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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Presents World Premiere
of Brad Sayles' *Echoes of Invention for Narrator and Orchestra***
*Music based on the program of John Lienhard's *Engines of Our Ingenuity**

Houston, March 14, 2008 – The River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) will proudly present the World Premiere of Brad Sayles' *Echoes of Invention for Narrator and Orchestra* on Saturday, May 3rd at 5 p.m. at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. A second concert will be performed on Sunday May 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's American decorative and fine arts center. The premiere is based on John Lienhard's popular series "Engines of our Ingenuity" and the main theme is "Ghost in the Book." Joel Smirnoff will conduct. Like Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait, this new piece will overlay John Lienhard's exploration of spirits with Sayles' music.

"John (Lienhard) wrote the script and mapped it out," said Composer Brad Sayles, "I wove the narration into the composition, underscoring the action of the story."

The work is a collaboration, one that has been ongoing for Sayles and Lienhard. Sayles works with KUHF and "Engines of Our Ingenuity," and he has created the music for the last three CDs related to Lienhard's show. Sayles is an award-winning composer who has also collaborated with Alecia Lawyer, ROCO's founder and principal oboist, on a film score.

"When Brad and I worked on *Echoes of Innocence*, I knew that I wanted him to compose a piece for us," said Alecia Lawyer, ROCO founder and principal oboist. "Basing it on John's show which highlights inventive minds seemed to fit, and collaborating with various aspects of the local arts community was very appealing."

Concert specifics are:

- Saturday, May 3, 2008 – 5 p.m., St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
- Sunday, May 4, 2008 – 6:30 p.m., Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens
- Joel Smirnoff, conductor
- The program: World Premiere of Brad Sayles' *Echoes of Invention for Narrator and Orchestra*, and Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*
- Tickets are \$25 per concert. Student tickets are \$10.
Tickets are available at www.rocohouston.org or by contacting (713) 665-2700.
- ROCOrooters music education and childcare cost is \$20 for the first child and \$15 per additional child. Advanced reservations with payment are required as spaces fill up quickly.

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About the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

Now in its third season, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) personalizes the orchestral experience by inviting the audience into the musician's world. Forty national and international professional musicians perform interactive concerts of exciting music, old and new. ROCO finds its strength in the unique contribution of each musician and takes a collaborative approach to musical programming. ROCO concerts include musical surprises, and the orchestra raffles four seats for one musical piece so that audience members can sit among the performers. Opening the experience to all, ROCO also offers fun-to-read, magazine-style programs and the ROCOrooters music education/childcare program for kids 10 and under that runs in tandem with and after each concert.

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