For Immediate Release September 15, 2016



Media Contacts:

404-594-3445 Elizabeth Pridgen, ACP Artistic Director Elizabeth@atlantachamberplayers.com Rachel Ciprotti, ACP Executive Director Rachel@atlantachamberplayers.com





Grand Prize Composition from Rapido! Contest Has Premieres in Cities Across the U.S.

World Premiere in Atlanta, with Performances to Follow in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, and San Francisco

September 15, 2016 – The national Rapido! Take Four!! Composition Contest recently announced the World Premiere of the Grand Prize Winning commission. It will take place on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 in Atlanta, GA, home of the Atlanta Chamber Players. The ensemble co-founded the Rapido! Contest alongside the Antinori Foundation in 2009. The Grand Prize Winner of the fourth cycle of the Rapido! Contest is Houston-based composer Mark Buller.

Five acclaimed chamber music ensembles participate in the Rapido! National Composition Contest, representing all corners of the country. Composers are given just 14 days in June to compose a 4-6 minute work. Over 300 composers registered for the contest, then the field was narrowed down first to 15 Regional Semi-Finalists and then 5 National Finalists who competed for the Grand Prize National Commission in Atlanta in January of 2016.

Winning composer Mark Buller won a cash prize, a commission to expand his competition work from 5 minutes to a full-length piece, a residency at the Hambidge Center for the Arts in north Georgia, and a commission from the Grammy-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO). Buller's ASO World Premiere is set to take place on June 1, 2017.

"I was so honored to win this contest, and I cannot wait to hear my music performed by five outstanding chamber ensembles throughout the next 18 months, as well as the incredible Atlanta Symphony Orchestra!" said Buller.

The performance dates set thus far for his new work titled *Motion Studies* are as follows:

- Atlanta, Georgia September 27, 2016
 - o Ensemble: Atlanta Chamber Players
 - o Location: Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse
 - o More Info: http://www.atlantachamberplayers.com/concerts_tickets rapido
- Boston, Massachusetts November 5, 2016
 - o Ensemble: Boston Musica Viva
 - o Location: Pickman Hall at the Longy School of Music
 - More Info: http://bmv.org/concerts/friends.html
- Dallas, Texas January 8, 2017
 - o Ensemble: Voices of Change
 - o Location: Caruth Auditorium at Southern Methodist University
 - o More Info: http://voicesofchange.com/#season
- Atlanta, Georgia April 3, 2017 at the SoundNow Festival of Contemporary Music
 - o Ensemble: Atlanta Chamber Players

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 Location: Kopleff Hall at Georgia State University

o More Info: http://www.atlantachamberplayers.com/concerts_tickets

• Detroit, Michigan – TBA

o Ensemble: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings

• San Francisco, California – TBA

o Ensemble: West Coast Chamber Ensemble

Atlanta Chamber Players Artistic Director Elizabeth Pridgen noted that the ensemble will give two performances of Buller's new work this season: "We are pleased to be able to share Mark Buller's music with Atlanta audiences several times this year, giving the World Premiere of *Motion Studies* at our season opening concert, and then giving an encore performance as part of the SoundNow Festival of Contemporary Music in April."

You may contact the Atlanta Chamber Players for details on their performances, or to be put in touch with composer Mark Buller or the other partner ensembles.

For more information, visit <u>rapidocompositioncontest.com</u>.

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.

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. 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. And in 2016, he won the national Rapido! Composition Contest. 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

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