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*Music Up Close & Personal*

## CATSKILLS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ACCLAIMED COMPOSER

**LAKE HUNTINGTON** – Grammy-nominated composer **Nicholas Maw** celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this year at a remarkable little summer music festival tucked away in the Catskill woods. In its 11<sup>th</sup> season **July 1 to 17**, Weekend of Chamber Music (WCM) might be the Metropolitan region's best kept secret, but insiders know that the annual festival is always packed with outstanding performances by some very respected international artists, and this summer is no exception. As composer-in-residence for Summer Festival 2005, Maw will hear four of his works on the schedule, and he will introduce or discuss his music in person at each program during the three-weekend festival. WCM has a reunion in store for the British composer, too, reuniting him with some musical friends for the first time in many years, some of whom were members of acclaimed ensembles that commissioned his music.

The Nash Ensemble of London, for instance, commissioned Maw's *Flute Quartet* when flutist Judith Pearce and violist Roger Chase were members. This summer, Pearce and Chase team up with cellist Alberto Parrini and violinist Mark Rush to perform the work **July 8-10**. Rush and his wife, pianist Tannis Gibson, were members of the Monticello Trio in residence at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, when that ensemble commissioned Maw's *Piano Trio*. WCM Summer Festival regulars, the couple met Pearce when they were all recruited to record Maw's quartet and trio on the ASV label in 1995. That disc earned rave reviews, and was nominated for a Recording of the Year Gramophone Award.

Other artists include Maine resident Aaron Engebret, who debuts on WCM's stage **July 1-3**. The baritone is accompanied by a trio in a rare performance of Maw's *Roman Canticle*, and by noted New York City harpist Susan Jolles, in a collection of Schubert songs. WGBH Public Radio of Boston is making plans to broadcast a recording of this concert, the first of Summer Festival 2005. Another summer highlight teams Rush and Gibson with cellist Alberto Parrini in the season finale, Dvořák's "Dumky" Trio in E minor, from **July 15-17**.

Travel is on the itinerary, too, as WCM goes "On the Road" to new places around the region this summer. The festival performs at the Country House Arts Center in Bloomingburg, NY on **July 3**; at the Shadowbrook Resort's fabulous Weekend of Wine and Song on **July 10** in Tunkhannock, PA, and, it raises the curtain at the Central Valley United Methodist Church in NY on **July 17**.

Additional details about Summer Festival 2005 are attached, and are online at [www.wcmconcerts.org](http://www.wcmconcerts.org). To reserve tickets in advance, call 845-932-8414, or e-mail your order with your name, address and phone number to: [info@wcmconcerts.org](mailto:info@wcmconcerts.org). For further information, call 845-932-8527.

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