



Bay-Atlantic Symphony to Celebrate 350th Anniversary of New Jersey in Two Concerts

Performances Oct. 4 at Dante Hall, Atlantic City and Oct. 5 in Pennsville

For Immediate Release; with photo of host Paul Somers

Monday, September 15, 2014

Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ - The Bay-Atlantic Symphony will celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary as a colony and state with chamber concerts on **Saturday, Oct. 4**, at 8 p.m., at Dante Hall Theater of The Richard Stockton College, 14 N. Mississippi Ave., Atlantic City, NJ and **Sunday, Oct. 5**, at 3 p.m., at Pennsville Memorial High School, 110 S. Broadway, Pennsville, NJ.

The music, all by New Jersey composers, was inspired by the rich heritage, culture, and scenic beauty of New Jersey. The performers will be flutist Ronna Ayscue-Lundfelt, clarinetist Christopher Di Santo, violinist Nancy Jan, violist Ana Tsinadze, cellist Elizabeth Mendoza, and pianist Donna Battista—all members of the Bay-Atlantic Symphony, and pianist Stefan Young who will perform one of his own compositions. The Bay-Atlantic Symphony is the Orchestra-in-Residence of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Tickets for the Dante Hall performance are \$10 each, with \$8 tickets for Stockton students or Stockton affiliates, senior citizens and children. They can be purchased by calling the Dante Hall Theater Box Office at (609) 347-2162 or visiting Dante Hall Theater's website at www.stockton.edu/dante. Admission to the Pennsville performance is free, with no ticket required.

Birds characteristic of New Jersey will be evoked by *Birding in the Palisades*, for flute, clarinet, and piano, by Amanda Harberg of Glen Ridge, NJ. This work was commissioned by New Jersey's most active commissioning ensemble, the Palisades Virtuosi.

New Jersey Shore Line, for clarinet, violin, and viola, is a gentle picture of that part of the state by Tim Broege of Bradley Beach, NJ.

The destruction of New Jersey's farms and woodland by development is depicted in *Vanishing Lands*, for flute, violin, viola, cello, and piano, by Raymond Wojcik of Califon, NJ. **-more-**

-continued from page 1-

Stefan Young, a faculty member at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University and a Westfield, NJ resident, will perform a piano improvisation based on themes he is using in *On Avalon's Beach*—a piano trio he is composing recalling his childhood memories in that South Jersey shore community.

To reflect the important part that hymn tunes played in New Jersey's musical and religious history, the audience will be invited to join in singing six mid-19th-century hymn tunes by William Batchelder Bradbury, who lived in Montclair. The tunes, composed for New Jersey summer camp meetings, also form the basis for *New Jersey Campmeeting—A Bloomfield Sabbath*, for flute and piano, by Paul Mack Somers of Mauricetown, NJ, who will be hosting the event.

The Battle of Trenton, composed by James Hewitt for solo piano in 1797—two decades after that crucial engagement—to honor George Washington, will be performed in an arrangement by Somers for all six players.

These concerts are made possible through the generous support of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Salem County Art Alliance/Music Around the County, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Located in the heart of the historic "Duck Town" neighborhood of Atlantic City, Dante Hall was originally built in 1926 by St. Michael's Catholic Church. Dante Hall served the community of the neighborhood as a church hall, school gymnasium and community theater until it closed in 1988. In October 2003, Dante Hall reopened after a complete renovation, funded solely by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA). In 2011, The Richard Stockton College acquired the venue, allowing it to continue serving Atlantic City and surrounding communities as a home for the performing arts. By providing quality programming and performances to local communities, Stockton College and Dante Hall Theater aim to strengthen New Jersey's efforts in restoring Atlantic City as a cultural and family destination.



#