

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME PRESENTS THE ONLY PUBLIC PERFORMANCES IN ITALY BY THE SCHAROUN ENSEMBLE BERLIN 9 & 10 MARCH AT VILLA AURELIA



Courtesy of the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin

Rome – The American Academy in Rome is pleased to present two concerts by one of Germany’s most distinguished chamber music ensembles, the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin. Comprised of members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin specializes in a repertoire of Classical, Romantic, 20th century Modernist, and contemporary music. 2012 marks the fourth year of collaboration between the Ensemble and the American Academy in Rome, which includes performances of new work by current Academy Fellows in Music Composition Sean Friar and Lei Liang. The program will also include a world premiere by 2002 Academy Resident Martin Brody. The Ensemble will perform works by Franz Schreker, Antonín Dvořák, Sergei Prokofiev and Carl Maria von Weber.

The concerts are free to the public and will take place at the Academy's Villa Aurelia on Friday 9 March and Saturday 10 March 2012. These two concerts mark the only public performances by the Scharoun Ensemble in Italy this spring.

Seats available on a first come, first served basis. You are kindly requested to take your seat 15 minutes before the beginning of the performance. Please present a form of identification at the entrance. This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation.

Event: Scharoun Ensemble Berlin

9 March 2012 at 9pm – Martin Brody, Lei Liang, Franz Schreker, Carl Maria von Weber

10 March 2012 at 9pm – Sean Friar, Sergei Prokofiev, Antonín Dvořák

Location: Villa Aurelia, American Academy in Rome

Largo di Porta San Pancrazio, 1

Scharoun Ensemble Berlin

Founded in 1983 by members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scharoun Ensemble is one of Germany's leading chamber-music organizations. With its wide repertoire, ranging from composers of the Baroque period by way of Classical and Romantic chamber music to contemporary works, the Scharoun Ensemble has been inspiring audiences in Europe and overseas for more than a quarter of a century. Innovative programming, a refined tonal culture and spirited interpretations are hallmarks of the ensemble, which performs in a variety of instrumental combinations.

The permanent core of the Scharoun Ensemble is a classical octet (clarinet, bassoon, horn, two violins, viola, cello and double bass), made up entirely of members of the Berlin Philharmonic. When called for, the ensemble brings in additional instrumentalists as well as noted conductors. The Scharoun Ensemble has prepared and presented various programmes under the direction of Claudio Abbado, Sir Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez. It has also performed with singers including Thomas Quasthoff, Simon Keenlyside and Barbara Hannigan, and, for interdisciplinary projects, the ensemble has engaged such artists as Fanny Ardant, Lorient and Dominique Horwitz.

Bridging the gap between tradition and the modern is the Scharoun Ensemble's principal artistic focus. It has given world premieres of many 20th- and 21st-century compositions while dedicating itself with equal passion to the interpretation of works from past centuries. Among the cornerstones of its repertoire are Franz Schubert's *Octet d803*, with which the ensemble made its public debut in 1983, and Ludwig van Beethoven's *Septet Op.20*.

Cultivating an active contact with today's composers has been a matter of special interest to the Scharoun Ensemble since its inception. György Ligeti, Hans Werner Henze, Pierre Boulez, György Kurtág and Wolfgang Rihm have accompanied the group on its artistic journey, as have composers of the younger generation including Jörg Widmann and Matthias Pintscher.

Complementing the Scharoun Ensemble's brisk international concert activity is its annual residence at and artistic directorship of the Zermatt Festival, founded in 2005. Along with concerts by major artists, each summer's festival includes musical workshops offering young musicians the chance to work with the members of the Scharoun Ensemble.

Lending his name to the Scharoun Ensemble is the architect of its musical home. In designing the Berlin Philharmonie, Hans Scharoun (1893-1972) created a concert hall that was unique in the world, undertaking a synthesis between innovation and awareness of tradition and opening up new approaches to artistic communication – ideals to which the Scharoun Ensemble is also committed.

The American Academy in Rome

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern studies; modern Italian studies; architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation; literature; musical composition; and visual arts. The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. For more information please visit: www.aarome.org

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