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Colburn School's Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices to Host North American Young Artist Competition for String Quartets

(Los Angeles, September 6, 2017) - The Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School will hold its second North American Young Artist Competition during the fall of 2017, with the focus on String Quartets. The finals, with James Conlon presiding, will take place before a distinguished panel of judges, in Thayer Hall on the Colburn School campus on Sunday evening, February 18, 2018. Cash prizes totaling \$20,000 will be distributed. All three finalist ensembles will receive a cash prize, with \$10,000 going to the winning ensemble.

The Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices, inspired by the LA Opera's groundbreaking Recovered Voices project, is committed to the performance, advocacy and dissemination of music by composers suppressed during the years of the Nazi regime. The Recovered Voices name is used with permission from LA Opera.

This event is the second Young Artist Competition produced by the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School; the first featured young singers performing art song. The Initiative was established in 2013 by a generous grant from Los Angeles philanthropist Marilyn Ziering. James Conlon serves as Artistic Advisor.

Mr. Conlon said, "The purpose of this competition is two-fold: to recognize and assist young talented musicians by presenting a forum in which to be heard and, at the same time, to introduce emerging string players to a small, representative sampling of superb composers and works likely unknown to many of them. Through this process, I hope these pieces, as well as other works similarly disadvantaged during the Nazi regime and the years following, will find their way into the ears, hands, hearts and repertoires of an increasing number of young musicians."

Colburn School President and CEO Sel Kardan added, "We are very pleased to continue the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices and our partnership with Maestro Conlon. This year's artist competition focusing on string quartets provides an important opportunity for today's generation of aspiring artists to learn from and further the works of suppressed and censored composers."

Prospective participants must not have reached their 27th birthday by December 8, 2017. To enter the competition, quartets must submit an official online application form, including video performances of two string quartets, one required and the other drawn from a list on the competition web page. Three finalist ensembles will perform at the February 18, 2018, Finals Concert.

For further details, deadlines, repertoire and application form, please go to: colburnschool.edu/RVstringquartetcompetition.

About the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices

Established by a grant from Marilyn Ziering, the primary focus of the Ziering-Conlon Initiative for Recovered Voices at the Colburn School is the performance, advocacy and dissemination of music by composers suppressed during the years of the Nazi regime. James Conlon serves as Artistic Advisor for the initiative. Performance of music by these composers is encouraged within the Colburn Conservatory's solo, orchestral and chamber music activities. Research and academic activities are also explored through conferences, concerts and creative collaborations.

As part of the Initiative, the Colburn Conservatory offers a semester-long course on Recovered Voices each spring, taught and overseen by James Conlon, with assistance by Ziering-Conlon Initiative Director Robert Elias and invited guests.

In addition to the oversight of Maestro Conlon and Mr. Elias, the initiative is supervised by the Provost of the Colburn School and benefits greatly from the interest and commitment of the Conservatory's internationally recognized faculty and staff.

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