

For immediate release

**NEW CD -- "VINTAGE AMERICA – A MUSICAL MERITAGE" --
PERFORMED BY CALICO WINDS ON THE ALBANY LABEL
CELEBRATES AMERICAN MUSIC AND THE AMERICAN SPIRIT**

A new CD entitled "Vintage America – A Musical Meritage," performed by Calico Winds, is being released on the Albany label (Albany TROY 693). The CD is a rich collection of diverse works which reflect the life and music of early America. It is, in every sense, a tribute to American music and the American spirit, with music that romances, seduces, winks and celebrates.

Original and arranged works are by William Mason, Edward MacDowell, Daniel Gregory Mason, Arthur Farwell, William Grant Still, Scott Joplin, David B. Chadwick and John Philip Sousa. The ensemble and repertory are discussed in a beautifully produced and illustrated booklet enclosed with the CD.

Calico Winds redefines the traditional wind quintet. The name "Calico" reflects the variety of colors and textures that its combination of instruments is able to produce – colors and textures that range from organ to calliope to orchestra -- sonorities so rich that they can almost be tasted.

The works include:

- Dance Antique, Op. 38, by William Mason (arranged by Harry Gee)
- Fireside Tales, Op. 61, by Edward MacDowell (arranged by Ronald Hess)
- Divertimento, Op. 26b, by Daniel Gregory Mason
- Prairie Miniature by Arthur Farwell
- Miniatures, and Folk Suite No. 4, by William Grant Still (arranged by Adam Lesnick)
- Two Rags (The Cascades, and Maple Leaf Rag) by Scott Joplin (arranged by Arthur Frackenpohl)
- Sea Sketches by David B. Chadwick
- The Stars and Stripes Forever by John Philip Sousa, (arranged by Bill Holcombe)

About Calico Winds

In August, 2001, a major exhibit of works by Winslow Homer was mounted at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Calico Winds was asked to do a concert that would reflect the nature of the art that was being exhibited. The musicians embarked on a major research project that yielded a treasure trove of little-known American music, very surprising in quality and quantity. There was a very rich tradition of wind and band music dating back to early America, and the ensemble decided to build on this.

Calico Winds began to commission creative arrangements that would be true to the nature of the original pieces. MacDowell's Fireside Tales, for example, communicates the intimate and quiet atmosphere of stories being told around the fire, and the arrangement by R. Hess preserves this feeling. The works are evocative of America in that era.

MacDowell spent a great deal of time traveling in Europe, and the subject matter reflects his interests; there is Br'er Rabbit from the slave culture; and William Grant Still's setting of eight folk songs presents a wide range of styles and cultures – there are songs from Peru, Mexico, Venezuela and elsewhere, as well as music from the West and from New York City.

While the repertory for the first concert was limited to Winslow Homer's lifetime, Calico's continued research expanded the repertory, accomplishing the mission of the ensemble -- to expand the repertory for wind quintet, bringing works that are of musical excellence and of historical interest to the concert stage.

In January, 1997, a New Year's resolution transformed a casual reading group into an ensemble dedicated to making the wind quintet a more appealing, compelling, valued and even indispensable member of the chamber music world. Since then, Calico Winds has delighted audiences across the country, touring to more than half the fifty states, including numerous cities throughout its home state of California. The ensemble has held residencies at La Sierra University and the Idyllwild Arts Academy, as well as with the Claremont Youth Symphony Music Camp (in California) and at the Birch Creek Music Festival (in Door County, Wisconsin). As winners of the 1998 National Flute Association (NFA) Chamber Music competition, Calico Winds was featured in recital at the NFA convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The ensemble received a grant from the City of Pasadena for The Weekend Muse Inter-Generational Concerts (its series based in Los Angeles and Pasadena).

Calico Winds released their first CD, "All in One" (with works by Bach, Nielsen, Carter, Schifrin and Zappa), to critical acclaim in 1998. In 2002, Calico Winds was honored by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters with a fully-produced showcase performance at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as part of the "Classical Connections" Young Performers Career Advancement program. The group returned

to Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall later that year, joining pianist Vivian Liu in a performance of Ludwig Thuille's Sextet.

Calico's 2003-2004 season included more than twenty-five concert performances, in addition to numerous outreach presentations, including those for the Coleman Chamber Music Association's Meet the Musicians concerts.

Although the members of Calico Winds individually are superb players, they consider themselves as part of a unit – a team whose sum is greater than its parts. Among the five of them, they have earned one Bachelor of Arts, four Bachelors of Music, four Masters of Music and two Doctors of Musical Arts degrees. Their combined musical travels have brought them from Europe to Israel to Mexico and all over North America. They are all active freelance players in Los Angeles, collectively having a diverse array of musical experiences from the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the San Diego Symphony to performers like Yanni and Michael Crawford. All of them teach -- from elementary school students to college music majors and adult amateurs, at various institutions and privately. In addition to their Calico performance identities, Eileen is a professional vocalist, Rong-Huey is also a pianist, Theresa is a gourmet cook, and Kay and Rachel run the business of Calico Winds. They each enjoy hiking, a good cup of coffee, and fine food and spirits (their special recipes can be found, in addition to solid musical information, on the calicowinds.com website).

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

For additional information, copies of CDs for review, interview access, or photographs (including high-resolution photos of the CD cover), please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, Press Representatives, at 212/496-9418.