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Press Release/for immediate release

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12th Annual Sam Maitin Chamber Music Festival Presented by Access to Art Features Four Concerts from June to September

Cape May Court House. Let the music begin. The first concert of Access to Art's classical chamber music series will begin on June 27th at 8 p.m. featuring pianist Aurelia Mika Chang and violist Anna Marie Ahn Petersen. Access to Art will present four concerts this summer/fall season celebrating its 12th year of the Sam Maitin Chamber Music Festival, honoring the Philadelphia artist whose idea it was to bring world class chamber music to the shore. Maitin, a Guggenheim fellow, who studied art in Philadelphia at both the University of the Arts and at the University of Pennsylvania, was a lover of classical music, among his other interests. The first concert, opening the season, will be scheduled for Saturday, June 27th at 8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Angels R.C. Church, Mechanic St. and the Garden State Parkway. It will feature Mondrian Ensemble members Philadelphia Orchestra violist Anna Marie Ahn Petersen and internationally known pianist, Aurelia Mika Chang, who performs on three continents. Ms. Chang performed here in February with violinist Kathryn Kruger, to three standing ovations, and then left for Vienna for a series of concerts there. This summer she is performing in China and Japan. She has been featured on Chinese television, and on WQXR in NYC. She was a former member of the California Arts Council and has an MM in music from Juilliard. They will perform work by Bach, Prokofiev, and Franck.

“We are beginning to lead up to a Renaissance Festival, scheduled for next June, at the Delaware River & Bay Authority grounds, and we will bring Aquila Theatre Company here in November to perform *As You Like It* at the Lower Cape May Regional Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre on the 14th at 7:30 p.m. They are the most widely traveled touring company presenting classical theatre in the U.S. and they do a great job on Shakespeare. They get rave reviews from the NY Times, Backstage, the New Yorker. They present in about 70 cities per year, were formed in London, and are in residence at NYU's Ancient Studies Department. They also perform classical theatre in Europe during the summer.

Two of our concerts this summer will feature works highlighting the Renaissance, the first of which on June 27th with Aurelia “Mika” Chang and Anna Marie Ahn Petersen

will feature Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet Suite as an introduction to the Elizabethan theme. Shakespeare had such an impact on theatre, on language, and on the world at large for his command of speech and human nature, that we thought we would look at his ideas and his works this year and begin the theme with the music festival," said Barbara Beitel, Access to Art, Inc. Director.

Access to Art's second performance, scheduled for July 11th at 7 p.m. at the Cape United Methodist Church on 635 Washington St. in Cape May will feature the Mayes Duo, Joseph and Kathleen Mayes, performing on early instruments. Joseph Mayes heads up the Early Music Dept. at Rowan. He studied on scholarship with Segovia. Kathleen studied with a disciple of Segovia. They will perform in Peru this summer. The Mayes feature music for 2 alto Lutes, La Rosignoll, Drewries Accordes, works from Thomas Robinson who composed from 1588 to 1610 and quite a few early works which are anonymous for Renaissance Guitars, and tenor lutes. They will also perform the Ave Maria, music for Soprano Lute and Archlute, by Josquin Des Pres (1440-1521). They will end their concert with a modern piece, from 1953, by Ron McFarlane celebrating The Heath, the Thistle, The Honeysuckle, and Headdre.

On Saturday Sept. 12th at 7 p.m. the Mondrian Ensemble will return to the area at Cape United Methodist Church on 635 Washington St., Cape May. The Mondrian consist of Philadelphia Orchestra strings, John Koen, cello, Michael Ludwig, violin, Anna Marie Ahn Petersen, viola and Aurelia Mika Chang, piano. Former Associate Concert master of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Michael Ludwig, is now concertmaster of the Buffalo Philharmonic. The group was formed in 1992 for Access to Art, Inc. and remains the core group of the annual music festival. They did not perform here last summer, due to conflicting international dates, so this summer we are featuring them in three concerts. Finally on Saturday, Sept. 19th, at 7 p.m., also at Cape United Methodist Church on 635 Washington St., Cape May, Aurelia Mika Chang, pianist, will join internationally known violin virtuoso Alexander Markov in concert. Markov has performed for the BBC orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, the Montreal Symphony, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony, the Seattle Symphony and Houston, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Jerusalem orchestras. Markov, a Russian born musician, became an American citizen along with his violinist father in 1989. With his father, he has been appearing in double concertos since he was eight. Yehudi Menuhin has written: "He is 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 virtuosos of our day."

Tickets are \$20. for adults, \$15. for seniors, and \$10. for students. There is a group rate for groups of ten. The event is sponsored by Sturdy Savings Bank, Douglass Candies, the Sheller Family Foundation, and the Sacramento Community Foundation, the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Fund. Advertising sponsors include NJ Travel & Tourism, La Mer Beachfront Inn, Cape May, the Washington Inn, Cape May, and John's Tire & Auto of Wildwood. There are special dinner and concert packages available with the Washington Inn and with Union Park Restaurant in Cape May with a deep discount on the evening of the concerts. Call (609) 465-3963 for information and reservations.

