

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ENLOE ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL FEATURES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE “REQUIEM FOR PEACE”
A CONCERT FEATURING FIVE COMMISSIONED WORKS BY
AWARD-WINNING PIANIST AND COMPOSER JOEL A. MARTIN
AND PERFORMED BY THE ENLOE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR, STRING ORCHESTRA,
CONCERT WIND ENSEMBLE, AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL**

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

Enloe High School presents **Jazzical®: Enloe and the World Premiere of the “Requiem for Peace”**
Featuring internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Joel A. Martin, and performed by the
Enloe Chamber Choir, String Orchestra, Concert Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble
Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 pm, Meymandi Concert Hall
500 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh, North Carolina
Tickets: \$15/adult, \$5/student.
Available at the Meymandi Concert Hall Box Office: (919) 834-4000
or at Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.com

NOTE: Joel A. Martin (pianist and composer), Robert C. Hunter (Director, Enloe Band Program), and Penny Vagle (Assistant Principal) are available for interviews.

Raleigh, NC – In collaboration with the Arts Magnet School and William G. Enloe High School, internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Joel A. Martin will premiere five commissioned works in a program entitled *Jazzical®: Enloe* on Sunday, February 11th, at 3:00 pm, at Meymandi Concert Hall, home of the North Carolina Symphony. Mr. Martin, a Raleigh native, will be accompanied by members of the Enloe Concert Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, and Chamber Choir.

Each ensemble will perform original compositions by Joel A. Martin in the *Jazzical®*, classical, and jazz styles. *Jazzical®* utilizes motifs from Mr. Martin’s classical piano repertoire as subjects for jazz interpretations for solo piano, chamber ensemble, jazz combo, and orchestra and bridges the gap between classical and jazz music while remaining true to both art forms. The program will include: *Song of Love*, a classical tone poem (concert band); *Raleigh Alley*, a jazz/choral piece (4-part chorus and piano); the Slavic-inspired *Triple Concerto in E Flat Minor for Two Violins and Viola* (string orchestra); and a series of original *Jazzical®* pieces for piano and jazz ensemble, with accompaniment by the graduating seniors who appeared with Mr. Martin at the Artspllosure Festival in April 2006. The string orchestra will also perform a musical setting of an original work entitled *Gypsy*, lyrics and melody by Enloe sophomore and soprano soloist Mara Howard Williams. The first half of the program will be conducted by Enloe faculty Ann Huff, Robert C. Hunter, Beth McCollum, and Mr. Martin.

The culminating event will be the finale in which all ensembles will appear together on stage to debut Mr. Martin’s mammoth composition, *Requiem for Peace in Eight Movements for Concert*

Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Mixed Chorus and Piano. Inspired by Dr. Maya Angelou's poem, the "Caged Bird," the Requiem will be conducted by Robert C. Hunter, Director of the Enloe Band Program.

In the spirit of the Enloe Visual and Performing Arts program's goal to enrich student's learning by providing them with opportunities to work with guest artists in master classes and performance, this unique collaboration began in April 2006 when Mr. Martin was invited to conduct a week long arts-in-education residency at the magnet school, and appeared in performance with the Enloe Jazz Ensemble at the Artspllosure Festival. That experience received such an overwhelmingly positive response from both faculty and students that he was invited to return in September 2006 to conduct a 6-month arts-in-education residency, and was also commissioned to write several original compositions for performance by the students.

"In a very real sense, performance at Meymandi Concert Hall is a celebration of the unique nature of this collaboration, and the original music that it inspired, including the *Requiem for Peace*," says Robert C. Hunter, Enloe's Director of Bands. "We felt that the students deserved to perform this unique body of work in a more professional setting, and to share the fruits of their 6-month labor of love with the public at large."

Maya Angelou's The "Caged Bird" – Inspiration for the Requiem for Peace

Although the traditional requiem was a funeral composition, performed during liturgical service, and often accompanied by Gregorian Chant, by the 20th century, secular requiems were performed regularly in public. Inspired by the poem, the "Caged Bird," written by poet, educator, and historian Dr. Maya Angelou, the *Requiem for Peace* is a secular work with spiritual overtones and is meant to be felt and pondered, both musically and lyrically. The nature of war as well as the prospects for a long-lasting peace is discussed, with meditations and original Gregorian-style chants to inspire further reflection. The "Caged Bird" forms the text for the 5th movement of the Requiem.

According to Mr. Martin, "The *Requiem for Peace* honors man's continued struggle for peace. Each movement represents something very different in the process toward achieving peace, and the listener will make his/her own determination as to its relevance in his/her life. My ultimate goal is to create a new world community, where artists, musicians, and concertgoers – souls who are open to new ideas and experiences – can talk with one another, communicate, and share in the human experience through music. Music really is the universal language, and serves as a bridge across racial, ethnic, and economic diversity, to unite us all. And, it is my sincere belief that, through this unique collaboration with the students of Enloe, we can serve as an example to begin this process, and become the model for others to follow throughout this country and the world. You really can change the world. The world has changed me for the better. I am just giving back now."

About Joel A. Martin

Joel A. Martin is an award-winning pianist and has traveled throughout the world performing both classical and jazz. His classical career spans 33 years and includes solo performances with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Delaware Symphony, and the Springfield Symphony (MA). Mr. Martin was the youngest competitor in the 1985 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and has received numerous national awards. Articles highlighting his classical music career have appeared in *TIME Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. He has also played extensively in Japan, Finland, Russia,

Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Austria, England, and France. As a chamber musician, he has performed with the Emerson String Quartet, studied at Tanglewood Institute, and toured Finland with clarinetist Esther Lamneck.

Mr. Martin is also an accomplished jazz pianist. For two years, he served as the assistant director/pianist for the Boys Choir of Harlem, and for the past nine years served as musical director/pianist for the Cab Calloway Orchestra. He has performed with such jazz heavyweights as trumpeter Jon Faddis, pianist Barry Harris, clarinetist Alvin Batiste, bassist Brian Torff, and tenor saxophonist Houston Person, and has given concerts at New York's Lincoln Center, Fez, and New Orleans's Snug Harbor, among other jazz venues. Mr. Martin has also collaborated as pianist/composer/arranger for the operatic soprano Jessye Norman. As a commercial composer, he has recorded, arranged, and/or written music for over 400 pop records for artists on Polygram, BMG, SONY, and others.

In 1997 these worlds came together when Mr. Martin invented and trademarked the concept *Jazzical*®, a marriage of classical and jazz. This innovative genre is designed to bridge the gap between classical and jazz and its audiences while remaining true to both forms. Mr. Martin has released four CDs in the *Jazzical*® series to critical acclaim.

In 2006 Mr. Martin was featured soloist with the El Paso Youth Symphony Orchestra where he performed the *Jazzical*® *C Minor Prelude*. This year, he also debuted *Jazzical*®: *Dueling Orchestras*™ with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. In September 2006, he accepted the first-time distinction of Composer-in-Residence for the Grammy Award Winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Additional information on Mr. Martin and *Jazzical*® is available at www.jazzical.com. A complete press kit is also available upon request.

About Enloe Magnet High School

William G. Enloe High School is a Wake County Public School System public magnet high school, and is currently ranked 59th in *Newsweek*'s list of the top schools in the United States. Enloe's Visual and Performing Arts program has the largest and most comprehensive arts curriculum in the Wake County School System, including Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Broadcasting Arts. In addition, Enloe has the largest orchestra program in Wake County and has appeared in performances in Chicago, Boston, New York, St. Louis, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Toronto. For more information about Enloe's Visual and Performing Arts program, visit <http://enloehs.wcpss.net/>.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students and are available at the Meymandi Concert Hall Box Office: (919) 834-4000 or at Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.com. Meymandi Concert Hall is located at 500 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh.

Reporters interested in covering this event should contact Penny Vagle at William G. Enloe High School, pvagle@wcpss, or 919-856-7918.net or Maria B. Martin at the Martin Consortium Syndicate, mmartin@hsrnet.com, or 914-837-8001.