



Press Release/for immediate release

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**Access to Art presents Fall Concerts as Part of its 12th Annual Sam Maitin Chamber Music Series**

**Opening with the Mondrian Ensemble, Philadelphia Orchestra strings, Michael Ludwig, Concertmaster of Buffalo Philharmonic, and Aurelia Mika Chang, Piano**

**Cape May.** Access to Art, Inc., who presents the 12th season of the Sam Maitin Concert Series in Cape May, is a 17 year old not for profit, who will present its core group, the Mondrian Ensemble, around whom it was formed in 1998, on Sept. 12th at the Cape May First United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. at 625 Washington St. The ensemble consists of present and former members of the Philadelphia Orchestra (Michael Ludwig was the former Associate Concert Master of the Orchestra, for a decade, and now is serving as Concertmaster for Buffalo Philharmonic), Anna Marie Ahn Petersen, violist, John Koen, cellist, and Juilliard MM, Aurelia Mika Chang, piano. All of the musicians perform on three continents. They will perform music from Richard Strauss's *Five Movements for Piano Quartet* and Johannes Brahms, *Piano Quartet in c minor, Opus 60*.

The quartet have been spending the summers across the globe; Aurelia Mika Chang in Japan and China where she is performing and the others scattered from Philadelphia to Europe. Michael Ludwig was hailed by Strad Magazine for his "effortless, envy-provoking technique..sweet tone, brilliant expression, and grand style." His critically acclaimed discography includes recordings with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Fanfare magazine writes: "His phrasing is so sensitive--knowing just where to place the slightest emphasis, where to lighten bow pressure ever so slightly to achieve delicate chiaroscuro effects, where to intensify and where to relax his vibrato--it could serve as an object lesson to every budding violinist." And BBC Music Magazine praises his "persuasive playing, silky tone, sensitivity to colour and flair for "golden age style '." Ludwig's media credits include live radio broadcasts at WRTI (Philadelphia)

and WAMC (Albany, NY) . As a producer, his honors include a Mid Atlantic Emmy Award nomination. Ludwig has served as the artistic producer of the Philadelphia Orchestra's national radio broadcasts.

Anna Marie Ahn Petersen, violist, was described by the Washington Post as a musician who "...played with a grace, fluency of phrasing, richness of tone and expressive power...that marks her as a major artist."

John Koen has been a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra since 1990. He appears regularly on the Orchestra's Chamber Music series, and performed during Wolfgang Sawallisch's 1993 Opening Week Festival and the subsequent National Public Radio broadcast of Schumann's Piano Quintet with Maestro Sawallisch as pianist. In 2004, Mr. Koen received the Philadelphia Orchestra's C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given to "a musician who has shown both musical ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the musical standards and reputation of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Aurelia Mika Chang, a Juilliard MM, and Steinway pianist has made solo, orchestra and chamber appearances in the United States, China, Poland, Japan, UK, Austria, and Germany. Ms. Chang's work was described as "perfection at a high level," and the Newark Star Ledger said she "played just exquisitely...with particular praise due to her pearly tone, sensitive phasing and poised demeanor." She was a winner at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist's Auditions at 16. Now she has two young sons, both violinists.

The concert is the second from the last of this year's summer/fall series and will be followed by an appearance with Ms. Chang, piano, and Alexander Markov, internationally renowned violinist, winner of the gold medal at the Paganini competition, who was praised by Yehudi Menuhin as "...without doubt one of the most brilliant and musical of violinists..Alexander Markov will certainly leave his mark on the music-lovers of the world and in the annals of the violin virtuosi of our day." Mr. Markov has appeared as a soloist with some of the world's most celebrated orchestras such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the BBC and the Montreal Symphonies, the Budapest Festival Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony. He has also appeared at the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and has worked with major conductors of our day including Neeme Jarvi, Christoph Eschenbach and Ivan Fischer.

Tickets for the concerts are \$20. adults; \$15. seniors, and \$10 students.

The concert series has been supported by Sturdy Savings Bank, Douglass Candies, the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Fund of the Sacramento Family Foundation. Our advertising costs have been supported by N.J. Department of Travel & Tourism, Dept. of State, and The Washington Inn, Cape May, La Mer Beachfront Inn, Cape May, and John's Tire & Auto Center, Wildwood. Call Access to Art, Inc. at (609) 465-3963 to reserve tickets to the concerts. Check us out on the web at [www.accesstoart.org](http://www.accesstoart.org) where excerpts of Ludwig's and Markov's music can be heard.

