For Immediate Release

May 1, 2012

Five Boroughs Music Festival presents

FIVE BOROUGH SONGBOOK Bronx Premiere
May 31, 2012 at 7:30p – The Bronx Museum of the Arts

and

FIVE BOROUGH SONGBOOK Staten Island Premiere
June 2, 2012 at 2:00p – Staten Island Museum

NEW YORK, NY – Five Boroughs Music Festival’s fifth season closes in the Bronx and Staten Island with the final two Borough Premieres of 5BMF’s bold new commissioning project, the Five Borough Songbook. The critically acclaimed Songbook, a collection of 20 new songs by 20 unique composers, celebrates New York City through its history, poetry, and geography – and its most promising musical talent. These performances will be hosted by two of NYC’s finest cultural institutions: The Bronx Premiere will take place on May 31st at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street, and the Staten Island Premiere will take place on June 2nd at the Staten Island Museum, just steps from the St. George Ferry Terminal.

5BMF is honored that these twenty composers have each written one new vocal work for the Five Borough Songbook:

Christopher Berg
Lisa Bielawa
Tom Cipullo
Christina Courtin
Mohammed Fairouz
Renée Favand-See
John Glover
Ricky Ian Gordon
Yotam Haber
Daron Hagen
Martin Hennessy
Gabriel Kahane
Gilda Lyons
Jorge Martin
Russell Platt
Glen Roven
Matt Schickele
Richard Pearson Thomas
Christopher Tignor
Scott Wheeler

Several of these composers will be on hand at the concert venues for Composer Chats preceding each performance (6:30pm Bronx; 1:00pm Staten Island). Audiences are encouraged to arrive early to be able to hear them discuss their new works. More information about the songs and their composers can be found at www.5bmf.org/five-borough-songbook/. Please also visit www.5bmf.org/songbook-recording/ for information on the recently released Songbook album, produced by GPR Records.

Five Boroughs Music Festival is excited to announce a new cast for these final performances, featuring the 5BMF debuts of violinist Johnny Gandelsman, pianist Cameron Stowe, tenor Gregory Zavracky, and soprano Katherine Whyte, the return of mezzo-soprano Jamie Van Eyck, and 5BMF Artistic Director, baritone Jesse Blumberg.

Artist Photos, Live Performance Photos, and Album Cover Art are available upon request.
BRONX DETAILS:
Thursday, May 31, 2012
6:30pm Composer Chat
7:30pm Performance
The Bronx Museum of the Arts
1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St.
Bronx, NY 10456
SUBWAYS: B or D to 167th Street, 4 to 161st Street

ADMISSION:
General Admission $25
Bronx Residents and Students $15

Advance purchase discounts available now at:
www.5bmf.org/buy-tickets/

STATEN ISLAND DETAILS:
Saturday, June 2, 2012
1:00pm Composer Chat
2:00pm Performance
Staten Island Museum
75 Stuyvesant Place
Staten Island, NY 10301
Just 3 blocks from the Ferry Terminal!

ADMISSION:
General Admission $20
S.I. Museum Members and Students $15

Advance purchase discounts available now at:
www.5bmf.org/buy-tickets/

ABOUT FIVE BOROUGHS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Five Boroughs Music Festival was founded in 2007 by baritone Jesse Blumberg. Under his leadership, along with Executive Director Donna Breitzer, 5BMF seeks to bring musical performances of the highest caliber to all parts of New York City. In a day when more and more artists and music fans are living in the so-called ‘outer boroughs,’ it is 5BMF’s goal to equally serve audiences in every part of the city by presenting diverse, intimate, and affordable programs throughout the year.

Over its first five seasons, 5BMF has presented over 20 unique and varied programs in almost five complete cycles around NYC. From its earliest days, 5BMF’s commitment to musical outreach and diverse programming has attracted positive attention from the NYC arts community. In September 2010 5BMF was invited to participate as a featured arts organization at the third annual Bryant Park Fall Festival, where it presented an outdoor performance to a crowd of approximately 1,500 listeners.

5BMF has featured an eclectic range of performers, including the string quartet Brooklyn Rider, jazz vocalist Sachal Vasandani, composer Ricky Ian Gordon, and early music specialists New York Polyphony, as well as a stellar roster of classical stars such as pianists Steven Blier and Martin Katz, violinist Robert Mealy, soprano Jennifer Zetlan, bass Matthew Boehler, mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, baritones Tyler Duncan and Thomas Meglioranzo, and tenors Scott Murphee and William Ferguson. 5BMF’s venues are just as eclectic, and have included historic NYC landmarks such as Steinway Hall, the University Church at Fordham University, and the Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

In November 2010, 5BMF presented its first free, public masterclass in conjunction with NYU’s Program in Vocal Performance, in which world-renowned collaborative pianist Martin Katz worked with four students from NYC’s top music schools. As an additional means of outreach, 5BMF has donated programming to charitable causes; 5BMF presented Bach to the Bronx!, a program of early music to benefit Save the Children and their efforts in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, and in 2008, 5BMF partnered with music outreach organization Sing for Hope to present Notes from Brooklyn, which raised $10,000 for Brooklyn Community Services.

Further information can be found at www.5BMF.org or via email: info@5BMF.org

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