No. 1 in B-flat Major, D. 898* (Andante)

Beethoven *String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130* (excerpt)

Mozart *Piano Trio No. 4 in E Major, K. 542* (excerpt)

Haydn *Quartet No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 76 "Quinten"* (excerpt)

Schulhoff *Duo for Violin and Cello*

April 17 11 a.m./2 p.m./5 p.m./8 p.m. Chamber Music Marathon

Featuring 15-18 quartets comprising students from the Conservatory's chamber music program

CHAMBER MUSIC MASTERS

Concerts: \$20 general public/\$15 students, seniors and Friends. Master Classes: Free, tickets required

September 28, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class – **Gilbert Kalish**, piano

September 30, 8 p.m.

Concert – **Gilbert Kalish**, piano

Schoenberg/Webern *Kammersymphonie*

Ives *Violin Sonata No. 2*

Schumann *Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47*

November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class – **Bonnie Hampton**, cello

November 4, 8 p.m.

Concert – **Bonnie Hampton**, cello

Carter *Sonata for Cello and Piano*

Schumann *Piano Trio No. 2 in F Major, Op. 80*

Brahms *String Sextet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 36*

February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class – **Kim Kashkashian**, viola

February 3, 8 p.m.

Concert – **Kim Kashkashian**, viola

Dvořák *String Sextet in A Minor, Op. 48*

Brahms *Viola Sonata in E-Flat Major, Op. 44*

March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class – **Menahem Pressler**, piano

March 10, 8 p.m.

Concert – **Menahem Pressler**, piano

Franck *Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano, M. 8*

Schumann *Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44*

April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class – **Robert Mann**, violin

April 7, 8 p.m.

Concert – **Robert Mann**, violin

Repertory TBA

CHAMBER MUSIC STUDENT ENSEMBLES

All performances free and open to the public

November 9, 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
November 16, 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
November 18, 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
November 21, 8 p.m.	Percussion Ensemble
November 22, 8 p.m.	Brass Chamber Music
December 2, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
December 6, 8 p.m.	Woodwind Chamber Music
December 7, 8 p.m.	Brass Ensemble
December 9, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
April 10, 2 p.m.	Percussion Ensemble
April 18, 8 p.m.	Woodwind and Brass Chamber Music
April 19, 8 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music
April 25, 8 p.m.	Brass Chamber Music
April 28, 4 p.m. and 8 pm	String and Piano Chamber Music
May 2, 8 p.m.	Woodwind Chamber Music
May 3, 8 p.m.	Brass Ensemble
May 5, 4 p.m.	String and Piano Chamber Music

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