



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER PRESENTS

THE WALDEN CHAMBER PLAYERS *Destined for Impressionism: Painting with Music*

Music for Exhibitions concert at The Frick Art Museum
on February 24, 2009

Pittsburgh, PA—February 13, 2009—On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 7:30 p.m., the Frick Art & Historical Center will present the second concert in its 2008-2009 *Music for Exhibitions* series. In *Destined for Impressionism: Painting with Music*, the renowned Walden Chamber Players will enrich your experience of the exhibition, *Road to Impressionism: Barbizon Landscapes from the Walters Art Museum*, on view at The Frick Art Museum from February 7 through May 24, 2009.

The magnificent landscapes by artists of the Barbizon School in mid-nineteenth-century France led to the development of Impressionism. This fascinating journey and destination in the world of art is explored in the music of such composers as Claude Debussy, Ernest Chausson and Arnold Bax. Join Susan Palma-Nidel (flute), Christof Huebner (viola) and Franziska Huhn (harp) as they celebrate with music the achievements of these nineteenth-century French landscape painters.

Founded in 1997, the Walden Chamber Players present educational programs and concerts in a format that highlights the belief that music is the human experience translated into sound.

Programs present rarely heard works by composers of the past, as well as music by contemporary composers in a conscious effort to broaden the musical horizon of the audience. The Walden Chamber Players are current and former members of such prestigious musical organizations as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna State Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Artistic Director Christof Huebner also performs and records with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Members of the ensemble perform at leading festivals throughout the United States and abroad and are on the faculty of many of New England's premier musical teaching institutions.

Christof Huebner, viola, is artistic director of the Walden Chamber Players, and was born in Vienna, where he attended the Vienna Conservatory and the Wiener Musikhochschule. Continuing his studies with Michael Tree at the Saint Louis Conservatory as a Fulbright Scholar, he received his artist diploma in 1986. Before coming to the United States, he played with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna State Opera Orchestra, and Vienna Chamber Orchestra. He is a frequent performer at music festivals throughout the United States, as well as the Salzburg Festival and Wiener Festwochen in Europe. Mr. Huebner has performed with members of the Guarneri Quartet, Alban Berg Quartet and the Boston Chamber Music Society. He has recorded for BMG/Harmonia Mundi, EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, Koch International, and Nonesuch Recording Co. He is a founding member of the Walden Chamber Players.

Susan Palma-Nidel, flute, is well known for her performances and recordings of both traditional and contemporary music. She is the flautist of Speculum Musicae, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and American Composers Orchestra, and has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the world in works ranging from Mozart to Babbitt, with many premières of new compositions. Her recordings include the Mozart flute concertos, praised by *The Gramophone* and listed as one of its best all-time recordings by Deutsche Grammophon. She is a faculty member of Columbia University and Montclair State University.

At the age of fourteen, harpist **Franziska Huhn** won first prize in the prestigious German competition, Jugend Musiziert. She came to the United States to study with Lucille Lawrence at

Boston University and Ann Hobson Pilot at the New England Conservatory. She has the distinction of being the first harpist to receive the Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory, along with its Gunther Schuller Award. Since 2003, Ms. Huhn has been assistant director of the harp seminar at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. She plays regularly with the Walden Chamber Players, Radius Ensemble, Boston Philharmonic, Collage New Music, and Mistral. Ms. Huhn has given solo concerts throughout the United States and Europe.

The musical selections presented in this concert reflect the artistic movements on the road to Impressionism. Ernest Chausson was a collector of Impressionist paintings and his late work "Piece in C Major, opus 39" is included. The composer most often associated with musical Impressionism, Claude Debussy, is represented by his "Sonata for flute, viola and harp." The "Elegiac Trio for flute, viola and harp" by English composer Arnold Bax blends Romanticism and Impressionism with a strong Celtic influence. Maurice Ravel's "Sonata en Trio in f sharp minor, opus 30" presents Impressionist and Expressionist styles within his poignant melodies. The concert is rounded out by the early-nineteenth-century work by François Devienne and the "Petit Suite" by modern composer André Jolivet.

Ticket Information and Parking

Destined for Impressionism: Painting with Music is the second in the 2008-2009 series of concert performances designed to take listeners on a musical journey through The Frick Art Museum's temporary exhibitions.

- Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in The Frick Art Museum auditorium;
- Exhibition galleries are open for viewing beginning at 6:30 p.m.;
- A Meet-the-Artists reception follows the concert;
- Tickets are \$18 for Frick members and students; \$23 for non-members and guests.*
- Advance reservations are recommended due to limited seating; call 412-371-0600.

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Purchase tickets for this concert and the April 14 Music for Exhibitions concert and receive a coupon for free admission to Clayton with each ticket.

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Point Breeze. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets. For more information, please call 412-371-0600, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday, or visit the Frick's website at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For further information or images, please contact Greg Langel at the Frick at Art & Historical Center at 412-371-0600, ext. 524, or GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org

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