

For Immediate Release
March 24, 2016

atlanta  chamber players

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The Rapido! National Composition Contest Audience Favorite Prize Winner is Louis Cruz

Online Votes Gave Prize to Juilliard Composer

March 24, 2016 – The Rapido! Take Four!! 2015-2016 Composition Contest has announced the winner of the Audience Favorite Prize. The winner is **Louis Cruz of New York City**, a current doctoral student at the prestigious Juilliard School.

Worldwide audiences are viewed video performances of the five Finalist works online at rapidocompositioncontest.com and on YouTube and voted for their favorite piece. The Audience Favorite composition was Cruz's work, titled *MVC*, winning the composer a \$500 cash prize. MVC stands for Model-View-Controller, an architectural pattern used to create user interfaces in computer programming. Cruz used the pattern to inspire his theme and variations for piano, violin, and clarinet. You can hear the piece as performed by Boston Music Viva online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_ifSTC-bl8.

Five acclaimed chamber music ensembles participate in the Rapido! National Composition 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

The Grand Prize Winner this cycle was Mark Buller, whose expanded work will be premiered by all five ensembles next year. Registration for the next contest cycle will happen in the spring of 2017.

For more information, visit rapidocompositioncontest.com

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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 Audience Favorite Winner, Louis Cruz:

Louis Cruz (b. 1991) is an award-winning composer based in New York City. Currently, Louis is working on a commission from the New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute. Recently, his a cappella setting of Whitman's "A Clear Midnight" won the Manhattan Choral Ensemble's 2015 composition competition. His orchestral work, Calafia, was awarded the Jim Highsmith award, making Louis the youngest recipient in the prize's history. The San Francisco Conservatory Orchestra premiered this work as part of the 2012 - 2013 season. In 2011, his work for string quartet, Le Coucher de Soleil, was premiered as part of the Shanghai Spring Festival at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Louis has received honors from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in music history, theory, and composition; he has also received honors from the European American Music Alliance in keyboard harmony, counterpoint, and score reading. Mr. Cruz received his M.M. in composition at Juilliard and his B.M. at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His teachers include Robert Beaser, David Conte, and Philip Lasser. He is currently a doctoral candidate in the C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellows program at the Juilliard School. Find out more at <http://www.louiscruzmusic.com/>

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