

Christine H. Montague
Marketing and Development Director
Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra
440-724-4345
christine.montague@att.net



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephen Eva Announces Formation of Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra

Inaugural, Holiday-themed Concert to be Performed on December 21

December 4, 2008—Chagrin Falls, Ohio—Renowned musical director Stephen Eva announces that he has formed the **Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra**, a new musical endeavor that will bring studio arrangements, and the classics that inspired them, to concerts in the Chagrin Valley. The **Studio Orchestra** is the only known orchestra in the region with a particular focus on studio arrangements. Written as film scores and rarely played live, studio arrangements represent some of the most dynamic music of our time, by some of the most respected composers. The **Studio Orchestra** will afford its audience the opportunity to hear these original works played live.

Stephen A. Eva will serve as musical director and conductor. Mr. Eva is well known in the Cleveland music scene, most notably for his 25-year position as musical director/conductor for the Hermit Club Symphony Orchestra.

Priscilla Eva, sister of Mr. Eva, will serve as concertmaster. A graduate of the Eastman and Manhattan Schools of Music, Ms. Eva has toured with the Vienna Boys Choir performed with Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Pops, the Blossom Festival Orchestra, New York City Opera Touring Company, and the Eastman Studio Orchestra.

“The artistic vision for the **Studio Orchestra** is ‘more than a concert’ as we strive to enhance performances with guest artists, singers, and multi-media. We want the experience to be fun and relaxed—without the hushed formality of a typical concert—like music was meant to be heard,” says Stephen Eva.

The **Studio Orchestra** will present “Here We Go a Wassailing,” its inaugural, family-friendly concert on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre (40 River Street, Chagrin Falls). In the spirit of traditional caroling, the audience is encouraged to “wassail” along to beloved carols including *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*, *Silver Bells*, *Frosty the Snowman*, and *We Need a Little Christmas*, as well as original studio arrangements for *It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* and *O Holy Night*. Internationally renowned musicians Jocelyn Chang on harp and Michael Leese on flute will offer a pre-concert performance beginning at 6:15 p.m., and will join the Studio Orchestra as guest artists during the concert along with Cleveland-area vocalists Ryann Angelotti, Pat Mazzarino, and Bridgette Davis. Tickets are \$15 for all seats and may be purchased through the Little Theatre by visiting www.cvlt.org; calling 440-247-8955; or stopping by the box office, Monday through Saturday, from 1-6 p.m. “Here We Go a Wassailing” is presented by the Studio Orchestra and Chagrin Valley Little Theater, and sponsored by Hamlet Retirement Village.

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Stephen A. Eva serves as musical director/conductor of the newly-formed Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. A native Clevelander and graduate of Shaker Heights High School, he is an accomplished trumpet player who attended The National Music Camp at Interlochen in his youth. After sustaining an injury, Mr. Eva quickly turned his attention to his true love—conducting—and he became the first-ever student conductor at Shaker Heights High School. Mr. Eva graduated from Grove City College with degrees in Economics and Philosophy, at which he organized and directed the first Jazz Ensemble. For the past 25 years, Mr. Eva has been the conductor and driving force of the Hermit Club Symphony Orchestra which is composed of members of the Hermit Club, Cleveland’s premier performing arts club. Through the Hermit Club Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Eva has conducted numerous large-scale symphonic works, concertos, chamber music, musical theater, choral, and pops concerts. Mr. Eva is a self-employed industrial equipment systems integrator and hails from a musical family including his sister, Priscilla Eva, a renowned Cleveland-area violinist. Mr. Eva lives with his wife, Marilyn, in neighboring Auburn Township and is a dedicated father of five children.

Priscilla Eva serves as concertmaster of the newly-formed Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. A graduate of Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music, Ms Eva also studied and performed in Paris, winning Deuxieme Prix in an international competition. She has performed with Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Pops, Blossom Festival Orchestra, New York City Opera Touring Company, and the Vienna Boys Choir. While at Eastman School of Music, Ms. Eva performed and recorded regularly with the Eastman Studio Orchestra, with whom she developed her extensive knowledge of studio programming. Ms. Eva can be seen on PBS with such notables as Robert Goulet and Ed Ames. She has held principle positions with Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Colonial Symphony, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and the New York City Opera Touring Company. As the assistant concertmaster of the Brandenburg Collegium, she toured with the Vienna Boys Choir. During her studies in Paris, Ms. Eva performed numerous solos and recitals, and was awarded Deuxieme Prix in an international competition. She is pleased to be collaborating with her brother, Stephen Eva, both behind the scenes and on the stage in the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. Ms. Eva resides in Lakewood with her son, Colin Goodwin.

Jocelyn Chang, always a champion of harp and new music, participates in festivals, conferences, workshops, and concerts, working directly with composers to perform their music. She has commissioned and premiered many works for harp by composers from all over North America, Europe, and Taiwan, where she founded the harp department at the Chinese Cultural University and taught full-time from 1977-1981. The leader in the exploration of a revolutionary new invention, the Dilling harp, she has commissioned and premiered 70 works expressly for this instrument, either solo or in combination with other instruments or choir. Jocelyn is principal harpist and a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony. Her talent for improvisation has been showcased in collaborations in music, dance, theater, poetry, visual art, sculpture and performance art. She has performed on radio and television in the U.S., Romania and Bulgaria, and appears on over two dozen CDs and videos. Her harp/flute duo with composer/flutist Michael Leese gives over 100 performances a year in venues ranging from experimental theater to corporate dinner parties, concert series, and worship services. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Cleveland State University, she currently teaches at CSU, Kent State University, Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland Music School Settlement and Beck Center for the Arts. She has conducted workshops on improvisation in Cleveland, San Diego, Hartford and Berlin, and has given master-classes for performance in Bulgaria and China. She and Michael Leese are co-directors of the Jocelyn Chang Harp Ensemble which is in residence at the Beck Center for the Arts.



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Michael Leese (BM, Jacksonville University; MM Boston University) is a composer, flutist, teacher and lecturer. A MacDowell Colony fellow, his music has been featured in concerts and festivals across North America, South America, Europe and Asia. He has received grants and commissions from Meet the Composer, American Music Center, Bascom-Little Fund, Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland, and from numerous ensembles and individuals. His workshops and concerts of improvisation have been offered across the US, including at the Cleveland Institute of Music, as well as in Germany and Bulgaria. He has lectured on his music at Indiana University at Bloomington, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Hartt School of Music, Cleveland State University, and to numerous primary and secondary school students both in the Greater Cleveland Area and elsewhere in the US. His solo harp piece, *Dilling Fantasy*, was selected as the required American work for the 2001 USA International Harp Competition at Indiana University at Bloomington. His chamber work, *Music for Harp, Percussion, and Strings*, was premiered by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony in 2002, and appears on a Cleveland Composers Guild CD released by Capstone Records. *Music of Michael Leese*, a CD of his solo and chamber music, was released in the fall of 2005 by LiZhang Records. His *Experiments from the Edge of the Universe*, the culmination of his research and experimentation with electronic music which began in 1985 at the M.I.T. Media Lab, was premiered in July at the 2007 IngenuityFest Cleveland with a subsequent performance in September at a private moon-viewing ceremony and another scheduled for June 2008 at a cosmology retreat at Rivers Edge in Cleveland. He currently teaches at Cleveland State University, Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, Cleveland Music School Settlement and Beck Center for the Arts. Michael has produced the CD recording sessions of the Grammy Award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony since 1997.