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SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BAROQUE ENSEMBLE CONCERTO COMPETITION

Three San Francisco Conservatory of Music students, violist **Hannah Nicholas**, cellist **Hallie Pridham** and oboist **Ya-Chu Yang**, have been named winners of the Conservatory's second annual Baroque Ensemble Concerto Competition. The competition, organized by the Conservatory Baroque Ensemble, is open to all ensemble members and judged by the ensemble's co-directors, Corey Jamason and Elisabeth Reed.

The three winners—one undergraduate student, one master's student and one post-graduate student—will be featured in a free public concert on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. in the Conservatory's Concert Hall. Nicholas will perform Georg Telemann's *Concerto for Viola in G Major, TWV 51:G9*, Pridham will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Concerto for Cello in G Minor, RV 416* and Yang will perform G.F. Handel's *Concerto for Oboe No. 3 in G Minor, HWV 287*.

Nicholas, a student of Paul Hersh and Presidential Scholarship recipient, is a post-graduate student pursuing a Professional Studies Diploma. She previously studied with Che-Hung Chen, Paul Arnold and Steve Wryczynski, and is also a candidate for a B.A. in modern Middle Eastern studies at the University of Pennsylvania. At the Aspen Music Festival and School in both 2007 and 2008, Nicholas performed in chamber groups coached by Earl Carlyss, Anne Schein and the American String Quartet. She participated in master classes for Gilad Karni, James Dunham, Victoria Chiang and Jeffrey Irvine, and studied privately with Steve Wryczynski and Sabina Thatcher. She was a violist in the Aspen Festival Orchestra under the baton of David Zinman. In summer 2009 Nicholas received a scholarship to attend the Fontainebleau School for Music, where she performed in chamber groups coached by Philippe Entremont as well as cellists Diana Ligeti and Herre-Jan Stegenga, and studied privately with violists Richard Wolfe and Bruno Pasquier.

(more)

Pridham graduated from Idyllwild Arts Academy in 2005, where she was principal cellist and winner of the 2005 concerto competition. She is an undergraduate at the Conservatory, studying cello and viola da gamba with Elisabeth Reed. In 2007, she was chosen to perform with other Conservatory Baroque Ensemble members at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. for a broadcasted concert. Pridham is currently the house concert manager for the San Francisco Early Music Society and teaches cello at Heriz Music in Burlingame, California.

Yang is a master's degree student at the Conservatory, studying with James Moore. She received her B.M. degree from the National Taipei University of Education in Taiwan and has presented many recitals and concerts in Taiwan, France, China and the United States. Yang has participated in oboe master classes with Ingo Goritzki in Taiwan and Debra Nagy in San Francisco. She also won first prize in the National Music Competition, Taipei City South district.

EVENT INFORMATION:

WHO: Hannah Nicholas, viola; Hallie Pridham, cello; and Ya-Chu Yang, oboe
Winners of the 2010 Conservatory Baroque Ensemble Concerto Competition

WHAT: Conservatory Baroque Ensemble concert, featuring the winning performances

REPERTOIRE: Telemann, *Concerto for Viola in G Major, TWV 51:G9* with Hannah Nicholas, viola
Vivaldi, *Concerto for Cello in G Minor, RV 416* with Hallie Pridham, cello
Handel, *Concerto for Oboe No. 3 in G Minor, HWV 287* with Ya-Chu Yang, oboe

WHEN: Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall
50 Oak Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: Free, no tickets required

INFO: 415.503.6275, www.sfcm.edu

About 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 and graduate 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, many of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. Its 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.