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Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra  
Trinity-On-Main Arts Center  
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## Press Release

### **Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra announces 2008-2009 performance season with an international cast of featured artists.**

*The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra's artistic director Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz are preparing another season of extraordinary performances at the Trinity-On-Main Cultural Center at 69 Main Street in New Britain, CT*

*The Connecticut Virtuosi plans to entertain audiences with presentations ranging from strings programs to fully staged opera productions. This season, which is the 12<sup>th</sup> season of the group, the Orchestra is bringing a truly international roster of soloists, singers and stage directors from Russia, Poland, Romania, Albania, and Lithuania, and of course the best from the local New England scene with singers and musicians from CT New York, Boston.*

*In the Season opening concert on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** the Orchestra will present a themed concert centering around the Jewish influence on European music featuring a renowned piano soloist from Poland, Rafał Lewandowski. The program will include music by Mahler (Adagietto from Symphony No. 5) and Mendelssohn (Italian Symphony); Mr. Lewandowski will be featured in a piano concerto in d-minor by Anton Rubinstein.*

*In November and December, the Virtuosi will bring the first of three operas to the New Britain community. The state-wide Russian language premiere of "Evgeni Onegin" by Tchaikovsky will be produced in cooperation with the Connecticut Lyric Opera, and presented both in New London (home of the CLO) and New Britain. The Production will include an all-star cast of performers. The New Britain performance will take place on **November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>.***

*On **January 16<sup>th</sup>** the Virtuosi will focus on dances, with a program featuring music from Latin to European countries. This program will feature Brunilda Myftaraj on violin performing Saint-Saens' Rondo Capriccioso. The program titled "Ballroom Body Language" will also feature works by Strauss family, Tangos, and favorites by Kreisler.*

*On **February 13<sup>th</sup>** the audiences will see a new production of Britten's Cantata Misericordium. The presentation at Trinity On Main will include some of the best Connecticut Singers of the Connecticut Lyric Opera, with a guest appearance from baritone James Shaffran, a regular of the Washington National Opera House. This biblical story of a Good Samaritan is also an experimental theater with cantata form*

*being adopted for the stage.*

*On **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** the Virtuosi and the Connecticut Lyric Opera will present "La Traviata", by Verdi. The opera, based on the true story of Madame Duplessis, a courtesan and a mistress of Dumas, will feature an extraordinary cast of international singers. The production will also be repeated in New London, Middletown, and Woodstock, CT.*

*On **May 15<sup>th</sup>** the Virtuosi will close the season with a themed performance chamber orchestral music inspired by the ideas of freedom in all cultures, including works by Stanisław Moniuszko, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Prokofiev, and American Spirituals. The soloist for the evening will be a young but already very prominent Romanian bass Laurentiu Rotaru.*

*In an effort to make tickets available to all patrons, the orchestra had prices its admission tickets at \$20, with additional discounts available to seniors and students. Information about the performances and tickets can be obtained by calling the Virtuosi office at (860) 612-4371 or by visiting our website at [www.thevirtuosi.org](http://www.thevirtuosi.org). For the first time this year the Orchestra will be accepting the payments for tickets by major credit cards.*

*In addition to the schedule at Trinity on Main, the Virtuosi will present concerts with the New Britain Chorale and at St. Paul Church in Kensington. The orchestra will also perform a Christmas concert at CCSU.*

*In an effort to educate and contribute to the New Britain Community the Virtuosi will present eight performances at the local Elementary Schools. Currently the Virtuosi has a music education program that reaches approximately 1,400 children in New Britain with fun and inspiring programs that are part concert, part lecture, and in part a hands-on introduction to classical music and the instruments of the orchestra. Through our series of seven educational concerts in New Britain elementary schools, we provide children from a variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds with the opportunity to hear a style and quality of music. This program is very popular in these schools, and gives educators the opportunity to emphasize classical music in their school curriculum. School concerts feature a dialogue between the members of the orchestra and the student audience. Children learn about the different instruments in the orchestra, elements of style, information about famous composers, and other interesting facts from music history.*

*The season of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is sponsored partially by the American Savings Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, Farmington Savings Bank Foundation, Tomz Corporation, The Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation, Parker Trust Fund, Sloper Trust Fund, Moore Foundation, Greater New Britain Arts Alliance, and many friends and supporters of the Virtuosi who make the season possible.*