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Arts Presenters Announces Participants of the 2012 Young Performers Career Advancement Program

**Young professional performers to be showcased at Carnegie Hall
at APAP|NYC 2012**

Washington, DC (November 1, 2011) – The Association of Performing Arts Presenters announces the four soloists and one ensemble selected for the 2012 Young Performers Career Advancement program. **Sebastian Bäverstam** (cello), **Michael Brown** (piano), **Benjamin Hochman** (piano), **Rachel Lee** (violin), and the **Catalyst Quartet** have been chosen from a highly competitive field of classical music applicants to participate in the APAP 2012 YPCA program.

YPCA, a program of the APAP Classical Connections initiative, is designed to assist professional classical musicians in the formative stages of their careers by offering opportunities to meet and work with established presenters, managers, agents and artists throughout the year. Participants will be **featured in an APAP showcase at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall at 5:30 p.m., Monday, January 9, 2012**, and will attend special seminars at APAP|NYC 2012, the association's annual performing arts industry conference.

"One of our core missions at Arts Presenters is to support the professional development of emerging artists," says Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP. "This year's YPCA participants are extraordinarily talented classical musicians, and we are delighted to advance their knowledge about the industry while featuring their work as artists."

Alumni of the YPCA program include the Miro Quartet, Imani Winds, eighth blackbird, Joshua Roman (cello) and Jennifer Koh (violinist).

Through a national partnership developed with the Sphinx Organization, APAP also provides an opportunity for a Sphinx Competition alumni artist or ensemble to participate in the YPCA program each year. This year's Sphinx Competition entrant is the Catalyst Quartet.

"Beyond the showcase opportunity, the program provides an oasis: a brainstorming setting for artists to think through their career options and strategies with top industry leaders," says Angela Myles Beeching, an arts consultant who designed and has facilitated YPCA for more than a decade. "Program outcomes for both soloists and ensembles often include improved relationships with their managers. The artists start to think in terms of partnerships. YPCA promotes the win-win-win because the third key element to the YPCA experience is the presenters: There are presenters who come every year to mentor and advise YPCA artists, and many, many more come each year to the showcase at Weill to root for these exceptional artists."

Complimentary tickets for the Carnegie Hall showcase will be available in the lobby of Weill Recital Hall, 154 West 57th Street, one hour before the performance. A reception will follow the recital.

For more information about YPCA, please contact Laura Benson, APAP professional development associate, at lbenson@artspresenters.org.

About the YPCA Participants

Praised by *The Strad* for his "powerfully expressive style," Swedish-American cellist **Sebastian Bäverstam** was featured on MusicalAmerica.com as the June 2011 "New Artist of the Month." A 2009 winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, Bäverstam has performed frequently on the syndicated radio program *From the Top*, as well as the PBS-TV version of that show, and he has participated in a PBS documentary filmed at Carnegie Hall. He performed his first full recital at the age of 6 at Harvard University and his first concerto with orchestra at age 7. He currently studies with Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Pianist **Michael Brown** is the first prize winner of the 2010 Concert Artists Guild Competition. He has appeared in major New York venues including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Symphony Space, and has performed as soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra conducted by Alan Gilbert at Alice Tully Hall. An accomplished composer, he is the recipient of the 2011 Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund Award whose past winners include Ned Rorem and Charles Wuorinen. He completed both undergraduate and graduate studies at the Juilliard School, earning dual master of music degrees in piano and composition.

Winner of the 2011 prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, pianist **Benjamin Hochman** has earned widespread acclaim for his performances with the New York, Israel and Prague Philharmonics and with the Chicago and Pittsburgh Symphonies, among others. He has

collaborated with the Tokyo, Mendelssohn and Daedalus Quartets and the Zukerman Chamber Players. Hochman's 2011-2012 season includes numerous solo recitals in the U.S. and abroad, orchestral engagements with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra and performances with the Boston Chamber Music Society. Born in Jerusalem, Hochman is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music. He is a Steinway artist.

Acclaimed for her lyricism and compelling stage presence, violinist **Rachel Lee** has performed as a soloist with leading international orchestras, including the Chicago, Saint Louis, Houston, Seattle and National Symphonies, the Boston Pops, the Berlin Staatskapelle, and at the Mostly Mozart, Verbier, Aspen and Ravinia Festivals. She possesses a wide-ranging repertoire and is particularly fascinated with music's connections to literature and language. She received her B.A. in English from Harvard University in 2010, and in 2011 completed her masters at the New England Conservatory. Her teachers have included Dorothy DeLay and Itzhak Perlman with whom she studied at the Juilliard School.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "invariably energetic and finely burnished" at their Carnegie Hall debut, Bryan Hernandez-Luch (violin), Karla Donehew-Perez (violin), Christopher Jenkins (viola) and Karlos Rodriguez (cello) make up the **Catalyst Quartet**. Alumni of the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition for young black and Latino string players, the ensemble embraces a mission to advance diversity in classical music and inspire new and young audiences with dynamic performances of cutting-edge repertoire by a wide range of composers. In the summer of 2011, the Catalyst Quartet studied with the renowned Juilliard String Quartet in New York City and has held residencies both domestically and abroad. Having been featured in *The Strad* and *Strings* magazines, as well as on Detroit Public Radio, the Catalyst Quartet maintains an active performance schedule and will lead the Sphinx Virtuosi on a national tour in the fall of 2011.

About APAP

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service and advocacy organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,400 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (January 6-10, 2012) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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