

For Immediate Release
August 12, 2015



Media Contacts:

404-594-3445

Elizabeth Pridgen, Artistic Director

Elizabeth@atlantachamberplayers.com

Rachel Ciprotti, General Manager

Rachel@atlantachamberplayers.com

Atlanta Chamber Players Announce 40th Anniversary Season *Largest Season Ever, Rapido! Finals, & Guest Artists*

ATLANTA, August 12, 2015 – The Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP) are celebrating 40 years of music-making in Atlanta with the largest season of local musical events in the ensemble’s history! The 40th Anniversary Concert Season features internationally renowned guest artists, the ensemble’s first-ever performance in Gwinnett County, an expansion of the ACP’s popular Soirée Subscription Series, and a new collaboration with the Atlanta Music Project.

Artistic Director Elizabeth Pridgen notes, “I am thrilled for our historic and ambitious 40th season! My excitement to perform with our fantastic guest artists is second only to my excitement to share their tremendous talents with the Atlanta community. The ACP is producing more concerts and events than ever before in new and exciting venues, *and* we are hosting the Southeastern Regional and National Finals concerts for the Rapido![®] 14-Day Composition Contest.”

Acclaimed violinist and Macon native Robert McDuffie will perform alongside ACP musicians for an outstanding opening concert at The Carter Center on Friday, September 11, featuring works by Brahms and Mozart amongst others. On October 25, the ACP presents their first-ever performance in Gwinnett County. With generous support of presenting sponsor BrandBank, and assistance from the Metro Atlanta Arts Fund’s *A Place to Perform* grant program, the ACP will perform an afternoon of intimate music at 550 Trackside in Lawrenceville including works from Mozart, Schubert, and several British composers.

The national Rapido! Composition Contest, founded by the ACP and the Antinori Foundation, is in the midst of its fourth contest cycle. The Southeastern Semi-Finals will take place on October 27 at the New American Shakespeare Tavern; audiences will hear three short works by southern composers as well as more traditional pieces from Schubert and a Britten arrangement of a work by Henry Purcell. Robert Spano joins the ACP as a guest pianist, performing one of his own compositions as part of the Rapido! National Finals event on January 17 at the High Museum’s Hill Auditorium. Five finalists from across the country will compete for a huge prize that includes \$7,500 in cash, premieres with chamber ensembles in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, and San Francisco, and a commission from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra! The judging for the National Finals are led by Robert Spano, alongside celebrated composers Michael Gandolfi and Libby Larsen.

On March 6, the ACP will perform a program at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue that includes ASO concertmaster David Coucheron. The season will close on May 10 at the New American Shakespeare Tavern and will feature soprano Lucy Shelton singing art song as well as collaborating with the ACP on a performance of Schoenberg’s groundbreaking *Pierrot Lunaire*. Shelton is famous as a master interpreter of *Pierrot*, but has never yet performed the work for an Atlanta audience.

In addition to these exciting public concerts, the ACP is expanding their Educational & Outreach programs. A free community concert performance will take place in the spring, and the ACP is collaborating with the Atlanta Music Project (AMP) to give chamber music workshops to at-risk youth studying music in AMP’s acclaimed El-Sistema style program. The ACP also works with VSA Arts of

For Immediate Release
August 12, 2015



Georgia, VetTix, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta to provide free concert tickets to underserved audiences.

Last, but not least, the ACP has expanded their fully-subscribed Intown Soirée Series, which visits fine homes and unique venues for intimate evenings of wine, food, and beautiful music in gorgeous settings. In addition to the typical six performances, the group is adding a four-event Soirée North Series, visiting venues in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. Soirée events this season will take place in fine homes across the region, and at venues such as the stunning high-rise offices of SignatureFD in Midtown and the historic Greek Revival mansion Bulloch Hall in Roswell. Interested parties can contact the Atlanta Chamber Players to find out more about subscribing to these unique experiences.

Having served the Metro Atlanta region for 40 years, the Atlanta Chamber Players will spend the season celebrating the past, while looking forward to the future as they prepare for the next 40 years of music-making! The ACP is honored that this ambitious season of programming is supported in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and by the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs.

For more information, visit atlantachamberplayers.com.

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 of diverse musical periods and instrumentation in innovative settings, while featuring the highest quality musicians. ACP has earned a national reputation as a pioneer among chamber music groups. Acclaimed by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as "Atlanta's All-Stars," ACP has premiered 125+ works in Atlanta and reaches thousands through concerts, soirées, educational performances, and radio broadcasts each year. Further information can be found at their website: atlantachamberplayers.com

About Rapido!® 14-Day National Composition Contest:

The Atlanta Chamber Players (ACP) founded - with the Antinori Foundation - and nationally directs the 50-state Rapido! Composition Project, which has yielded 500+ new chamber works to date through four cycles of competition. Further information can be found at the competition website: rapidocompositioncontest.com

###