

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WHAT:** Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Emil de Cou, Music Director, presents  
*Celebrate Women in the Arts!*

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** Ernst Community Cultural Center  
Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus  
8333 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22003

**FEATURES:** *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi with Marissa Regni, violin soloist; and Claudia Emerson, Virginia's Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet Laureate, reading accompanying sonnets. Cantate Chamber Singers' first appearance with the VCO.

**TICKETS:** Available at door: seniors and groups, \$12; adults, \$18  
Advance purchase: seniors and groups, \$10; adults, \$15  
Students admitted free.  
Telephone 703-758-0179

Parking is free. Complimentary reception will follow. Additional information is available at [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org)

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**VIRGINIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT  
CELEBRATES WOMEN IN THE ARTS**

**Music, Poetry, Visual Arts Share Spotlight on March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Led by new Music Director Emil de Cou, the Virginia Chamber Orchestra's March concert will "Celebrate Women in the Arts!" Maestro de Cou is well known to area audiences as Associate Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra and NSO@Wolf Trap Festival Conductor.

The program, scheduled for 4 P.M. on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, will be part of Virginia's first statewide celebration, MINDS WIDE OPEN: *Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts*. Emil de Cou has invited the National Symphony's Marissa Regni to appear as violin soloist in *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi. Claudia Emerson, winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, and current Poet Laureate of Virginia, will read four accompanying

sonnets which were found with the original manuscript. Landscapes by Jean Schwartz, inspired by the luminosity of the seasons, will also be on display. The Cantate Chamber Singers will make their first appearance with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra in Purcell's "Welcome to All the Pleasures." The orchestra will also perform J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3.

Gisèle Becker, Music Director of the Cantate Singers, will be recognized for her outstanding contributions to the arts, as will Marissa Regni, Claudia Emerson, and Jean Schwartz. Marissa Regni, a Virginia resident, is Principal Second Violinist of the National Symphony Orchestra and a founding member of the Kennedy Center Chamber Players. Virginia artist Jean Schwartz is featured in the January issue of *Elan* magazine. In recent years, she has focused on landscape painting, and the seasonal aspects of her work will complement the performance of *The Four Seasons*. A group of her paintings will on view in the gallery adjoining the concert venue, the Ernst Community Cultural Center at 8333 Little River Turnpike, on the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

Parking is free. A complimentary reception will follow the concert. Additional information is available at [ww.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://ww.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

The Virginia Chamber orchestra's mission is to perform fine music with the highest artistic integrity for the broadest possible audience, within the limits of fiscal responsibility.

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