



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SARATOGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
A Special Benefit Concert featuring
Scottish fiddler, Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, cello
in an afternoon of Celtic Music
November 16, 2008, 2:30pm

Langley, WA, October 15, 2008: The ***Saratoga Chamber Orchestra*** of Whidbey Island is pleased to announce a special benefit concert on November 16, 2008 featuring world-renowned Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and cellist Natalie Haas.

Alasdair Fraser, acclaimed by the San Francisco Examiner as “the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling,” has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on the soundtracks *Last of the Mohicans* and *Titanic*. He will be joined by the vibrant, young American cellist, Natalie Haas, a recent graduate of the Julliard school and faculty member of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Together their interpretation of the rich Scottish music tradition is unsurpassed in eloquence, passion and energy. The duo represented Scotland at the Smithsonian Museum’s Folklife Festival, and have been featured on NPR’s nationally broadcast Performance Today, the Thistle & Shamrock, and Mountain Stage. This concert will feature both original and traditional arrangements of Celtic music, as well as special arrangements featuring Mr. Fraser and Ms. Haas with the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra.

The special benefit concert is Sunday, November 16th, 2008, 2:30pm at the South Whidbey High School Auditorium, 5674 Maxwellton Rd, Langley, WA on Whidbey Island. General Admission tickets are \$23/\$21/\$18 and available at Useless Bay Coffee Co. in Langley, Bayleaf in Oak Harbor and Coupeville, Lavender Wind Farm in North Coupeville, U-Haul/ Tartan Thistle in Freeland or online at www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information please call 360-682-5826 or email heisings@msn.com

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Saratoga Chamber Orchestra
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About the **SARATOGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**:

*The **SARATOGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, was formed in 2007 as an expansion of the Saratoga Chamber Strings founded by Whidbey Island's legendary violinist and arts supporter, Michael Nutt. The SCO's mission is to provide quality musical experiences to Whidbey's audiences, as well as an educational opportunity for deserving students. In its first season, the SCO programmed varied repertoire from Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #5 to Stravinsky's L'histoire du Soldat.*

Legh W. Burns has been the music director of the SARATOGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA since its inception. He is Professor Emeritus of the University of Oklahoma and former first trumpet of the United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C. Additionally, Mr. Burns has taught at Springfield (IL) Junior College and the University of Denver, where he founded the National Trumpet Symposium and was founder and conductor of the Festival Chamber Orchestra of Denver.

The ensemble is comprised of musicians from all corners of Whidbey Island and individual members of the SCO have held or currently hold positions in the Seattle Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Boulder (CO) Philharmonic, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Everett Symphony, Seattle Philharmonic as well as other regional and community orchestras and musical ensembles. The unique multi-generational membership of the SCO, allows talented youth of the community to perform alongside adult members in a professional-educational setting.

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