



JULY 10, 2009

ROCO Season Opener Concert features dynamic conductor, Joel Smirnoff, Iranian composer, Behzad Ranjbaran, and ROCO's own virtuosic violinist, Brian Lewis

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) opens its 2009-2010 season by welcoming back guest conductor Joel Smirnoff, who will conduct Haydn's *Miracle Symphony No. 96* with *Ginastera Variations*. Maestro Smirnoff is a conductor, pedagogue, and former first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet. He is currently president of the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a longtime friend of ROCO.

Also on the program are Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in e Minor*, featuring ROCO soloist and concertmaster, Brian Lewis, and *Awakening for String Orchestra*, by Iranian composer Behzad Ranjbaran. Mr. Ranjbaran's music has been performed in recent seasons by Renée Fleming, Joshua Bell and Yo-Yo Ma, among others. He will be at the concert to discuss his work and introduce the piece.

ROCO Season Opener

- Saturday, October 10, 2009, 5pm, at The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Boulevard (at Westheimer), Houston, TX 77019. Tickets are \$25; \$10 for students, at rocohouston.org, by phone at 713-665-2700, or at the door. With ROCOrooters music education/childcare program.
- Sunday, October 11, 2009, 7pm, at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay Street, Houston, TX 77024. Admission is free.

Contact

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