

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NPR'S *FROM THE TOP* CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN STANFORD LIVELY ARTS PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 5

Bay-Area teen musicians to be featured on broadcast taping with pianist Christopher O'Riley

Stanford, CA, November 4, 2009—Host and acclaimed pianist **Christopher O'Riley** will join some of the Bay Area's most promising young classical musicians for a taping of the hit radio program *From the Top*, presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Dinkelspiel Auditorium. Celebrating its tenth year on the air and heard on nearly 250 stations nationwide (including KDFC 102.1 FM every Sunday at 7:00 p.m.), *From the Top* is the preeminent showcase for the talents of pre-collegiate artists, highlighting the roles of its participants as peer models and emerging cultural leaders. This is *From the Top's* fifth Bay Area taping, and the episode will air nationally the week of March 1, 2010.

Young performers include **13-year-old violinist Stephen Waarts** from Los Altos (2009 winner of KDFC's Star Search Competition); **16-year-old cellist Nathan Chan** from Hillsborough (featured on the 2006 HBO documentary *The Music in Me*); **16-year-old pianist Jade Huang** from Granite Bay who, in addition to being an award-winning pianist, performs oboe and clarinet with Granite Bay High School's marching band; and the 29-member **Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra**, under the direction of **Benjamin Simon**.

In addition, this episode of *From the Top* will celebrate the show's tenth anniversary by bringing back **double bassist Evan Premo**, who appeared on the show as a teen. Evan is a fellow of the Academy program of the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall, which brings chamber music to New York City public schools.

While in town, *From the Top* will conduct an interactive demonstration with young performers at the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club. Christopher O'Riley will also perform an intimate dorm recital of solo piano music for Stanford students on December 4.

This presentation is generously supported by **Burt and Deedee McMurtry**.

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ABOUT FROM THE TOP

What began as a radio experiment in 2000 quickly became one of the fastest growing and most popular weekly classical music programs on public radio. Broadcast on nearly 250 stations nationwide to an audience of more than 700,000 listeners each week, *From the Top* has been described by the *Boston Globe* as “an entertaining, accessible and inspirational mix of outstanding musical performances, informal interviews, skits and games...a celebration of extraordinary musicians who happen to be teenagers leading fairly normal lives.”

Annually, *From the Top*'s live tapings reach more than 20,000 audience members of all ages. In conjunction with its national tour, the non-profit organization conducts classroom and community outreach programs leveraging the power of its performers as role models for younger students. In addition, *From the Top* and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation award \$10,000 scholarships to high achieving musicians with limited financial means. The program has invested more than \$1 million in support for pre-college students since 2005. *From the Top* launched its Emmy Award–winning PBS television series *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* in 2007. In 2009, Telarc Records released *From the Top at the Pops*, featuring a bright and diverse group of young musicians from around the country performing with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, including Palo Alto pianist Hilda Huang.

From the Top is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and foundations as well as public radio stations. *From the Top*'s radio program is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner. Learn more at www.fromthetop.org.

TICKETS

Tickets for ***From the Top*, presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.** at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, range from \$40 to \$46 for adults and are \$10 for Stanford students. Half-price tickets are available for young people under 18, and discounts are available for groups and non-Stanford students. Call **650-725-ARTS (2787)**, or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/>.

VENUE INFORMATION

Dinkelspiel Auditorium is located on the Stanford University campus at 471 Lagunita Drive, adjacent to Tresidder Union. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found in the lot off Lagunita Drive near Tresidder Memorial Union and on Abbott Way. Maps and directions maybe accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture.

High-resolution images can be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter/>.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: ***FROM THE TOP*** with **CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY, pianist**

Program: Mark Summer (b.1958): "Julie-O"
Nathan Chan, cello, age 16 from Hillsborough

Franz Waxman (1906-1967): "Carmen Fantasie"
Stephen Waarts, violin, age 13 from Los Altos, accompanied by Christopher O'Riley, piano

Evan Premo (b.1985): *Summer Morning* and *In Just Spring* from "Seasonal Song Cycle"
Evan Premo, double bass (10th anniversary alumni performer)
Mary Bonhag, soprano

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953): Moderato and Allegro from Four Etudes, Op. 2, No's 1 and 2
Jade Huang, piano, age 16 from Granite Bay

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713): I. Vivace – Grave and II. Allegro from Concerto Grosso,
Op.6, No. 8 in G minor ("Christmas Concerto")
Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University

When: Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40-\$46 (Adult); \$20-\$23 (Youth under 18); \$10 (Stanford student)

Presented by: Stanford Lively Arts

Description: Host and acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley joins some of the Bay Area's most promising young classical musicians for a taping of the hit radio program *From the Top*. Celebrating its tenth year on the air and heard on nearly 250 stations nationwide, *From the Top* showcases the talents of exceptional pre-collegiate musicians (ages 8–18) and highlights the roles of its participants as peer models and emerging cultural leaders. This episode is scheduled to air nationally the week of March 1, 2010.

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