

--PRESS RELEASE--

SUBJECT: A Cedar Rapids Festival of New Music

DATE: May 1, 2010

On May 22, 2010, the Iowa Composers Forum will host *A Cedar Rapids Festival of New Music* featuring chamber and choral music of 21 living composers from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Michigan performed by members of Orchestra Iowa. The festival will include free concerts at 11 am and 4 pm at West Music in Marion, and an 8 pm concert at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. Tickets for the Lovely Lane concert are \$8 and may be purchased at the door.

“The composers participating in this festival are all writing accessible music in a wonderful and diverse array of styles,” festival organizer Ralph Kendrick said. “We’ll present everything from Ragtime music to Hungarian folk music and hit a few points in between along the way.”

The 11 am concert will feature works by the winners of the Forum’s annual student composing competition, including “Jumping Jumbo” for piano by 9-year-old Ashley Kendrick of Cedar Rapids. Cornell and Coe College chamber musicians will also perform an octet by Danielle Orihuela a high school student from Illinois.

The Orchestra Iowa Brass Quintet will perform the world premiere of “The Maroon Spitune” by Cedar Rapids composer Jerry Owen at the 8 pm concert. Two other works will be premiered at the 8 pm concert, including Cedar Rapids composer Ralph Kendrick’s “This Precious Gift” for a cappella choir and “Music for Clarinet and Piano” by Decorah-based composer Maurice Monhardt.

The 8 pm concert will also be the inaugural performance by the Five Seasons Chamber choir, a group composed of members of the CR Concert Chorale, Chorale Midwest, and the Coe College Choir. The choir will be conducted by Ralph Kendrick and accompanied by Marita Wolgast.

The composers of each work will be in attendance and will share the meaning and inspiration for each of their works with the audience.

For more information please contact:

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A Cedar Rapids Festival of New Music Schedule of Events

9:30 am (West Music)	‘Getting Press Coverage’, Diana Nollen, Cedar Rapids Gazette
11:00 am (West Music)	Concert 1 - <i>works by Ashley Kendrick (IA), Meg Spesia (IL), Jennifer Edmondson (IA), Danielle Orihuela (IL), Michael Kimber (IA), Elaine Erickson (IA), James Romig (IL)</i>
2:30 pm (West Music)	‘P.S. The Guitar Only Has Six Strings’, John Dowdall, Red Cedar Chamber Music
4:00 pm (West Music)	Concert 2 - <i>works by Bonnie Johansen-Werner (IL), Bryan Tank (IA), Warren Gooch (MO), Taniel Iberi (IA), Matthew Dotson (IA), William Campbell (IA)</i>
8:00 pm (Lovely Lane)	Concert 3 - <i>works by Alan Schmitz (IA), Raymond Songayllo (IA), John Mattingly (IA), Maurice Monhardt (IA), Ralph Kendrick (IA), Melody Dawning Devos (IA), John Griffin (MI), Jerry Owen (IA)</i>

About the Iowa Composers Forum

Since its inception in 1987, the Iowa Composers Forum (ICF) has become a strong service, advocacy, educational, and performing organization for living Iowa composers. With a growing membership of 80 active participants statewide, the organization has earned a reputation for musical quality, diversity, and programmatic innovation. Through concerts, commissions, workshops, panel presentations, newsletters, the web page, and annual festivals, the ICF has promoted the awareness of Iowa composers and their music; enhanced networking opportunities for Iowa composers and performers; fostered the creation of new work; nurtured the development of student composers; and enriched the cultural climate of Iowa.

During its brief tenure, the ICF has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments, including:

- Sponsoring over 100 concerts in the state of Iowa
- Performing over 640 works of living composers
- Commissioning 25 Composers to create new pieces of concert music
- Hosting 20 Festivals of New Music
- Awarding and performing the works of over 40 student composers
- Establishing partnerships with organizations like the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony, the Iowa Choral Director’s Association, and Red Cedar Chamber Music