

For immediate release

**CLARINETIST RICHARD STOLTZMAN IS FEATURED ON TWO NEW CDS:  
EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA'S CLARINET CONCERTO ON THE ONDINE  
LABEL AND *REFLECTIONS* – A COLLECTION OF WORKS BY PERLONGO,  
LAY, GOODWIN, IANNACONE AND STILLER ON THE MMC LABEL**

**STOLTZMAN PERFORMS WITH THE HELSINKI PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY LEIF SEGERSTAM  
AND THE WARSAW NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC CONDUCTED BY  
GEORGE MANAHAN AND JERZY SWOBODA**

Famed clarinetist Richard Stoltzman is soloist in two newly-released CDs: the Rautavaara Clarinet Concerto (on a disc which includes two additional works for orchestra, *Garden of Spaces*, and *Cantus Arcticus [Concerto for Birds and Orchestra]*, Ondine ODE 1041-2), and *Reflections*, a collection of works by Perlongo, Lay, Goodwin, Iannaccone and Stiller (MMC 2105). The Rautavaara CD is performed by the Helsinki Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leif Segerstam; the *Reflections* CD is performed by the Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra with George Manahan and Jerzy Swoboda conducting. All are premiere recordings of these works.

**RAUTAVAARA**

Richard Stoltzman and Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara engaged in a unique and fruitful collaboration which resulted in the creation of the new clarinet concerto. The all-Rautavaara CD includes the following works:

*Garden of Spaces* (1971/2003) 13:32

Clarinet Concerto (2001) 25:53

I Drammatico (ma flessibile)

II Adagio assai

III Vivace

*Cantus Arcticus (Concerto for Birds and Orchestra)* (1972) 19:23

The Bog

Melancholy

Swans Flying

**The Clarinet Concerto, commissioned for Richard Stoltzman by Theodore H. Friedman and Tamar Lieberman in memory of their mother, Mary Kerewsky Friedman, with support from the International Arts Foundation, was premiered in 2002 with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin.**

**The work displays Stoltzman's great virtuosity and sensitivity, the clarinet dipping and soaring in a myriad of aural textures. Stoltzman spent substantial time in Helsinki visiting with the Rautavaaras, and his participation in the compositional process is well documented (see supplementary materials enclosed), revealing the psyche of both composer and performer.**

**Stoltzman reminisced about the first time he played and heard the second movement of the concerto: "Rautavaara showed me the second movement, presenting me with clarinet parts neatly transposed to B-flat clarinet in pencil which I followed along as he played the piano score wildly while whistling the clarinet line. I felt right away I was in the aesthetic of Rautavaara which had initially drawn me to his music – harmonies which felt genuine and a lyric line completely vocal and resolving in beautifully touching tones. As we played through, my tone began to appear and I got that momentary shiver which always indicates that something is right. At the end, I could only say 'how beautiful' but that wasn't what I really wanted to express because I held inside my own anxiety on the success of this whole fragile adventure, and having now come all this way, I wanted more than I had allowed myself to think. My feeling was, 'Yes, this is the real thing' – and finally, my best means of affirming this was to go over to the piano, give Rautavaara a big hug, and then do a little jig, ending with a jump, arms in the air, and an elated, 'yes!'"**

### **REFLECTIONS**

***Reflections* (MMC 2105) is a collection of contemporary works by composers Perlongo, Lay, Goodwin, Iannaccone and Stiller, recorded with the Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra with conductors George Manahan and Jerzy Swoboda. This is the fifth CD in an ongoing series that Stoltzman is recording for MMC; more than thirty composers have created works that Stoltzman will eventually record, with the Slovak Radio Orchestra and Seattle Symphony Orchestra, in addition to the Warsaw National Philharmonic.**

**The CD features the following works, all of which feature Mr. Stoltzman:**

***Sunburst* (1995), by Daniel James Perlongo 10:18**

***Earth Caoine* (1995), by Keith Lay 8:58**

***Paraph* for Clarinet and Orchestra (1996), by Gordon Goodwin 10:17**

***Concertante for Clarinet and Orchestra* (1995), by Anthony Iannaccone 15:30**

***Procrustean Concerto* (1994), by Andrew Stiller**

**I. *Interview with the Dissidents: Sestina* 9:09**

**II. *Hockets from the Andes* 6:54**

According to Stoltzman, “Each of the five CDs thus far has captured a vibrant part of the spectrum of possibilities for the instrument as these composers have seen it, and *Reflections* reveals the widest emotional gamut yet. *Sunburst*, by Daniel James Perlongo, brilliantly orchestrates that twinkling but ferocious star which sustains our planet and the ten-minute wailing and jazzy tour de force for both clarinet and orchestra seems to sum up the benign fireball suspended in a cold cosmos. Then, from Keith Lay's *Earth Caoine*, comes a quiet, searing wail of anguish in the heavens. The angelic clarinet falls in a tearful trail of tones toward the earth. In Gordon Goodwin's puckish *Paraph*, a remembered clarinet lick once played by an old buddy reverberates throughout the whole orchestra for a joyful and creative reflection on a simple motive and a friendship celebrated in music. Anthony Iannaccone builds a virtuosic *Concertante for Clarinet and Orchestra* with generous heartfelt lyricism for both soloist and orchestra - sailing to a final triumph of optimism. And the *Procrustean Concerto* of Andrew Stiller is a bold, terrifying, bizarre reflection of music's parameter seen darkly, distantly, primitively and powerfully in an ornate, slightly distorted and disturbing mirror.”

#### **ABOUT RICHARD STOLTZMAN**

Richard Stoltzman's virtuosity, musicianship and personal magnetism have made him one of today's most sought-after concert artists. As soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist, and as a prolific recording artist, two-time Grammy Award winner Stoltzman has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike through many musical genres.

Stoltzman graduated from Ohio State University with a double major in music and mathematics. He earned his Master of Music degree at Yale University while studying with Keith Wilson, and later worked toward a doctoral degree with Kalmen Opperman at Columbia University. As a long-time participant in the Marlboro Music Festival, Stoltzman gained extensive chamber music experience and subsequently became a founding member of the noted ensemble TASHI, which made its debut in 1973.

Since then, Stoltzman's unique way with the clarinet has earned him a global reputation as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and, in 1986, became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. His talents as a jazz performer as well as a classical artist have been heard far beyond his annual tours. He has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, the Canadian Brass, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Eddie Gomez, Keith Jarrett, the King's Singers, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé, and Spyro Gyra founder Jeremy Wall. His commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works for the clarinet, including “*Fantasma Cantos*” by Toru Takemitsu; “*Landscape with Blues*” by Stephen Hartke (2001); the new concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara (which

premiered in October 2002 with conductor Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony at Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall); and *American Dreams* by fellow Yale classmate William Thomas McKinley. All works have recently been recorded by Mr. Stoltzman.

Richard Stoltzman has a discography numbering over 50 releases on BMG/RCA, SONY Classical, MMC, BIS, Albany and other labels, including a Grammy-winning recording of the Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. Stoltzman's recent releases include "Amber Waves," a CD of American works, and the Trios of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma, which won Stoltzman his second Grammy Award. Three additional recent releases include Nielsen, Prokofiev and Lutoslawski with the Warsaw Philharmonic conducted by Lawrence Leighton Smith (BMG/RCA), the Skrowaczewski Concerto with the Saarbrücken Radio Orchestra, conducted by the composer (Albany), and three new clarinet concertos with the Seattle Symphony and Gerard Schwarz (MMC). His newest releases include Hartke's "Landscape with Blues" (Naxos), Rautavaara's Clarinet Concerto (Ondine), "Father and Son" CD featuring the Richard and Peter John Stoltzman family duo, and a fascinating spectrum of new American concerti by Stiller, Iannaccone, Goodwin, Lay and Perlongo on an album entitled "Reflections" (MMC). Stoltzman's two books, published by Carl Fischer, "The Richard Stoltzman Song Book," and "Aria," include some of his favorite performance pieces transcribed and arranged for clarinet.

The current season began with Stoltzman being presented with Yale's prestigious Sanford Medal. His 2005-06 season includes performances with the Syracuse Symphony, Boston Modern Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony and Spokane Symphony. He will premiere David Stock's Clarinet Concerto with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, and will appear in recital with colleagues Emanuel Ax, the American String Quartet, and the Takacs Quartet. His New York City appearances include performances at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie's Zankel Hall, and the Peoples' Symphony Concerts. Stoltzman continues to appear at the summer festivals Campus Internazionale di Musica in Sermoneta, Italy, and the Orford Arts Centre in Canada.

Throughout the season, Stoltzman will continue his commitment as an active Board Member of Young Audiences, which helps to bring music to children of all ages. Also a Cordon Bleu-trained pastry chef, Richard Stoltzman is the father of two children, Margaret Anne, and Peter John, a prominent jazz pianist with whom Richard regularly performs and records. His wife Lucy, a violinist, is Chair of Chamber Music and Strings at the New England Conservatory. They reside in Massachusetts.

#### **EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA**

While still in his early twenties, Einojuhani Rautavaara (who was born in 1928) received direct and meaningful encouragement from Jean Sibelius, which some commentators have viewed as a symbolic "passing of the torch" of Finnish music.

**Today, Rautavaara is the pre-eminent Finnish composer of his generation; well beyond the age at which Sibelius no longer composed, Rautavaara continues to be one of the most active composers, as well as the most respected, in his remarkably musical country. Like Sibelius, he has achieved this status entirely on his own terms, developing a distinctive personal style unlikely to be mistaken for anyone else's. In sorting out the various influences to which he responded at one time or another, he devised a musical language that is direct in its expressiveness and frequently touched with fantasy or a sort of unpretentious mysticism. He believes "though some people smile at the concept," that "compositions have a will of their own," that they exist in "another reality, awaiting the composer who will bring them into the world in one piece."**

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**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:**

**For CDs, additional information about Messrs. Stoltzman and Rautavaara, interview access or photographs, please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, National Press Representatives for Richard Stoltzman, 212/496-9418, [sheararts@aol.com](mailto:sheararts@aol.com), [www.nancyshear.com](http://www.nancyshear.com)**