

For Immediate Release
January 22, 2016

atlanta  chamber players

Media Contacts:

404-594-3445

Elizabeth Pridgen, ACP Artistic Director

Elizabeth@atlantachamberplayers.com

Rachel Ciprotti, ACP General Manager

Rachel@atlantachamberplayers.com



The Rapido! National Composition Contest Grand Prize Winner is Mark Buller

Online Voting Taking Place to Select Audience Favorite

January 22, 2016 – The Rapido! Take Four!! 2015-2016 Composition Contest came to a thrilling climax Sunday, January 17, 2016 in Atlanta during the National Finals Competition Concert when the Atlanta Chamber Players performed the five National Finalist works and judges selected **Mark Buller of Houston, Texas as the National Winner** for his work entitled *Regressive Variations*. The illustrious judges were Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Robert Spano and composers Michael Gandolfi and Libby Larsen.

Five acclaimed chamber music ensembles participate in the contest, representing all corners of the country: **Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings** (midwest), **Boston Musica Viva** (northeast), **Atlanta Chamber Players** (southeast), **Voices of Change** (southwest), and **Left Coast Chamber Ensemble** (west coast).

Composers are given just 14 days in June to compose a 4-6 minute work. Over 300 composers registered for the contest, and all of the partner ensembles joined with the Atlanta Chamber Players in the summer of 2015 to blind judge their compositions from across the country, narrowing the field down first to 15 Semi-Finalists and then 5 Finalists to compete for the Grand Prize National Commission. The five Finalists were:

- **Midwest:** Kevin Eppich, Cleveland, OH
- **Northeast:** Louis Cruz, New York, NY
- **Southeast:** Peter Van Zandt Lane, Athens, GA
- **Southwest:** Mark Buller, Houston, TX
- **West Coast:** Kenneth Lim, Los Angeles, CA

Grand Prize Winner Mark Buller was the Southwest Finalist and lives in Houston where he recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Houston.

Buller will expand his initial 5-minute piece into a 15-minute work. Each of the five partner ensembles will perform the expanded Rapido! piece next season. In addition, he will compose a new orchestral work to be performed by the Grammy-winning [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#), and he received a 2-week residency at the scenic [Hambidge Center for Creative Arts](#) in north Georgia.

However, not all of the contest's prizes have been distributed yet. World wide audiences are invited to view video performances of the five Finalist works online at

For Immediate Release
January 22, 2016

atlanta  chamber players

rapidocompositioncontest.com and vote for their favorite before midnight eastern time on Wednesday, February 3. The Audience Favorite composition wins a \$500 cash prize.

For more information, visit rapidocompositioncontest.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 hundreds of new chamber works to date through four cycles of competition. For more information, visit rapidocompositioncontest.com

Biography of Grand Prize Winner, Mark Buller:

The music of composer and pianist Mark Buller has been performed around the country and internationally, in a variety of venues: Carnegie Hall, the Wortham Center (Houston), and Movimento (Munich), as well as further locations in Europe, South America, and Asia. He has been commissioned by a wide range of organizations, including Houston Grand Opera (for two 45-minute operas, as well as numerous art songs), the Houston Symphony, the AURA Contemporary Ensemble, Liminal Space Contemporary Ensemble, and Diverse Works ArtSpace. Buller was for two years a member of the Da Camera of Houston Young Artist Program, for whom he composed around a dozen chamber works.

In 2013 Houston Grand Opera commissioned a 45-minute opera for its Opera to Go! program. The resulting work, The Pastry Prince, was a collaboration with librettist Charles Anthony Silvestri. It premiered in January 2015 at Houston's Heinen Theatre and has been performed more than 80 times to date. The success of this opera led HGO to commission Buller and Silvestri for a second opera, to premiere January 2016.

Buller was the winner of the 2010 Vanguard Voices Choral Composition Competition; the winning work, Sicut Cervus, is now published by Hinshaw Music and has been performed around the world, including at Carnegie Hall. In 2014 Buller won the Sarofim Composition Award, for his third string quartet. And in 2015 he was awarded second place in the Voices Of Change Young Composers Project Composition Contest, for the first movement of his second piano trio.

Buller received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Houston, where he studied with Marcus Maroney and Rob Smith. He previously studied with choral composer Dan Forrest. For more information, visit markbullercomposer.com

###

atlanta  chamber players

 BOSTON
MUSICA
VIVA
Richard Pittman
Music Director

 DETROIT
CHAMBER
WINDS & STRINGS

 VOICES OF
CHANGE

 LEFT
COAST
CHAMBER
ENSEMBLE

 Atlanta
Symphony
Orchestra