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MARDI GRAS COMES TO EASTON

EASTON, MD – Chesapeake Chamber Music (CCM) will celebrate Mardi Gras with a Gala concert, dinner and auction on Saturday, March 5, 2011. The Avalon Theatre will host the concert, a jazz piano extravaganza performed by the incomparable John Royen, of Preservation Hall Jazz Band fame. The 6 p.m. concert will be followed by a Mardi Gras Parade and Jubilation down Harrison Street to the Waterfowl Building, transformed for the evening to Bourbon Street, New Orleans, where guests will be treated to a New Orleans style celebration cocktail party and dinner, provided by Gourmet By The Bay.

This year's Gala, chaired by Easton's Jean McHale, and supported by volunteer staffers, coincides with the New Orleans Mardi Gras season, which adds a bit of frisson to the event. Both live and silent auctions will be held featuring a wide variety of items for which the CCM is noted.

The Gala, CCM's major fundraiser, generously underwritten by Wye Financial and Trust, will open the 26th year for the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival, a two-week event held annually in June in

locations in and around the Easton community. Proceeds from the Gala support free and reduced price concerts during the annual Festival season, as well as community Youthreach programs, First Strings and Presto! These programs introduce the violin to Talbot and Dorchester County third and fourth graders through a series of free lessons. Interlude concerts throughout the year and the biennial International Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition, to support and further the careers of young professional musicians, round out the offerings of the CCM.

The cost for the Gala is \$175 per person. For further information about the CCM or to obtain tickets, visit www.ChesapeakeChamberMusic.org or call 410 819-0380.