

Virginia Chamber Orchestra

Emil de Cou, Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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PRESS CONTACT:
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Two Debussy Premieres

Diane Overture

**Arranged for orchestra by Emil de Cou
World Premiere!**

Diane au bois

**Operatic scene for soprano and tenor
Arranged for orchestra by Paul Meecham
US Premiere!**

Two early works of Debussy will receive their first performances with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra's final season concert on Sunday, May 13, 2012. The program will include the world premiere of Debussy's *Diane Overture*. Composed in 1881 *Diane Overture* was rediscovered and finally published in 2007. The overture was originally composed as a companion work to *Diane au bois* and will be performed for the first time in the composer's intended version for orchestra before the opera.

Debussy's operatic love duet for Eros and Diana will be performed by soprano Emma McDermott and tenor Mauricio Miranda. They will join music director/conductor Emil de Cou and the VCO in this first American performance of this work edited and orchestrated by Baltimore Symphony Orchestra President and CEO Paul Meecham.

The VCO's performance will mark the first presentation of Meecham's completed score of the Debussy. Tickets can be purchased at the door immediately prior to the performance at the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA, or online at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org/tickets.html. Students with ID are admitted free.

Emma McDermott's vocal prizes include the Orfeo International Music Festival Competition and the Virginia and United States Regional Competitions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is currently a student of the celebrated tenor John Aler. Chilean tenor Mauricio Miranda is in his first season as a member of the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. In 2010, Mr. Miranda was featured as a soloist in the Gala for the Chilean colony in Spain, at the National Auditorium of Music in Madrid.

Arranger Paul Meecham, along with his duties as President and CEO of the Baltimore Symphony is also a musicologist and a scholar specializing in the music of Claude Debussy. Emil de Cou arranged and premiered the original version of Debussy's *Printemps Suite Symphonique* for chorus and soloists with the National Symphony Orchestra at the National Cathedral in Washington DC. De Cou also recorded a disc of previously unrecorded works by Debussy for Arabesque Records entitled *Debussy Rediscovered*.

Debussy Premieres

May 13, 2012

4:00 pm

Emil de Cou, conductor

Emma McDermott, soprano

Mauricio Miranda, tenor

Debussy Diane Overture, arranged by Emil de Cou, **World Premiere**

Debussy Diane au bois, arranged by Paul Meecham, **US Premiere**

Beethoven Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral"

Information and Tickets:

Ernst Community Cultural Center

Northern Virginia Community College --Annandale Campus

8333 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, Virginia 22003.

Tickets for all VCO concerts can be purchased on-line or at the door.

Available at door: adults, \$25; seniors, \$20

On-line discount: adults/seniors \$20 Students attend without charge.

www.virginiachamberorchestra.org/tickets.

For more information, call the VCO message line at 703-758-0179.

Parking is free. A complimentary reception will follow the performance in the adjacent Art Gallery.

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