

**THE CONCORD ORCHESTRA**

**PO BOX 381**

**CONCORD, MA 01742**

Richard Pittman

Conductor and Music Director

March 9, 2010

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**Release: Immediately through March 20, 2010**

Cellist Rainer Crosett, a resident of North Andover, has been named the winner of the Concord Orchestra's 2010 Ehlers Young Artist Competition. He will perform Samuel Barber's Cello Concerto with the orchestra on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20 with Eric Culver, guest conductor.

Each year, the Concord Orchestra features a young performer selected by the annual young artist competition. The competition is open to musicians of high school age or younger who reside in eastern Massachusetts. The winner is chosen by a panel of orchestra members and the music director. The winner also receives a cash prize from the Charles and Arlene Ehlers Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"We were taken with Rainer Crosett's intensity and compelling projection of the music and with his impressive virtuosity," music director Richard Pittman said of his audition.

Rainer is a student at Phillips Academy Andover, where he is co-principal cellist of the Academy Chamber Orchestra and the Academy Symphony Orchestra. Rainer is the Concord Orchestra's second young artist from Phillips Andover in as many years. Last year's winner was Bobby Chen. "He's a good friend of mine," said Rainer. We're often stand partners in the orchestra."

Rainer studies cello at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School with Mark Churchill and plays in the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Benjamin Zander.

In September 2006, Rainer performed Boccherini's Cello Concerto in Bb Major with the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra. Rainer is also the winner of the Quincy Symphony Orchestra's 2010 "Young Artist Performs" Competition. He will perform the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto in A Minor with that orchestra this April.

This past summer, Rainer attended the Aspen Music Festival and School in Colorado. There he served as principal cellist of the Aspen Concert Orchestra and for the Aspen Opera Theatre Center's production of *Don Giovanni*.

During the previous two summers, he attended the Heifetz International Music Institute in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. In 2008, he was featured in the National Public Radio show "From the Top," broadcasting from the Heifetz Institute.

Unlike Aspen, the focus of the Heifetz Institute was on chamber music and solo performance. Jascha Heifetz also had instituted communications training, which introduced participants to other performing arts, such as public speaking, drama, and dance.

“By acknowledging the other disciplines, it helps you connect with the music and open up to the audience,” Rainer explained. “I really loved those two summers at Heifetz, and it really influenced the way I play.”

After graduating this spring, Rainer hopes to pursue dual degrees in cello and chemistry. And when he is not studying or performing? “I love to cook, especially dessert—and pies—I just love pies,” he said enthusiastically. Perhaps this inspired his interest in chemistry. “They’re both lab skills,” he said.

In addition to the Barber Cello Concerto, the Concord Orchestra will perform Greatest Hits, Vol. I by Michael Gandolfi and Franz Schubert’s Symphony No. 9 (the Great C Major). Competition runners-up will give pre-concert recitals at 7:15 each evening. They are pianist Mackenzie Melemed on Friday evening and violinist Jaelyn Freshman on Saturday.

Concerts are Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden Street, Concord. Pre-concert recitals are at 7:15 each evening. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$10 for students. For tickets and information, call 978-369-4967 or visit [www.concordorchestra.com](http://www.concordorchestra.com).

#### Short Calendar listing

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