

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: David Cavallaro  
(845) 257-3872

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## **William Coble of Chicago, Illinois, Wins 2002 Kenneth Davenport Orchestral Competition**

NEW PALTZ—The School of Fine & Performing Arts is pleased to announce that Mr. William Coble of Chicago, Illinois is the winner of the 2002 Kenneth Davenport National Competition for Orchestral Music. Coble will receive a \$5,000 prize, serve as Composer-in-Residence in the SUNY New Paltz Department of Music, and his composition Chamber Symphony (2000) will be performed by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, conducted by Randall Craig Fleischer on the weekend of November 1-2, 2002.

The Davenport Competition drew entries from 18 states and the province of Quebec. Competition judge Dr. Ping Jin said of the winning work, "It demonstrates highly crafted and balanced orchestral writing, with an energetic wind section, intricate percussion part, and a delicate string passage." Jin also noted Coble's powerful and precise use of musical language, something the composer has sought to refine throughout his career.

The public is invited to meet William Coble at a Composer's Forum at SUNY New Paltz on Tuesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m. in McKenna Theatre. This event is free and open to all. It precedes a concert by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic String Quartet with guest pianist Blanca Uribe that begins at 8:00 p.m. in the same hall.

### **Biographical information on William Coble**

William Coble is a distinguished composer and two-time winner of the Davenport Award (1990, 2002). He has written music for theatre, dance and chamber groups; symphony orchestras, vocal music, and computer music. He is currently a Century Fellow and instructor at the University of Chicago, where he is pursuing a doctoral degree in music composition.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Coble began taking piano lessons at 7, trumpet classes at 9 and started writing compositions at 10. He attended Boston University on a music scholarship and studied with Robert Sirota, Stephen Albert, and David DelTredici. A raft of awards for his formal compositions soon followed, including a Tanglewood Fellowship, and by the time he graduated Coble had published his first work, *Autumn Elegy*.

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School of Fine & Performing Arts • McKenna Theatre 118  
75 S. Manheim Boulevard Suite 9 • New Paltz, NY 12561-2443  
(845) 257-3872 • Fax (845) 257-3859 • [www.newpaltz.edu/fpa](http://www.newpaltz.edu/fpa)

## **William Coble of Chicago Illinois Wins 2002 Kenneth Davenport Orchestral Competition**

**October 15, 2002**

**Page 2**

He went on to graduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and Roosevelt University. His first full-length symphony, *Eulogy*, won the Columbia-Bearn Prize and kicked off a series of subsequent honors, including premieres at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Hall in New York City. Recently he studied with Ned Rorem, whom he cites as one of his most influential teachers.

Coble's work focuses on narrative—"good story-telling," as he puts it—and is often compared with that of classic American composers Charles Ives and Aaron Copland. "Great music casts a strong profile, suggesting a strong individual voice, and follows a narrative that is imbued with a sense of inevitability, as well as surprises and the excitement of sudden discovery!"

The composer is most inspired by relationships—between people as well as instruments—and by the interaction of distinct identities. This he sees as the "the greatest glory of life and music." "I love the arts," he says, "the emotions, the soaring of the spirit and the yearning for perfection."

Coble was so taken with the work of poet Maude Meehan, for example, that in 1998 he asked if he could set her words to music. "Good music should be memorable," he says. "It should live on in us and resonate in the spirit." Further, he urges audiences to be active listeners, to seek out meaning in music and move beyond a merely passive experience.

Chamber Symphony (2000) will be performed by The Hudson Valley Philharmonic on Friday November 1, 8pm at Julien J. Studley Theater, SUNY New Paltz, and Saturday November 2, 8pm at the Bardavon Opera house, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Haydn            Concerto for violoncello, D Major  
                    2002 HVP String Competition Winner, Min-Ji Kim

Mendelssohn *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Overture and incidental music)  
                    Estelle Parsons, members of Cappella Festiva, and soloists

Coble            Chamber Symphony (2000)  
                    Kenneth Davenport National Competition for Orchestral Music

Audience members are invited to a pre-concert talk with Maestro Fleischer and William Coble one hour prior to each performance. Tickets to the concerts are available by calling the Bardavon Box Office, 845-473-2072.

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**William Coble of Chicago Illinois Wins 2002 Kenneth Davenport Orchestral Competition**  
**October 15, 2002**  
**Page 3**

**A History of the Davenport Competition**

In 1985, the School of Fine & Performing Arts at SUNY New Paltz and the Davenport Family inaugurated the Kenneth Davenport National Competition for Orchestral Works in honor of the generous philanthropist and advocate for regional and national music and culture. This major competition for American composers invites submissions of new, unrecorded works. In 2000, expanded venues and a new collaboration with the historic Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie, New York increased the national exposure of the biennial Davenport Competition. The collaboration of the School of Fine & Performing Arts, the Bardavon, and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic marks a new chapter in the history of this important national competition dedicated to featuring new works by American composers.

- 30 -

*SUNY New Paltz is a university of nearly 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students located in the Mid-Hudson Valley halfway between New York City and Albany. SUNY New Paltz is committed to providing high quality, affordable education to students from all social and economic backgrounds.*

*More information about SUNY New Paltz is available online at <http://www.newpaltz.edu>.*