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**River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Opens Season with  
Internationally-Renown Guest Conductor Lavard Skou Larsen**

**Houston, October 15, 2007** – River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO) is pleased to present world-renown conductor Lavard Skou Larsen for its 2007-2008 season opening concert on Saturday, November 10 at 5 p.m. at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. The program features Kristin Wolfe Jensen, ROCO's principal bassoonist playing her favorite, the Vivaldi Concert for Bassoon, while Skou Larsen will bring his Brazilian background and his Salzburg experiences to Mozart's Paris Symphony. The program also includes Villa Lobos' Bacchiana Number 9 and a few unannounced pieces.

"At ROCO, we always invite the conductor and soloist to bring forward the music for which they are most passionate," said Alecia Lawyer, ROCO founder and principal oboist. "Our audience will be delighted as our opening concert highlights the contrast between Lavard's Brazilian heritage and his Austrian expertise and reveals Kristin's enthusiasm for Vivaldi."

Lavard Skou Larsen was born in Brazil and received his first violin lessons at the age of four. He was admitted to the Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Mozarteum, in Salzburg at age 14. He has won prizes both as a soloist and as a chamber musician, and he has been invited to perform with leading symphony and chamber orchestras around the globe. Skou Larsen has taught violin at the Mozarteum/Salzburg since 1991, the same year he founded the Salzburg Chamber Soloists. Since 2004, he has conducted the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss am Rhein.

Kristin Wolfe Jensen, ROCO's principal bassoonist, will perform Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerto, parts of which have been printed only through her work to play them with string orchestra. Jensen has been the bassoon professor at the University of Texas at Austin since 1995, and is also on the faculty of the International Festival Institute at Round Top and the Eastern Music Festival, where she is Principal Bassoonist of the Eastern Philharmonic.

Jeff and Sarah McParland have recently underwritten Jensen's chair for the season in honor of Angeleen Marie McParland.

The 40-member orchestra of ROCO, now in its third season, has quickly gained a reputation for broadening the musical experience of its audiences. At each concert, four orchestra chairs are raffled to audience members desiring to sit among the musicians for one piece to experience the music and concert from the musician's perspective. During and after each performance, ROCO musicians and conductors interact with audience, discussing the music, the composers' lives and history, and the instruments. They also share personal musical moments and experiences that ROCO refers to as Field Notes.

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