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For immediate release

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New cello concerto and Rapido! Composition Contest winner highlight Boston Musica Viva's "Crossings"

BOSTON – Boston Musica Viva (BMV), Boston's first professional contemporary music ensemble, continues its 43rd concert season on November 18, 2011, at the Tsai Performance Center in Boston. Under the baton of Music Director Richard Pittman, the concert—entitled "Crossings"—includes a world premiere by a recurring BMV composer, a Northeast premiere by a rising Chicago-based composer, and a repeat performance of an earlier BMV commission. The program receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

BMV cellist Jan Müller-Szeraws gives the world premiere of a cello concerto by **Bernard Hoffer**, *Concerto di Camera II*. Hoffer's music is familiar to many and includes the hit children's cartoon *Thundercats* (the original 1984 version), the theme music for *PBS NewsHour*, and the Emmy-winning theme to PBS's *The American Experience*. Previous BMV commissions of Hoffer's chamber music include the children's ballets *Ma Goose* and *A Boston Cinderella* (recorded on the Albany Records label) and, in 2010, a *Trio for Violin, Cello & Piano*. Cellist Müller-Szeraws is a recipient of a grant from the Saul and Naomi Cohen Foundation and has been a featured soloist with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile.

John Elmquist's *Junk Shot*, receiving its Northeast premiere by BMV, won the first national round of the Rapido! Composition Contest. The Rapido! Contest—founded by the Atlanta Chamber Players and supported by The Antinori Foundation, Fifth House Ensemble (Chicago), Voices of Change (Dallas), Left Coast Chamber Ensemble (San Francisco), and BMV—challenges composers from 48 U.S. states to write an original short chamber work composed during a 14-day period. The quartet *Junk Shot* explores various facets of the Gulf oil spill through music. As winner of Rapido!, the piece will be performed by each of the contest's partner organizations throughout the fall. Elmquist lives in Chicago, Ill., and is founder of the HardArt group ensemble.

Crossing the Meridian by **Ronald Perera**, retired Elsie Irwin Sweeney Chair of Music at Smith College (Northampton, Mass.), was commissioned and premiered by BMV in 1982. This song cycle for tenor and chamber ensemble sets to music introspective poems by William Carlos Williams, Hart Crane, Ruth Whitman, James Dickey, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti on "those moments when time can seem frozen to us, those eternal-seeming moments when we perceive ourselves in the middle of experience." Tenor Frank Kelley joins the ensemble for this performance.

Rounding out the program is **Donald Martino's** *B.A.B.IT.T.* *B.A.B.IT.T.* was composed as a 50th birthday present for the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer's teacher and friend, Milton Babbitt, who passed away earlier this year at age 94. This short work for solo clarinet experiments on the idea of a "superclarinet" and utilizes extensions—such as pipes or paper tubes—placed inside the clarinet to

extend its range. Martino was chair of the New England Conservatory composition department during the 1970's and also taught at Brandeis, Harvard, and Yale.

Crossings

Friday, November 18, 2011, 8 pm
Tsai Performance Center at Boston University
685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston

Bernard Hoffer	Concerto di Camera II <i>world premiere</i> Jan Müller-Szeraws, cello
John Elmquist	Junk Shot <i>Northeast premiere</i>
Ronald Perera	Crossing the Meridian Frank Kelley, tenor
Donald Martino	B.A.B.B.IT.T

Ticket Information

Advance tickets are available by visiting www.bmv.org or by calling (617) 354-6910. Group discounts are available.

Ticket Prices

General Admission \$30 | Seniors/WGBH Members \$25 | Students \$10

About Boston Musica Viva

Music Director Richard Pittman founded Boston Musica Viva in 1969 as the first professional ensemble in Boston dedicated to the performance and perpetuation of contemporary chamber music. A champion of the 20th and 21st centuries' most influential composers, BMV celebrates its 43rd season of contributing to **evolution and revolution in music**.

Boston Musica Viva is:

Richard Pittman, Music Director	
Ann Bobo, flute	Geoffrey Burleson, piano
William Kirkley, clarinet	Robert Schulz, percussion
Teresa Ling, violin	Dimitri Murrath, viola
Jan Müller-Szeraws, cello	Frank Kelley, tenor

Funding for Boston Musica Viva's 2011-2012 Season and this concert is provided in part by:

