

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WHAT:** Emil de Cou, Virginia Chamber Orchestra Open 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** Ernst Community Cultural Center  
Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus  
8333 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22003

**FEATURE:** *Themes from the British Isles*, including *Enoch Arden* by Richard Strauss, narrated by Gary Sloan, in the premiere of an arrangement for chamber orchestra by Emil de Cou

**TICKETS:** Available at door: seniors and groups, \$12; adults, \$18  
Advance purchase: seniors and groups, \$10; adults, \$15  
Students admitted free.  
Telephone 703-758-0179

Parking is free. Complimentary reception will follow. Additional information is available at [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org)

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**Emil de Cou to Open VCO's 40th Anniversary Season of Live Concerts, Outreach**  
*Themes from the British Isles* Features Rarely Performed Richard Strauss Work

Internationally known Music Director Emil de Cou will lead the Virginia Chamber Orchestra in the opening concert of the 40th Anniversary Season on Sunday, September 26th, at 4 P.M. The venue will be the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

Entitled *Themes from the British Isles*, the program will feature *Enoch Arden*, a rarely performed work by Richard Strauss. It is based on the famous dramatic poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson and was originally composed for a pianist and narrator. This performance, narrated by Gary Sloan, will mark the premiere of Emil de Cou's arrangement for chamber orchestra.

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra was founded as a professional touring orchestra, bringing live concerts to areas of the Commonwealth where they were seldom or never offered. It now occupies a unique niche by "touring" electronically, reaching millions of

young people throughout the area and nationwide with satellite-delivered television programs. In a recent collaboration with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and the Fairfax National Network, the VCO performed orchestral selections typical of music Washington heard as president while attending concerts in the new nation's earliest capital cities.

Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56, known as the "Scottish" Symphony, will be another program highlight on September 26th. The symphony is generally agreed to have been inspired by a trip to Scotland. Mendelssohn commented that he drew inspiration there from "pictures, ruins and natural surroundings" rather than from Scottish music.

Parking is free. A complimentary reception will follow the concert. Additional information is available at [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra's mission is to perform fine music with the highest artistic integrity for the broadest possible audience, within the limits of fiscal responsibility.

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