



**February 22, 2011**

**ROCO Season Finale features dynamic guest conductor, Robert Moody, clarinet soloist, Nathan Williams, and Pulitzer-nominated composer, Jose Bowen**

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) ends its 2010-2011 season with a flourish by welcoming back guest conductor **Robert Moody**, who will conduct Beethoven's lively *Symphony No. 7*, Copland's *Concerto for Clarinet*, performed by ROCO principal clarinet, **Nathan Williams**, and **Jose Antonio Bowen's** Pulitzer-nominated *Symphony No. 1*.

Guest Conductor. **Robert Moody**, is a ROCO audience favorite. He is Music Director for the Winston-Salem Symphony (North Carolina), Artistic Director for Arizona Musicfest, and Music Director for the Portland Symphony Orchestra (Maine).

**Jose Antonio Bowen** is Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts and Professor of Music at Southern Methodist University. He has published over 100 articles in the *Journal of Musicology*, *The Journal of Musicological Research*, *Performance Practice Review*, and many others, is editor of the *Cambridge Companion to Conducting* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), and he received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for work on his book, *The Conductor and the Score: A History of the Relationship between Interpreter and Text from Beethoven to Wagner*. His compositions, conducting, and playing are featured on numerous recordings. In 1984, while still an undergraduate at Stanford University (where he earned 4 degrees), Dean Bowen wrote *Symphony No. 1*. It was first performed by the Stanford Symphony in 1984, and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1985. Dean Bowen will be at the April 10<sup>th</sup> concert at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, as will a group of SMU alumni.

ROCO's principal clarinet, **Nathan Williams** is in his third season with ROCO. Mr. Williams is Assistant Professor of Clarinet at The University of Texas in Austin. Hailed by critics as "outstanding for his musicality, breath control, robust, and brilliant tone, and flawless technique," and "a stellar musician, capable of the most exquisite and expressive playing," Nathan has appeared as concerto soloist and performed throughout the United States and all over the world. Nathan was Co-Artistic Director for the 2010 International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest, hosted by the Butler School of Music in July, 2010.

## ROCO Season Finale

### Program

*Beethoven Symphony No. 7*

Jose Antonio Bowen *Symphony No. 1*

Copland *Concerto for Clarinet*, performed by Nathan Williams

And a surprise piece not listed in the program

- **Saturday, April 9, 5pm**, at The Church of St. John the Divine, with ROCOrooters\*  
Tickets are \$25; \$10 for students with valid student ID
- **Sunday, April 10, 6:30 pm**, at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens  
Tickets are \$25; \$20 for MFAH members

### Contact

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### About ROCO

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star musicians, distinguished guest conductors and composers who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist, Alecia Lawyer, ROCO is *the most fun you can have with serious music*. [www.rocohouston.org](http://www.rocohouston.org)

### Press Quotes in response to the 1984 premiere of Bowen's *Symphony No. 1*

- Joseph McLellan, Washington Post  
“[Bowen's *Symphony No. 1*] sounded wonderfully fresh and dramatically compelling,...a fascinating story,...and he makes symphonic form the ideal medium to tell it...four richly imaginative movements...showed why the symphony had been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.”
- John Boykin, Stanford Magazine  
“...melodic, crisp vigorous and decisive...enthusiastic, dynamic and authoritative”
- Paul Hertelendy, San Jose Mercury News  
“...a compelling world premiere...”