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### CHESAPEAKE CHAMBER MUSIC MARDI GRAS GALA INCLUDES CONCERT AND AUCTION

The 26<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival (CCM) will open with the fundraiser, Mardi Gras Live, a jazz concert at the Avalon Theatre in Easton, followed by a spectacular Gala at the Waterfowl Festival Building on Harrison Street on Saturday, March, 5, 2011. As plans for the Gala unfold, excitement fills the air at the CCM office on Washington St. in Easton where Jean McHale and Dyanne Welte, Gala co-chairs, and their committee, are finalizing plans. For the fourth consecutive year, the Gala is being underwritten by Wye Financial and Trust and this year, CCM welcomes Benson and Mangold Realtors whose generous grant will support in part, all CCM functions.

The Gala's "All About Jazz" concert will feature the incomparable John Royen, jazz pianist and historian long associated with The Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble and The New Orleans Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Royen will perform in his two-handed stride piano style and offer comments on the history of Jazz in America. A limited number of tickets to the concert only will be available to the public.

The doors of the Waterfowl Festival Building will open directly following the concert to welcome partygoers to a Bourbon Street, New Orleans, arcade where popular Mardi Gras drinks may be chosen from among other cocktails, while music plays and hors d'oeuvres are passed. The Bourbon Street

Boutique Shops will be open, displaying a glittering array of wares donated by generous local supporters for the silent auction. A musical fanfare will usher in the dinner hour. Inside the beautifully decorated dining room, guests will be served a sumptuous feast created by Sidney and Jim Trond of Gourmet By The Bay, featuring favored New Orleans-style dishes. With dessert, the fun will begin as popular auctioneer Herb Andrews returns again this year to warm up the crowd for the Live Auction. This year's "big six" auction items include a week in a luxurious St. Croix home, Cotton House, featured on the St. Croix 2006 Historic Landmark House Tour, and overlooking the Caribbean Sea, with swim beach, deep water pool and all possible amenities. A beautiful 2700 square-foot private luxury Vero Beach, Florida condo, including a swimming pool at Grand Harbor Golf and Country Club, which also offers golf and tennis, will accommodate four guests in two master suites, for a post-April 4th weeklong stay. A week in The Quarter House Resort, a New Orleans time-share condo located in the heart of the French Quarter on Chartres St. is the third auction item. A two-night stay for two, including spa, at the 5 Star, 5 Diamond Broadmoor Resort at the foot of the Colorado Rockies near Cheyenne Lake, Colorado, promises to be a relaxing getaway. A breathtaking painting of a water scene by Easton's Nancy Tankersley of South Street Art Gallery in Easton, which will be featured on CCM's 2011 June Festival poster, is the fifth auction item. Finally, Smith Travel of Easton, is offering a superlative all expenses paid seven-day Mediterranean Yachting cruise for two aboard the Sea Dream ocean-going yacht.

Proceeds from the Gala enable CCM to offer affordable tickets to the CCM Festival each June, free community concerts during the annual Festival season, and YouthReach, the program of free violin instruction to students in the local public grade schools. For information please visit

[www.chesapeakechambermusic.org](http://www.chesapeakechambermusic.org) or call the office at 410-819-0380.

**CUTLINE: Pictured left to right are Chesapeake Chamber Music (CCM) Gala Committee members Chloe Pitard, CCM Board President; Gala Co-Chair Dyanne Welte, Gala Chair Jean McHale, and Elizabeth**

Spurry, Senior Vice President at Wye Financial and Trust, discussing plans for the CCM 2011 Mardi Gras Live Concert and Gala on March 5, 2011 in Easton.

