

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Emil de Cou, Music Director, presents
Two Symphonies and a Dance
David Grandis, Guest Conductor

WHEN: Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 4:00 P.M.

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

FEATURES: Nicolette Oppelt, solo flutist, in Gluck's "Dance of the Blessed Spirits"

TICKETS: Available at door: adults, \$25; seniors, \$20
On-line discount: adults/seniors \$20
Students admitted free. Group rates available.
Telephone 703-758-0179

Parking is free. Complimentary reception will follow. Additional information is available at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org

"TWO SYMPHONIES AND A DANCE" FEATURES MUSIC BY GLUCK, MOZART, MENDELSSOHN

Flutist Nicolette Oppelt to Solo

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra, led by Guest Conductor David Grandis, will present a pair of charming early symphonies by Mozart and Mendelssohn, and Gluck's exquisite "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" on Sunday, March 3rd, at 4 pm. The venue will be the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

Gluck composed the Dance of the Blessed Spirits when re-adapting the opera *Orfeo and Eurydice*, his most popular work, for a Parisian audience in 1774. VCO principal Nicolette Oppelt will perform the prominent flute solo. Nicolette Oppelt also serves as principal for several area orchestras. A regular substitute with the National Symphony Orchestra, she has accompanied that orchestra on many tours, including appearances in Carnegie Hall.

Mendelssohn's String Symphony No. 7 in D minor will open the program. Of the twelve string symphonies produced between the ages of 12 and 14, this is the first he expanded to include four movements. The opening section of the first movement is in the style of J.S. Bach, whose work Mendelssohn admired and introduced to new audiences.

Mozart's Symphony No. 21, K. 134, in A major was composed at the age of 15. The instrumentation includes a pair of flutes, rather than two oboes which Mozart used more frequently in his early symphonic writing.

Parking is free. A complimentary reception will be held immediately following the program in the gallery adjoining the concert hall. Art works by Rachel Collins, a noted Virginia watercolor painter from the Torpedo Factory, will be on display.

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra was founded as a professional touring orchestra, bringing live concerts to areas of the Commonwealth where they were seldom or never offered. In addition to presenting live concerts, it now occupies a unique niche by "touring" electronically, reaching millions of young people throughout the area and nationwide with satellite-delivered television and streaming Internet programs.

In a collaboration with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and the Fairfax National Network, the VCO recorded orchestral selections typical of music Washington heard as president while attending concerts in the new nation's earliest capital cities. Several of these works are included in *History Notes: The Music of Washington's World*, which is streaming through the VCO's Web site.

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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