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ROCO Partners With Books Between Kids To Put Books In The Hands of Houston-Area At-Risk Kids

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HOUSTON — Observing its 10th-Anniversary Season Theme of works based on literary sources, ROCO (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra) is calling upon everyone who attends its 10th Anniversary Alive In Concert series finale to bring gently-used and new children's books to donate to Books Between Kids, Inc. These books will be collected at the April 23rd concert, "Notes To Be Written," featuring the world premiere of a Pierre Jalbert song cycle that includes several songs set to the poetry of Walt Whitman. The collected books will be presented to Houston-based Books Between Kids, which will distribute them to at-risk Houston children, helping them build their own home libraries

"ROCO has always been about community partnerships that aspire to make Houston a better place to live," says ROCO Founder, Artistic Director and Principle Oboist Alecia Lawyer. "I've been involved with Books Between Kids since its inception, and I admire what they do. It just makes sense for us to team up with them as we draw a close to this literature-themed season, to help put books in the hands of kids who wouldn't otherwise experience the joy of reading."

Research has shown that children growing up in homes without books, where books are considered a luxury, are less likely to complete a basic education than their peers who do have books available at home (University of Nevada, 2010). "Sandra and I both have children who have had the experience of reading books they felt were 'too good to put down'," says co-founder Amy Barnes. "We believe that every child should have a chance to experience that moment."

The program on April 23rd comprises the world premiere of Pierre Jalbert's "*From Dusk To Starry Night*," drawing from the poetry of Walt Whitman and Stephen Foster; as well as two works by Felix Mendelssohn: his Symphony Number 5 ("*Reformation*") and "*Hebrides Overture*."

Tickets for the April 23 concert at The Church of St. John the Divine are \$35 for General Admission, \$25 for Seniors and \$15 for Students. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.rocohouston.org.

ROCO Alive in Concert: *Notes To Be Written*

Thursday, April 23, 2015

7:30 p.m., The Church of St. John the Divine

2450 River Oaks Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77019

Tickets: \$35 general admission, \$25 Senior, \$15 for students at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700

Program:

Mendelssohn *Hebrides Overture*

Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 5, Reformation*

Jalbert *From Dusk To Starry Night* (ROCO Commissioned World Premiere)

David Danzmayr, conductor
Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano
Ertan Torgul, concertmaster
Pierre Jalbert, composer

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