

For immediate release



Luanne Homzy, Violin | Peter Myers, Cello | John Chen, Pianist

## Saguaro Piano Trio wins First Prize in First International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg

15,000 Euro Cash Prize Plus Concert Tour and CD for the Trio of New Zealand Pianist John Chen

(27 September 2009) The Saguaro Trio, which includes New Zealand Pianist John Chen, won first prize at the International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg (ICMC) on Saturday night, 26 September 2009 in Germany. The ensemble also won a prize earlier in the competition for the best performance of a work by Brahms. The competition carries a cash prize of 15,000 Euros (NZ\$30,000), a concert tour, and a CD. Third place was awarded to the Orbis Trio from the Czech Republic. The jury awarded no second prize.

The first place win solidifies the reputation of the Saguaro Trio as one of the most thoughtful and engaging young ensembles in the classical music world today. Formed in January 2007 at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, Canadian Violinist Luanne Homzy, American Cellist Peter Myers, and New Zealand Pianist John Chen, each 23 years of age, placed third in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in the United States last year, and then second in the 6th Osaka International Chamber Music competition in Japan the same month. The Saguaro were finalists at the very first competition they entered, the Coleman Chamber Music Competition in 2007. John Chen himself was the youngest-ever winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2004.

The International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg is presided over by revered chamber music virtuoso Menahem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio. It was open to ensembles worldwide, to foster a new generation of professional musicians. ICMC was founded at the coincidence of the 200th birthday of Mendelssohn and the 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn in Hamburg, the city of great composers of chamber music and the birthplace of Felix Mendelssohn and Johannes Brahms. The competition contains a section for both String Quartets and Piano Trios.

Winners were narrowed from a field of 20 string quartets and 24 piano trios in the course of three rounds over 9 days. Jury members included Menahem Pressler, Bernhard Greenhouse, Wu Han, Ludwig Hartmann, Alain Meunier, Michael Mücke, Niklas Schmidt, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Valentin



Erben, Eberhard Feltz, Stefan Metz, Heime Müller, Harald Schoneweg, Frau Jutta Adler and Christoph Lieben-Seutter. Winners of the String Quartet section were *1st Prize* - Arcadia String Quartet, *2nd Prize* - Asasello Quartett and *3rd Prize* - Signum Quartett.

The Saguaro Trio gave their winning concert, along with the Arcadia String Quartet, on Sunday night, September 27, 2009, with the programme broadcast live by North German Radio.

The Saguaro Piano Trio has performed in the USA, Canada and Japan. They were awarded a place on the Claude and Pamela Frank Young Artists Concert, which included a performance in December 2008 at New York's Carnegie Hall. The Saguaro Piano Trio reside in Los Angeles.

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Photos: <http://maximaltd.com/saguarotrio/photog.htm>



Canadian violinist Luanne Homzy has performed as soloist in Canada and in the United States with, among others, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and the Trois-Rivières Symphony Orchestra. She has won top prizes in many Canadian competitions and has recorded live recitals and studio recordings for Radio-Canada, Hide Mercury and Jerry Lee Lewis. Ms. Homzy has played chamber music with artists such as Franklin Cohen, Ani Kavafian, Ronald Leonard and Claus-Christian Schuster. She is currently co-concertmaster of the American Youth Symphony and of the Colburn Orchestra. Ms. Homzy plays on a 1742 Camillus Camilli, on loan from the Mandell Collection of Southern California.



American cellist Peter Myers was born in St. Louis in 1985. He has studied with Ronald Leonard and Ralph Kirshbaum in Los Angeles. As a chamber musician, Mr. Myers has performed at the Marlboro and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music festivals, and has performed with such musicians as Kim Kashkashian, Arnold Steinhardt, Seymour Lipkin, and Ralf Gothóni. Mr. Myers is also a composer, and was recently commissioned by renowned violist Kim Kashkashian to write a piece for her innovative new chamber ensemble. Mr. Myers plays on a 2001 Mario Miralles cello generously on loan to him by the MAESTRO Foundation, who have also lent him a fine modern bow.



New Zealand pianist John Chen began piano studies at the age of three. Since his win in the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition, he has performed across Europe, Asia, North America, and extensively in Australia and New Zealand. Important festivals include Klavierfestival Ruhr Germany 2005 and Singapore 2006. He has performed concertos with all the major orchestras in Australia and New Zealand as well as among others, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He has recorded CDs for Naxos (complete piano music of Henri Dutilleux) and Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Debussy and Ravel) and Doulos Records (Mozart, Brahms, Chopin, Ravel).