



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FEBRUARY 5, 2012

CONTACT: Don Buxton 410 819-0380
or Bill Geoghegan at 410-822-6554

Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition Announces Finalists for One of World's Largest Chamber Music Prizes

Five world-class ensembles will compete for one of the world's largest chamber music prizes at the upcoming 2012 Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition, to be held at the historic Avalon Theatre in Easton, MD, on March 31, 2012, starting at 1 p.m. The five Competition finalists, the Axiom Brass Quintet, The Russian Trio, the Calidore String Quartet, the Sun-Silverstein-Lyon Trio, and the Quartet LaMi, were selected from 41 applicants nationwide and represent some of the finest young chamber music performers in the world. Hailing from the East to the West Coasts, the finalists will compete for the Gold Medal prize of \$10,000 and the Silver Medal prize of \$5,000.

The Axiom Brass Quintet, winners of the 2008 International Chamber Brass Competition and the 2011 Fischhoff Educator Award, plays a repertoire ranging from jazz and Latin music to string quartet transcriptions, as well as original compositions for brass quintet. The quintet is an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Music Institute of Chicago and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. The newly formed Russian Trio, whose members share Russian heritage, met while pursuing graduate degrees at The Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and has already performed extensively throughout the United States and internationally. The Calidore String Quartet pays homage to its home base in California, the golden state, by blending "California" and "dore" (French for "golden"). The quartet, which was formed in 2010 at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music, was the Grand Prize and Gold Medal winner of the 2011 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. The Sun-Silverstein-Lyon Trio, formed at the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in the summer of 2011, connects the East and West Coasts with members currently studying at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles and the Juilliard School in New York City. Members of the Quartet LaMi, also newly formed, met at UCLA where they are currently graduate students. This quartet, made up of violins, viola, and cello, has won numerous individual awards.

J. Lawrie Bloom, artistic director of Chesapeake Chamber Music, comments, "It gives us great pleasure to present these five groups for the finals. We have great hope for the continued strong future of classical chamber music when we hear such high level playing."

The Chamber Music Competition, which is sponsored biennially by Chesapeake Chamber Music, draws

qualified applicants from all quarters of the United States and Canada. The average age of an ensemble must be under 31, and some include members as young as 21. A preliminary judges' panel of eight notable musicians headed by J. Lawrie Bloom pared down the field to five finalists based on CD submissions. The five finalists will be judged by Marcy Rosen, Ursula Oppens and David Jolley with a live audience in attendance on March 31. The following day, each group will present an individual concert at other local venues throughout the area. The Gold Medal prize winner will be further honored with additional concerts, including a featured appearance at the 2012 Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival in June.

Tickets to the Chamber Music Competition cost \$10 per person and students are free. Tickets will be sold at the door at the Avalon Theatre on March 31, 2012, from 1 p.m. on. The schedule of performances is to be announced.

For further information, visit ChesapeakeChamberMusicCompetition.org or call the CCM office at 410-819-0380. The Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition is underwritten by private benefactors.

Photos:

#1: The Axiom Brass Quintet, winners of the 2008 International Chamber Brass Competition and the 2011 Fischhoff Educator Award, plays a repertoire ranging from jazz and Latin music to string quartet transcriptions, as well as original compositions for brass quintet.

#2: The Russian Trio, whose members share Russian heritage, met while pursuing graduate degrees at The Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and has already performed extensively throughout the United States and internationally.

#3: The Calidore String Quartet, which pays homage in its name to its home base at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music in California, was the Grand Prize and Gold Medal winner of the 2011 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

#4: The Sun-Silverstein-Lyon Trio, formed at the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in the summer of 2011, connects the East and West Coasts with members currently studying at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles and the Juilliard School in New York City.

#5: Members of the Quartet LaMi, also newly formed, met at UCLA, where they are currently graduate students in violin, viola, and cello.









