



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ASTRAL ARTISTS WIN CMS TWO AUDITIONS**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Astral Artists is pleased to announce that two of its roster artists were among the 12 musicians selected as the winners of this year's CMS Two auditions.

From an initial pool of more than 200 applicants from around the world, 53 were invited to participate in the live auditions for CMS Two, a program of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS). The two Astral artists selected were violinist Benjamin Beilman and clarinetist Romie de Guise-Langlois. Mr. Beilman and Ms. de Guise-Langlois join four other Astral artists and alumni also currently on the CMS roster: clarinetist José Franch-Ballester, harpist Bridget Kibbey, and violinists Kristin Lee and Yura Lee.

CMS Two offers high-profile professional opportunities to performers in the early stages of important careers. During their three-year residency, members participate in all aspects of musical life at CMS, including national and international tours; radio and television broadcasts; recordings, and performances in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Rose Studio, and Kaplan Penthouse.

“We are very proud that Astral artists continue to grace the roster of CMS Two and are delighted that two such deserving musicians have been welcomed to this prestigious organization, where they will share in the outstanding musical, professional, and educational experiences that it offers,” says Vera Wilson, Astral's President & Founder.

The panel for the live auditions consisted of CMS Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han; cellist Laurence Lesser, a faculty member and former President of the New England Conservatory of Music; Anthony Fogg, Artistic Administrator of the Boston Symphony; Jeremy Geffen, Director of Artistic Planning for Carnegie Hall; and other prominent musicians and members of the CMS artistic staff.

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**Astral Artists** provides the nation's most gifted classical musicians with invaluable career guidance, performance opportunities, collaborations with world-renowned musicians, and introductions to presenters, managers, and conductors — **all at no cost to the artist**. Astral reaches approximately 10,000 people annually through concert and community programming. Notable graduates include bass-baritone

Eric Owens, pianist Simone Dinnerstein, and cellist Mark Kosower. The 2011-2012 season includes the *Spiritual Voyages Festival* — a celebration of African-, Asian-, and Latin-American cultures — the *Philadelphia Brahms Festival*, and the Philadelphia recital debuts of pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine, violinist Kristin Lee, flutist Julietta Curenton, and soprano Yulia Van Doren. **For more information about Astral Artists, please call 215-735-6999 or visit [AstralArtists.org](http://AstralArtists.org).**

**The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS)** is one of 12 constituents of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the largest performing arts complex in the world. Along with other constituents such as the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Lincoln Center Theater, and The Metropolitan Opera, CMS has its home at Lincoln Center, in Alice Tully Hall. Through its performance, education, and recording/broadcast activities, it draws more people to chamber music than any other organization of its kind. CMS presents annual series of concerts and educational events for listeners ranging from connoisseurs to chamber music newcomers of all ages. Performing repertoire from over three centuries, and numerous premieres by living composers, CMS offers programs curated to provide listeners a comprehensive perspective on the art of chamber music. The performing artists of CMS, a multi-generational selection of expert chamber musicians, constitute an evolving repertory company capable of presenting chamber music of every instrumentation, style, and historical period. Its annual activities include a full season of concerts and events, national and international tours, nationally televised broadcasts on *Live From Lincoln Center*, a radio show broadcast nationwide, and regular appearances on American Public Media's *Performance Today*. In 2004, CMS appointed cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han artistic directors. They succeed founding director Charles Wadsworth (1969-89), Fred Sherry (1989-93), and David Shifrin (1993-2004).

**Note to Editors:** Photographs of Mr. Beilman and Ms. de Guise-Langlois are available upon request; please contact [Leslie@AstralArtists.org](mailto:Leslie@AstralArtists.org).