



January, 2010

Dear Friends,

Chamber Music Rochester's frequent collaborations with the Memorial Art Gallery have produced some of our most exciting and interesting programs. Combining visual art with its counterpart in live music enhances both genres and provides a truly unique concert experience. MAG's current exhibition, "Fashioning Kimono: Art Deco and Modernism in Japan", provides the inspiration for the next concert of Chamber Music Rochester, which will take place on Sunday, January 31, at 7:30 PM.

The program will open with two Japanese folk songs arranged for flute and harp. Kosaku Yamada's **Lullaby from the Chugoku Area** and Satoshi Kubota's **My Dear Old Mother's Song** are simple and touching. The contemporary master, Toru Takemitsu, drew inspiration from traditional Japanese sources, but also from the French school as represented by Olivier Messiaen and Claude Debussy. **Rain Spell**, written in 1982, is indeed imbued with the soul of impressionism and also the composer's life-long fascination with water. The instrumentation is ingenious and colorful: flute, clarinet, harp, vibraphone, and piano. The first half of the program will end with the **Divertimento for Marimba and Alto Saxophone** by Akira Yuyama. Written in 1968, this virtuosic work is an exhilarating tour de force for both players.

Intermission will feature a chance to view the exhibition of nearly 100 extraordinary kimono from the famed Montgomery Collection in Lugano, Switzerland. We are fortunate that CMR patrons will be among the first Rochesterians to see the exhibit, which opens on concert day. After the tour, you will transition from sight back to sound with a flute and harp arrangement of Michio Miyagi's **Haru no Umi**. The concert will end with a performance of the great **Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano** by Maurice Ravel. The inherent exoticism of this work partners beautifully with our subject matter and reminds us of the profound influence Eastern culture had on European composers early in the Twentieth Century. One of the most technically difficult and brilliant works in all of chamber music, Ravel has transformed the humble piano trio into a mini orchestra, complete with ravishing harmonies, endlessly shifting textures, and thunderous climaxes.

An impressive array of musicians from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will combine forces to bring this special program to you: violinist Shannon Nance, cellist Stefan Reuss, flutist Joanna Bassett, clarinetist/saxophonist Ramon Ricker, harpist Grace Wong, percussionist Jim Tiller, and pianist Joseph Werner. Please join us at **7:00 PM** for the pre-concert chat featuring our distinguished performers.

We look forward to seeing you on January 31 at the Memorial Art Gallery!

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors