



Missouri Chamber Music Festival (MOCM) News Release

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Missouri Chamber Music Festival (MOCM) presents music by Francaix, Britten, Weber, Beethoven, McLoskey, and more: Concerts June 21 to 23, 2012 in Webster Groves

(St. Louis, MO, 3/18/12) **The Missouri Chamber Music Festival (MOCM) presents its second season of concerts at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 W. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119 on Thursday, June 21 at 5 pm; Friday, June 22 at 7 pm; and Saturday, June 23 at 7 pm.** Tickets for each concert are \$20 general and \$15 for seniors and students and can be purchased in advance by calling 314.882.0053 starting May 1. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the evening of the performance. There is free parking in the church lots. For more information, visit mochambermusic.org and be sure to follow the festival on facebook and twitter for the latest news.

The opening night concert of the Festival is June 21 at 5 pm and presents the *Phantasy Quartet* by Benjamin Britten; *Quintet for clarinet and strings* by Weber; and the *String Trio* of Jean Francaix in celebration of the centenary of his birth. The concert is approximately one hour.

The June 22 at 7 pm concert includes 2 Songs, Op. 91 by Brahms; Piano Trio in G Major, Op. 121a by Beethoven; *Glisten* by MOCM's Composer-in-Residence Lansing McLoskey; and String Trio in C minor, Op. 9, No. 3 by Beethoven. Mr. McLoskey's piece combines the visual and performing arts, by musically exploring visual concepts of light, reflection, glazes, and surfaces. Art by local visual artists created in response to *Glisten* will be on display during the concert. The concert is approximately one hour and 45 minutes. A pre-concert discussion with composer Mr. McLoskey begins at 6:30 pm at the church.

The final concert of the festival takes place on June 23 at 7 pm and features *Processione di lacrime* by Lansing McLoskey; Quartet for English horn and strings by Jean Francaix; and Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81 by Dvorak. The concert is one hour and 30 minutes. A pre-concert discussion with Lansing McLoskey begins at 6:30 pm at the church.

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MOCM Festival Co-Director and Pianist, Nina Ferrigno says, “All three programs have an inherent lyricism. Throughout the festival we celebrate color, both in a musical sense with the dark and rich timbre of the English horn and Lansing McLoskey’s exploration of layering sound, and in a literal sense with displayed artists’ paintings created in response to his colorful work, *Glisten*.” MOCM Festival Co-Director and Clarinetist Scott Andrews comments, “We are excited for our second season. To be able to bring back violist Amadi Azikiwe and the Calyx Trio and have them collaborate with some exciting St. Louis-based chamber musicians like Angie Smart and Melissa Brooks of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and violist Joanna Mendoza from the Arianna Quartet is thrilling for both us and our audiences.”

About the Artists

The following artists are featured in the concerts. **Scott Andrews, clarinet**, is the principal clarinetist for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and previously clarinetist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He is an avid proponent of new music and has performed with the Composers in Red Sneakers, the Auros Group for New Music, and Boston Musica Viva. **Amadi Azikiwe, viola**, has performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, the St. Lawrence Quartet, the Arianna Quartet, among many other ensembles. He is a faculty member of James Madison University and the Music Director of the Harlem Symphony Orchestra. **Melissa Brooks, cello**, is a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and has performed numerous chamber and solo concerts throughout the country, including a duo concert with Janos Starker. Ms. Brooks is a co-founder of the St. Louis based organization, Crossings Concerts. **Raehann Bryce-Davis, mezzo-soprano**, is a Gerdyne Young Artist of Opera Theatre of St. Louis and is performing in their 2012 production of *Alice in Wonderland*. **Nina Ferrigno, piano**, has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the Boston Pops, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. She is a member-director of the AUROS Group for New Music and founding member of the Boston-based Calyx Piano Trio. **Catherine French, violin**, is a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Collage New Music, and the Calyx Piano Trio. She is a frequent participant in Marlboro and Carolina Chamber Music Festivals. **Jennifer Lucht, cello**, has performed in chamber music concerts at the Kennedy Center, Tanglewood, Ravinia, and more. She is a member of the Calyx Piano Trio, performs with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, and is a co-director and founder of the Carolina Chamber Music Festival. A Professor of Composition at University of Miami

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Frost School of Music, **MOCM composer-in-residence Lansing McLoskey** has written compositions for numerous organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Hilliard Ensemble, and Meet the Composer. *Gramophone Magazine* calls Mr. McLoskey's music "a chaotic collision of exuberant populist style with a bluesy edge and infectious punch." **Joanna Mendoza, viola**, is the violist of the Arianna String Quartet and Associate Professor of Viola at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where the quartet has been in residence since 2000. **Maria Schleuning, violin**, performs with Dallas Symphony Orchestra; the Grammy-nominated contemporary music ensemble, Voices of Change, and is also the organization's Artistic Director. She is a faculty member at the Bowdoin Music Festival in Maine and at Idyllwild Arts in California. **Robert Sheena, English horn, oboe**, is the principal English horn player for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra. Mr. Sheena is a faculty member of Boston University, the Boston Conservatory, and the Longy School of Music. **Angie Smart, violin**, is a first violinist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. She has performed extensively in Europe and the United States and has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Alhambra Chamber Orchestra, and the Gorton Philharmonic. The critically acclaimed **Calyx Piano Trio** features Nina Ferrigno, Catherine French, and Jennifer Lucht. The ensemble has been Trio in Residence at the Carolina Chamber Music Festival and recently performed at the Sheldon Concert Hall, the James Library in MA, and the Skaneateles Festival in NY.

The Missouri Chamber Music Festival 2012 Season is generously sponsored by the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, the Regional Arts Commission, and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. The Missouri Chamber Music Festival (MOCM) was formed in June 2010 by Scott Andrews, principal clarinetist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and pianist Nina Ferrigno, to educate, cultivate, promote, foster, sponsor, develop, and encourage understanding of and public interest in classical chamber music. MOCM brings nationally recognized professional musicians to Webster Groves, MO to perform a series of chamber music concerts in collaboration with local artists during an annual Festival each June. Diverse programming including new and commissioned works are a defining attribute of the Festival illuminating the fine art of the small ensemble genre.

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