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For immediate release

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Boston Musica Viva opens 43rd season with a world premiere and signature repertoire in “Time Cycles”

BOSTON – Boston Musica Viva, Boston’s first professional contemporary music ensemble, opens its 43rd concert season on September 30, 2011, at the Tsai Performance Center in Boston. Under the baton of Music Director Richard Pittman, the concert—entitled “Time Cycles”—includes both a world premiere and a chamber music masterwork that has become one of the ensemble’s calling cards. The program receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

David Rakowski’s quartet *Thickly Settled* receives its world premiere on the concert. In *Thickly Settled*—which employs the unusual instrumentation of Messiaen’s *Quartet for the End of Time* (clarinet, piano, violin and cello)—thick textures evaporate into simpler musical ideas. Rakowski, who serves as Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Composition at Brandeis University, came up with the work’s title while driving through central Massachusetts and coming upon “pockets of civilization” among the thickets. Catherine and Paul Bittenwieser commissioned *Thickly Settled* for BMV.

BMV returns to more familiar musical territory with *Time Cycle* by legendary composer, conductor and Boston University faculty member **Lukas Foss**. First performed by BMV during its inaugural 1969-1970 season and a handful of times since, this 1960 song cycle features poetry and excerpts by Auden, Housman, Kafka, and Nietzsche on the theme of time. *Time Cycle* marked a new chapter in Foss’s compositional career as he experimented with improvisatory practices. Soprano **Meredith Hansen**, a Cohasset native and Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, joins the ensemble for this performance.

David Froom’s *Circling* showcases the virtuosity of BMV flutist Ann Bobo and clarinetist William Kirkley. The three movements of this 2002 duet explore various ways two characters—represented by the distinct yet complimentary voices of the flute and clarinet—can “circle” around each other, whether in affection, curiosity, or disagreement. A former fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival and MacDowell Colony, Froom is currently chair of the music department at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

Rounding out the program is **Mark Berger’s** *String Trio No. 2*. Commissioned and premiered by Music at Eden’s Edge in 2007, *String Trio No. 2* draws inspiration from T.S. Eliot’s poem *The Dry Salvages*, named after a seaside landmark in Cape Ann, Massachusetts, near the poet’s

childhood summer home. Berger's piece is a meditation on time that contrasts the intense emotions of one's personal mourning process with the constant, objective voice of nature.

Time Cycles

Friday, September 30, 2011, 8 pm
Tsai Performance Center at Boston University
685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston

Mark Berger

David Rakowski

David Froom

Lukas Foss

String Trio No. 2

Thickly Settled *world premiere*

Circling

Time Cycle

Meredith Hansen, soprano

Ticket Information

Advance ticket sales 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

William Kirkley, clarinet

Bayla Keyes, violin

Peter Sulski, viola

Geoffrey Burleson, piano

Jonathan Hess, percussion

Jan Müller-Szeraws, cello