



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What do the Odeon Strings Program and Lady Gaga have in common?

Bay Chamber Concerts to present DBR and the New Clef Coalition

Recently featured with Lady Gaga on *American Idol*, Haitian-American Daniel Bernard Roumain (aka DBR) will perform with members of the Odeon Strings Program and guests as part of his concert: "DBR and the New Clef Coalition" presented by Bay Chamber Concerts at the Rockport Opera House on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. Described as the "hip-hop Mozart" and "Beethoven meets Lenny Kravitz," DBR is a composer, violinist and bandleader who seamlessly blends funk, rock, hip-hop and classical music into an innovative musical experience.

DBR visited Maine in February, 2009 to perform in Portland and Bangor with his quartet. Bay Chamber Concerts was able to intercept him on his way north for a stop in Rockport to work with the Odeon Youth and Chamber Orchestras. Daniel arrived on a Monday afternoon and Monica Kelly, Bay Chamber's Managing Director, brought him over to the Rockport Opera House and upon entering Daniel remarked, "This is a sacred space." For two hours he captivated the students with his open heart and creative spirit, working on their improvisation, string technique and theatrical presentation. He encouraged them to be aware not only of how they sound, but also how appeared on stage to the audience.

Soon after Daniel's visit to Maine he founded the New Clef Coalition to provide enriching residencies and new musical works for youth orchestras internationally. Recognizing today's particularly challenging economic environment, the New Clef Coalition was created out of DBR's determination to help youth orchestras to not merely survive, but to thrive. The centerpiece of the project is a new 20-minute symphonic work, commissioned by Bay Chamber concerts and composed by DBR. *Symphony for the Dance Floor* will be premiered at the concert on Sunday, March 7, 2010, and performed by the Odeon student musicians and their guests from around the state.

Student musicians performing in the concert are: Sam McKenna of Appleton; Noah Bornstein of Belfast; Elizabeth Belair, Conor Pfister, Carrick Gambell, Alex Crans and Logan Sampson of Camden; Teal

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Vickery of Cushing; Victor Marsanskis of Falmouth; Lucas Hubbard of Holden; Nora Willauer of Hope; Davis Boardman of Islesboro; Abby Leidenfrost of Liberty; Pamela Karr, Eryn Thostenson and Amber Karr of Lincolnville; Jon Moody of Manchester; Nathan Hillman of Monroe; Sarah Shapiro and Emma Shapiro of North Waterboro; Walter Reuter of Pittsfield; Ben Albee of Poland; Sarah Winchenbach, Leah Winchenbach, Abby Chamberlin, Sonia Beckstrom and Olivia Goodwin-Cook of Rockport; Emily Dunbar and Audyn Curless of Southwest Harbor; Emma Woodward of Stonington; Maya French of Swanville; Fiona Boyd of Thomaston; Josie Davis and Sophie Davis of Waldoboro; Beth Chase of Warren; Emily Olmstead and Aidan Rodier of Westbrook; and Megan Shusta of York.

Students from Bay Chamber concerts educational programs have gone on to grace the world's greatest stages and such is the case with Matthew Szemela, one of the two violinists in DBR's remarkable quartet. In 1991, Szemela won the Bay Chamber Bixler Prize and participated in the Next Generation Youth Chamber Music Program in 1992. He has since performed as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in such renowned concert halls as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully, Merkin Recital Hall and abroad in Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy. In addition he has performed with esteemed musicians such as Cassandra Wilson, the Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company, guitarist Vernon Reid of Living Colour, Jay-Z, Beyonce, ?uestlove, and Savion Glover. Other members of DBR's quartet include Earl Maneein, violin; Jon Weber, viola; and Jessie Reagen, cello.

"DBR and the New Clef Coalition" will also conclude Bay Chamber Concerts' and Wish for Haiti's fundraising effort to help rebuild the Port-au-Prince Orphanage: The House of the Children of the Lack. The House of the Children of the Lack orphanage is among the many buildings in Port-au-Prince destroyed by the disastrous earthquake on January 12, 2010. Bay Chamber Concerts is accepting donations on behalf of Wish for Haiti. To donate NOW: donate through the Bay Chamber website through the donation tab by selecting the Wish for Haiti donation option or by calling the Bay Chamber box office (207) 236-2823 - be sure to mention that your donation is to Wish for Haiti. Audience members will also have the opportunity to make donations to Wish for Haiti. At the end of the concert Bay Chamber will announce total money raised for the orphanage. For more information on Wish for Haiti, including Tim Lawson, Dorie McCullough Lawson, and other's fundraising efforts on behalf of Wish for Haiti visit their website, at wishforhaiti.org. 100% of funds raised will go directly to the orphanage.

Coming up next in the 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series: "Curtis on Tour" Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. the Rockport Opera House. Each season, Curtis on Tour brings the extraordinary artistry of the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music to audiences nationwide, with tomorrow's leading musicians performing alongside celebrated alumni and faculty. On the 2009-2010 tour, internationally acclaimed violinist Ida Kavafian and cellist Peter Wiley of the Curtis Faculty will join Curtis students celebrating the centenary year of alumnus Samuel Barber with a performance of his String Quartet (easily recognizable from the soundtrack of *Platoon*). The performance will also feature 2002 and 2003 alumnus of Bay Chamber's Next Generation Program, and rising star violinist, Benjamin Beilman. Don't miss this opportunity to see these extraordinary young musicians as they make their way to becoming the next Yo-Yo-Ma or Wynton Marsalis!

Most tickets are \$25. Prime seating is \$45, discounted up to 44% with subscription. A limited number of \$8 tickets will be available for youth ages 18 and under. Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase subscriptions or tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

Calendar Listings:

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2010

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: DBR & the New Clef Coalition

Sponsors: Camden Harbour Inn

Performers: Daniel Bernard Roumain (aka DBR), members of the Odeon Strings Program, and guests.

Description: Haitian-American artist DBR is a composer, violinist and bandleader who seamlessly blends funk, rock, hip-hop and classical music into an innovative musical experience. Recently featured with Lady Gaga on “American Idol,” he has been described as the “hip-hop Mozart” and “Beethoven meets Lenny Kravitz.” Bay Chamber Concerts has co-commissioned DBR to compose a new symphonic work, which will be performed as part of the concert.

Price: Most tickets \$25. Prime seating \$45, discounted up to 44% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Curtis on Tour

Performers: Internationally acclaimed violinist Ida Kavafian and cellist, Peter Wiley, of the Curtis faculty will join a select group of Curtis students.

Program: Samuel Barber’s String Quartet, Dvořák’s Piano Quintet, and miniature by Curtis composition students.

Description: Each season Curtis on Tour brings the extraordinary artistry of the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music to audiences nationwide, with tomorrow’s leading musicians performing alongside celebrated alumni and faculty. On the 2009-2010 tour they will be celebrating the centenary year of alumnus Samuel Barber with a performance of his String Quartet.

Price: Most tickets \$25. Prime seating \$45, discounted up to 44% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.