



April 21, 2014

Atlanta Chamber Players Announce Selection of New Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ms. Heather Rodriguez
Interim General Manager
heather@atlantachamberplayers.com
404 386 7760

Ms. Paula Peace
Retiring Artistic Managing Director
paulapeace@atlantachamberplayers.com
404 872 4952

After a six-month long nationwide search, the Atlanta Chamber Players Board of Directors, Search Committee, musicians and retiring Artistic Managing Director Paula Peace are excited to announce the selection of Elizabeth Pridgen as the group's next Artistic Director. Ms. Pridgen will assume her new position July 1, 2014.

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen has distinguished herself as a superior soloist and chamber musician. Her busy May 2014 concert schedule, for example, features performances in Florida, Texas, New York and Italy. She has also performed in New York at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall and Alice Tully Hall, and on the "Rising Stars Series" at the Ravinia Festival, the Kosciuszko Foundation, and in recitals in London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Washington D.C., Miami, San Francisco and throughout the Southeast and Caribbean. A sought after chamber music collaborator, she has performed with artists such as Elmar Oliveira, Robert McDuffie, Lynn Harrell, Hilary Hahn, Sarah Chang, Jennifer Koh, Mark O'Connor and the American String Quartet. Ms. Pridgen is currently a Distinguished Artist and Piano Chair at the McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University. She received her Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School, where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein, and earned her Bachelor's degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Ann Schein. An Atlanta native, Ms. Pridgen has an unusually rich experience in chamber music, as she first began performing chamber music as an adolescent pianist with her grandfather, violinist Martin Sauser, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster for 17 seasons.

Said Paula Peace: "I am absolutely elated that Elizabeth will be succeeding me as Artistic Director. She is a gifted performing artist who connects in a special way with audiences and musicians. And she has just the right blend of passion and verve to lead the Atlanta Chamber Players into their next great chapter. I salute ACP President Jim Throckmorton, the ACP Board and Search Committee for their deep commitment to our organization's long-term future."

To support a smooth transition, ACP retiring Artistic Managing Director, Paula Peace, will remain on staff through February 2015. Ms. Peace co-founded the Atlanta Chamber Players in 1976 and has served as the group's Artistic Director for all but a few months of its 38 seasons.

About the Atlanta Chamber Players

The Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP), founded in 1976, is a mixed ensemble of strings, winds and piano that presents engaging chamber music programs featuring diverse musical periods and instrumentation in innovative settings, while featuring highest quality musicians. ACP has earned a national reputation as a pioneer among chamber music groups and is Atlanta's premiere chamber ensemble. Acclaimed by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as "Atlanta's All-Stars," ACP has premiered 150+ works in Atlanta and reaches thousands through concerts, soirees, educational performances and radio broadcasts each year. ACP founded - with the Antinori Foundation - and nationally directs the 50-state Rapido! Composition Project, which has yielded 1000+ new chamber works to date. ACP capped our 35th year with acclaimed concerts in New York's Carnegie Hall and Boston's Jordan Hall. 2012 featured four concerts at the International Chamber Music Festival in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

###