



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANNIVERSARIES TO BE CELEBRATED

On Sunday, September 24, at Trinity On Main in New Britain, the 250th anniversary of the birth year of Mozart will be celebrated with a concert by the **Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra** which is observing its **10th Anniversary**. The birthday party will begin at 4:00 with a concert of Mozart works followed by a catered banquet. The program includes Rondo in C-Major, Violin Concerto in G-major, K. 216, Piano Concerto in d-minor, K. 466, and the Symphony No. 40 in g-minor.

The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is a professional orchestra from the Greater Hartford / New Britain area consisting of an Artistic Director and approximately twenty musicians who are dedicated to presenting both traditional and contemporary classical chamber works to the public. The orchestra was established in 1997 under the auspices of the Polish-American Foundation of Connecticut.

Now in its Ninth Season, the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, led by founder and Artistic Director, Adrian Mackiewicz, continues to grow in size and repertoire, performing more than twenty concert dates a year.

The mission of Virtuosi is to preserve and perpetuate the great traditions of chamber music through the expansion of its public performance season; its education series; and, by showcasing the excellence of regional talent. Special attention is given in the choice of repertoire to music from the Eastern Europe. Throughout New England, the group presents an annual season of several concerts a year.

Each year the orchestra makes an effort to enrich the community by providing, in addition to performances, other programs related to music making such as free tickets to the local schools, school performances, concerto competition, lectures etc. Over the last three years the orchestra expanded its geographical outreach to include Hartford, Mystic, Meriden, CT, and New York City.

A frequent guest at the Kosciuszko Foundation's Chamber Music Series, in 2003 the Virtuosi was invited to perform at the Gala Concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of John Paul II papacy. In 2004, the group became the permanent orchestra of the newly formed Connecticut Lyric Opera.

Pianist Neal Larrabee, a member of the music performance faculty at the University of Connecticut, has toured extensively in major music centers including New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. His highly regarded interpretations of Chopin have led to recordings and national broadcasts. His teachers include the renowned Eugene List at the Eastman School of Music and Rosina Lhevinne at the Juilliard School where he was awarded the Josef Lhevinne Scholarship. He earned his doctorate from the University of New York at Stony Brook. Larrabee has won honors in the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Ninth International Chopin Competition in Warsaw.

Katalin Vismeg, concertmaster of the Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, is a native of Hungary, presently a member of the Hartt School Community Division faculty. She recently completed an Artist Diploma at Hartt as part of the prestigious 20/20 chamber music program under the guidance of Mickey Reisman and Anthea Kreston. In Hungary she earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the Franz Liszt Music Academy. Since age 12 Vismeg has been featured on the Hungarian National Radio as a soloist and chamber musician. In 2004 she won the Hungarian National Chamber Music Competition. She is also a member of the Sylveen String Quartet.

The program will be directed by Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, founder and director of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. Mackiewicz (Sylveen) was born in Poland where he began his violin studies at age 5. When he was eleven he placed first at the Regional Auditions

for Young Violinists and continued his studies at the Music Academy in Poznan, Poland where he won several scholarships and awards including “Primus Inter Pares” Award given by the President of the Republic of Poland. He participated in several international festivals and competitions which resulted in an invitation to study at Yale University where he earned his Master of Music and Artist Diploma degrees followed by an Assistantship at the University of Connecticut.

Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz founded the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra in 1997. Based in New Britain, originally under the sponsorship of the Polish American Foundation, the orchestra has expanded to more than ten concert programs and more than 25 performances a season including frequent performances in New York at the Kosciusko Foundation’s Chamber Music Series. It also is the orchestra for the Connecticut Lyric Opera which performs in New London and New Britain each year. Sylveen Mackiewicz is the artistic director of that organization as well as the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Youth Orchestra and the New Britain Chorale. He is also the founder and first violinist of the Sylveen String Quartet which gave its debut concert at Carnegie Hall in 2004.

The concert will be followed by a catered banquet to which the public is also invited. The evening will provide an opportunity to celebrate ten years of growth and success of an organization which has made an important contribution to the cultural life of New Britain and surrounding areas. At the banquet, tribute will be given to those who have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the Virtuosi through its first ten years; plans for new exciting programs will be announced.

Tickets are \$80 for dinner and concert. Concert only tickets are \$18, \$14 for seniors and \$5 for students. Reservations for the dinner must be made by September 10 by calling 860 612-4371 or e-mailing info@thevirtuosi.org.