

## Music at Eden's Edge



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### **MUSIC AT EDEN'S EDGE ANNOUNCES 2009 GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**BEVERLY, MA, July 17, 2009** – Music at Eden's Edge ([www.edensedge.org](http://www.edensedge.org)), the North Shore's own resident chamber music ensemble, announced that it has been awarded several grants to support its community outreach programs and *New Music at the Edge* initiative.

“MEE's deep roots in the North Shore spring from our commitment to community outreach, which is as central to our mission as great performances. We are deeply appreciative of the support we have received from area businesses, trusts and foundations. At a time when the economy has created significant challenges for many arts organizations, their support has enabled us to continue our outreach work as well as our tradition of supporting the creation of new chamber music by some of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's most exciting composers,” said Maria Benotti, MEE's Artistic Director.

#### ***Senior/Family Series***

Grants from the John W. Boynton Fund, Alice Willard Dorr Foundation and Medtronic Foundation have been designated to fund MEE's Senior/Family Series. The Harpley Foundation has also awarded a generous grant to MEE for general support of its community outreach activities. Held in conjunction with MEE's annual Summer Concert Series, these performances are offered free to seniors and families from all over the North Shore. The next two Senior/Family concerts will be held on Tuesday, August 18 and Tuesday, September 15. Both performances take place at 2:00 PM at the fully accessible Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers.

#### ***Youth Chamber Concert Series***

The Institution for Savings joins the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, General Electric Foundation, Danversbank, The Rantoul Foundation, and New England Biolabs Foundation in supporting this outreach program. Presented each spring in partnership with eight public elementary schools in six North Shore communities, and provided at no cost to the schools, the Youth Chamber Concert program teaches music appreciation skills while giving students a chance to experience live chamber music and work with professional musicians in a classroom setting. Since its establishment 20 years ago, the Youth Chamber Concert Series has brought the joy of music and live performance to more than 35,000 students in the area.

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***New Music at the Edge***

Through its *New Music at the Edge* program, MEE commissions works by talented composers and showcases the premiere performances during its Summer Concert Series. Over the past few seasons, these works have included compositions by American master Howard Rovics and MEE violist and composer Mark Berger, whose new piece “Spell” was premiered during the recent “Premiere and Birthday Celebrations!” concert performances. In 2009, this program is made possible by the generous support of the Brannen-Cooper Fund and a “Meet The Composer” grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts.

“We also wish to acknowledge funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and local Cultural Councils in Gloucester, Newburyport, Lynn, Beverly, Ipswich and Danvers, as well as our sponsors Nexamp and Pelletier Wealth Management,” Benotti noted.

Founded in 1982, MEE has come to represent the highest standards of musical performance artistry. Its Summer Chamber Music Series, which runs from June through September, features extraordinary musical artists performing in some of the area’s most beautiful and distinctive settings. MEE is known for creative programming that ranges from the Baroque period to innovative 21<sup>st</sup> century compositions, and for concerts that combine rarely performed works with more familiar and traditional pieces in the chamber music repertoire. For more information about MEE’s Summer Concert Series or outreach activities, call 978-270-4463 or visit the website at [www.edensedge.org](http://www.edensedge.org).

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