

Music at Eden's Edge



Contact: Ann Seamonds
978-887-9959
seamonds@seamonds.com

MUSIC AT EDEN'S EDGE INTRODUCES "NEW MUSIC AT THE EDGE" PROGRAM AS PART OF 2008 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Initiative Showcases Commissioned Works by Leading Contemporary Composers

BEVERLY, MA, June 10, 2008 – Music at Eden's Edge (www.edensedge.org), the North Shore's own resident chamber music ensemble, is introducing a 2008 initiative, "New Music at the Edge," as part of its upcoming Summer Concert Series. The "New Music at the Edge" program will provide a showcase for world premieres of original chamber music works by leading contemporary composers, commissioned and performed by Music at Eden's Edge.

To launch the program, MEE will present the premieres of two pieces during the 2008 Summer Concert Series, which begins on June 20 and runs through September 14.

The first "New Music at the Edge" premiere is *Listening to the Sea Winds* by renowned American composer **Howard Rovics**. *Listening to the Sea Winds* is a musical reading and tribute to the poetry of the late Gloucester poet Vincent Ferrini, combining readings with music reflective of the texts. This new composition will be the centerpiece of MEE's *At the Edge of July's Garden* program, which will be presented on Friday, July 11 at 8 PM at Peabody Essex Museum's East India Marine Hall in Salem and Saturday, July 12 at 8 PM at the Endicott College Chapel in Beverly. It will also be performed as part of MEE's Senior/Family Series on Tuesday, July 8 at 2 PM at the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers.

Mr. Rovics is one of America's most respected composers. A resident of Connecticut, he is a Professor Emeritus of Music, having taught for 33 years at the School of the Arts on the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. He has received numerous prestigious awards and commissions including a National Endowment bicentennial grant, commissions from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Bruce Museum of Greenwich, Connecticut, and the Trustees Award from Long Island University. He was also named Distinguished Composer of the Year by the Connecticut Music Teachers Association. His music is familiar to MEE audiences from two intensely moving past premieres, *Reflections* (2001), a gift of the composer for MEE's 20th Anniversary, and *Journey, a Seagoing Narrative* (2006).

The second "New Music at the Edge" work is *Upon a Wheel of Cloud*, written by MEE violist and composer **Mark Berger**. Inspired by the Cello e Basso duo's artistry, the unusual combination of the lower strings will offer a coloristic and virtuosic treat. This piece will be premiered in late August as part of *The French-American Connection* program, performed by Cello e Basso and the composer himself on Friday, August 22 at 8 PM at the Peabody Essex Museum's Phillips Library, and Saturday, August 23 at 8 PM at the Endicott College Chapel in Beverly. It will also be performed as part of MEE's Senior/Family Series on Tuesday, August 19 at 2 PM at the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers.

(more)

Mr. Berger's compositions have been heard internationally in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, Athens, Greece, and San Jose, Costa Rica. His music has been performed by ensembles such as ALEA III, the Harvard Group for Contemporary Music, New Music Brandeis, the Hellenic Group for Contemporary Music (Athens), and Studio New Music (in residence at the Moscow Conservatory). He is on the faculty of Middlesex Community College in Bedford, MA and is currently a PhD candidate at Brandeis University. Mr. Berger's *Landscape*, a gift of the composer for MEE's 25th Anniversary, and his String Trios No. 1 and 2 (the 2007 MEE commission) have beguiled, challenged and intrigued MEE's audiences and artists alike.

"MEE is known for presenting concerts that explore the full range of chamber music, from the Baroque period to innovative 21st century compositions. The 'New Music at the Edge' program formalizes our longstanding commitment to introducing to our audiences inspiring new works by many of today's most exciting composers," said Maria Benotti, MEE's founder and artistic director. "For many years, MEE has been presenting new works, often written for MEE performers. Now we have taken the step of announcing this as a formal commitment in order to help stir more awareness of the great creative work being done by living composers and to further performance of their music."

The Music at Eden's Edge 2008 Summer Concert Series is sponsored by Central Bank, a full-service community bank providing a variety of deposit and lending services for retail and business customers and operating nine full-service offices in Somerville, Arlington, Burlington, Chestnut Hill, Malden, Medford, Melrose, and Woburn (two branches). Sponsors for individual concerts include New England Biolabs (New England Biolabs concerts), Pelletier Wealth Management and Pulsifer & Associates (*At the Edge of July's Garden*, East India Marine Hall, Peabody Essex Museum) and Seamonds & Company (*The French-American Connection* at the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum).

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. For more information, call 978-270-4463 or visit the website at www.edensedge.org.

###