



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 26, 2010

#### **Experience Bliss with Biss!**

*Bay Chamber Concerts presents pianist Jonathan Biss*

Bay Chamber Concerts will present Jonathan Biss, internationally acclaimed pianist, on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockport Opera House. A special favorite of Bay Chamber Concerts' audiences and winner of the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, Biss recently appeared with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and makes his Carnegie Hall debut next season. He will perform Haydn's *Sonata in A flat Major, Hob. 16/43*; Schoenberg's *Six Little Pieces, Op. 19*; Mendelssohn's *Variations Serieuses* and a selection from "Songs Without Words;" Beethoven's *Six Bagatelles, Op. 126* and "Les Adieux" *Piano Sonata No. 26 in E flat Major, Op. 81a*. A Bixler Family concert, Jonathan Biss performs courtesy of Midori's Partners in Performance.

"One of the joys of my job is getting to watch the maturation of musical superstars," says Bay Chamber Concerts Artistic Director, Thomas Wolf. "I have known Jonathan since he was a child and today he is on the trajectory of a major international career. One doesn't see musicians of his stature very often and when it happens, it is very exciting. Jonathan proved to be an exceptional musician in 2001 when he won our Andrew Wolf Memorial Chamber Music Award and has gone on to an illustrious career as both a soloist and chamber musician."

The third generation in a family of exceptional musicians, Biss grew up surrounded by music. His grandmother, Raya Garboursova, was one of the first well-known female cellists – in fact, Samuel Barber composed his Cello Concerto for her! And his parents are Israeli-born violinist, Miriam Fried and violist/violinist Paul Biss. Biss began his piano studies at the age of six and his first musical collaborations were with his mother and father. He studied at Indiana University with Evelyne Brancart and at the internationally renowned Curtis Institute of Music with Leon Fleisher. In 1997 he appeared with Isaac Stern in a recital program at Wolf Trap. His list of accomplishments and awards since 1997 have grown exponentially, including his New York Philharmonic debut in 2001, the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in 2003 and being chosen as the first American to participate in the BBC's New Generation Artist Program from 2002 to 2004. Today, Biss continues to give chamber concerts with his mother (including a

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performance at the Rockport Opera House a few years ago) and recitals across Europe and North America.

Coming up next in the 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series: Bay Chamber Concerts will present Barrage on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at the Camden Opera House. Described as “Stomp” meets “Riverdance” with surprises of their own, Barrage is comprised of a half dozen fiddle players backed by a rock band. Not quite classical and not exactly rock, Barrage is a “high-octane fiddle-fest “that features an eclectic mix of song, music and dance. An electrifying tribute to the versatility of the violin, don’t miss what the Denver Post calls “too ‘Wow’ for words!”

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](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org).

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#### **Calendar Listings:**

**Date:** Saturday, April 10, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

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

**Title:** Jonathan Biss

**Sponsor:** Midori’s Partners in Performance.

**Program:** Haydn’s “Sonata in A flat Major, Hob.16/42;” Schoenberg’s “Six Little Pieces, Op.19;” Mendelssohn’s “Variations Serieuses” and a selection from “Songs Without Words;” Beethoven’s “Six Bagatelles, Op.126” and “Les Adieux Piano Sonata No.26 in E flat Major, Op.81a.”

**Description:** Returning to Bay Chamber Concerts is Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award winner, Jonathan Biss, now one of the top pianists in the international circuit, who recently appeared with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

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