



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SARATOGA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

TRAVELING TO SCOTLAND and

Guest Soloist, RANDOLPH KELLY, Viola

October 6th and 7th, 2008

Langley, WA, August 15, 2008: Whidbey Island's very own ***Saratoga Chamber Orchestra*** is pleased to announce the first set of concerts of the expanded 2008-2009 season. Under the musical direction of Legh W. Burns, the *Traveling to Scotland* concerts on October 6 and 7 will feature the sounds of the Scottish Highlands and Islands with Mendelssohn's "*Hebridean Overture, Op. 26 - Fingal's Cave*", and the delightfully engaging "*Four Scottish Dances*" of Malcolm Arnold.

"It's an honor to stand in front of this talented group of friends and neighbors and share this quality music with the residents of Whidbey", Maestro Burns says. "Whidbey Island is well-known for it's visual and literary artists, and we want the chance for our equally talented musicians to be able to perform close to home."

A highlight of the concert will be special guest soloist, Randolph Kelly, performing the West Coast premiere of J.S Bach's *Viola Concerto* as reconstructed by Michigan-based Braxton Blake. Mr. Kelly is the principal violist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and will be accompanied by the Saratoga Chamber Orchestra, including his sister, Roxallanne Medley, SCO Concertmaster and local Coupeville resident. "This is a terrific opportunity for us to share the stage and make music together," Medley says. "Our careers have been separate for over 50 years. We are thrilled to finally be playing together, especially on Whidbey Island, a place loved by both of us."

The SCO's *Traveling to Scotland* concerts are October 6th at Coupeville's Performing Arts Center (PAC) and October 7th at the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) in Langley. Both start at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20/\$18/\$15 and available for the Coupeville concert at bayleaf in Coupeville and Oak Harbor. Tickets for the October 7th concert in Langley are available through the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts Box Office (360/221.8268 or 800/638.7631). For additional information, email orchestra@whidbey.net or please call 360/221.2353.

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Saratoga Chamber Orchestra
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About **RANDOLPH KELLY**, Guest Soloist:

Randolph Kelly has enjoyed a distinguished and multifaceted career as principal violist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He was hired by André Previn in 1976, and has since played under the direction of Lorin Maazel and Mariss Jansons. Previn once wrote that Mr. Kelly "...transformed his section into what I believe is the best viola section of any orchestra in America."

In addition to his orchestral career, Mr. Kelly's virtuosity as a soloist and chamber musician has been celebrated around the world. He has recorded and toured extensively with the Los Angeles Piano Quartet. Additionally, Mr. Kelly has been invited to perform as a guest artist at chamber music festivals in Japan, Australia, Europe, Taiwan and Russia.

As a soloist, Randolph Kelly has appeared on some of the most prestigious concert stages in the world. He performed the New York premiere, in Carnegie Hall, of Sir Michael Tippett's Triple Concerto. He made his European solo debut when Lorin Maazel invited him to play the Walton Concerto with the National Orchestra of France. James DePreist conducted the Oregon Symphony when Kelly played the Bartók Viola Concerto. The review in *The Oregonian* stated, "...guest soloist Randolph Kelly provided the evening's highlight...it was a breathtaking performance."

Hi-Resolution photos of Mr. Kelly may be downloaded at:

<http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/pghsymph.nsf/bios/Randolph+Kelly>

About **BRAXTON BLAKE**, Composer:

Braxton Blake (b. 1954) studied at the University of Houston, the Eastman School of Music, the Aspen Music Festival, the Bayreuth Festival, the Dartington Festival and the Staatliche Musikhochschule in Stuttgart. As conductor, he served as music director for the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, and appeared with such ensembles as Ensemble Modern, MusikFabrik, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the South German Radio Choir and the Stuttgart Ballet. He has recorded for Muza and Col Legno recordings, and recorded extensively for the South German Radio. Blake's commissions include those from the Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester, the Vail Valley Foundation, the City of Mannheim, Ensemble 20, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, the City of Stuttgart, the West German Radio, Cologne and the Stuttgart Ballet. Recently, two CDs of his music have been recorded by the Südwest Rundfunk, Baden-Baden, and Ars-Musici has released a recording of his Duo for Trombone and Harp. His music is published by Theodore Presser and Columbia University Music Press.

(more)

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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, 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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