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**THE WALDEN SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL SUMMER MUSIC CAMP
AND FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES JOAN TOWER AND STEPHEN JAFFE
AS COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE FOR 2009 SEASON**

**ACCLAIMED WALDEN SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE
ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION WITH MASTER OF MUSIC
TEACHING PROGRAM AT OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**

May 19, 2009 -- San Francisco, CA -- The Walden School has named Joan Tower and Stephen Jaffe as its Composers- in-Residence for 2009. Hailed as “one of the most successful woman composers of all time” by The New Yorker magazine, Ms. Tower is also renowned for her teaching, having served as a professor of music at Bard College since 1972. Mr. Jaffe has been a recipient of the Rome Prize, his music has been performed by the San Francisco, National and New Jersey Symphonies, and he is currently Professor of Composition at Duke University. Founded in 1972, The Walden School is part camp, part school, and part festival and has been in residence on the campus of the Dublin School in Dublin, New Hampshire, since 1983.

“The Walden School is one of America’s greatest hidden treasures,” said Joan Tower. “Though there are many music camps, there isn’t another like The Walden School with its focus on nurturing musicianship through the act of composing and creating. The Walden School’s unique curriculum nurtures the talent we need for the future of classical music – building young musicians who truly understand the power of making music from the perspective of the composer. It is a rare gift for these young people and I can’t think of a more fitting way to complete my 70th birthday celebration season than to be a part of giving back to the next generation of young composers.”

Ms. Tower and Mr. Jaffe join a distinguished list of eminent composers, performers, and visiting teaching artists who have been in residence at The Walden School including Christopher Theofanidis, The Peabody Trio, Bright Sheng, the Alexander String Quartet,

Cyrus Chestnut, Jennifer Higdon, Pauline Oliveros, Martin Bresnick, James Mobberley, Vance George, Chen Yi, Russell Pinkston and Alice Parker, among others.

Each summer approximately 50 young musicians from all over the United States and the world travel to the beautiful Monadnock region of New Hampshire to participate; this summer, students will come from the Czech Republic, France, China, Singapore, Canada, as well as from 13 different US states. Serving both young people through its acclaimed summer camp program and music educators through its nationally recognized Teacher Training Institute, The Walden School's mission focuses on building creativity and personal expression through a unique and respected curriculum centered on musical improvisation and composition.

As part of the Festival experience, Walden presents a rich and varied concert series each season. In 2009, performers will include acclaimed organist John Weaver, the NYC-based M Shanghai String Band, and Wet Ink – a new music ensemble that will present world premieres of faculty compositions, as well as music of Joan Tower. In addition, during Festival Week Composers Forums, moderated by composer Stephen Jaffe, 50 new pieces of music will be presented over the course of three evenings, culminating a summer of musical creativity. All concerts and Composers Forums are free and open to the public. For the first time, two of the concerts will be co-presented in partnership with Monadnock Music.

About the Oberlin Conservatory of Music Partnership: An important new element of the Walden School's Teacher Training Institute is a recently announced collaboration with Oberlin Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College. "Walden has a long association with Oberlin -- many Walden faculty come from Oberlin to teach at Walden and numerous Walden music students have gone on to study music at Oberlin -- so it made sense to us to investigate a closer partnership. Walden is excited to be able to contribute to Oberlin's innovative and excellent new program," stated Seth Brenzel, executive director of The Walden School. As part of the Master of Music Teaching degree program, Walden faculty Patricia Plude and Tom Lopez will offer a one-week course presenting the School's unique approach to teaching the fundamentals of music with an emphasis on creative application, specifically through improvisation and composition. The Walden School's approach is based on the innovative work of visionary music educator Grace Newsom Cushman, whose Junior Conservatory Camp, founded in the 1940s, is the predecessor program of The Walden School.

More about The Walden School International Summer Music Camp and Festival: Walden has an international reputation for providing thorough and creative theoretical training for young musicians. Classes are deliberately small and geared to the individual student. Instructors employ improvisation and composition as primary tools in teaching all levels of musicianship. Enrichment classes in music history and literature, as well as other essential music skills, bring variety to the curriculum while daily private composition lessons offer one-on-one mentoring. All students, faculty and staff

participate in The Walden School Chorus, which meets daily under the direction of Leo Wanenchak and gives a concert of varied repertoire at the end of the session.

Away from day to day distractions, student and faculty form an intellectual and artistic community whose purpose is to explore music as language -- with a goal of improvising and composing original works. Students spend time in classes each morning, Monday-Friday, work on individual and group creative projects and class assignments in the afternoon, and attend workshops, Composers Forums, community singing and concerts each evening. Afternoons also include opportunity for recreation and relaxation, and each Saturday the entire program hikes a nearby mountain, culminating in impromptu choral singing at each summit. Outstanding faculty – performers, composers, conductors and educators – guide students through the curriculum and act as mentors to the young musicians throughout their summer experience. Rigorous musical training and opportunities for creative expression are paired with a nurturing and supportive community, making Walden’s Young Musicians Program a life-changing experience for those who participate.

“In all of the residencies that I've participated in as a Composer-in-Residence, never have I seen such an amazingly thorough, enlightening, and fun learning situation as I experienced at Walden... I cannot think of a comparable situation for young composers/musicians to come together and gain so much,” said Jennifer Higdon, 1999 Composer- in-Residence.

To learn more about the Walden School, members of the public should contact The Walden School’s administrative office at (415) 648-4710, or email us at info@waldenschool.org or visit our website at www.waldenschool.org.

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FOR THE MEDIA: Biographies of Joan Tower and Stephen Jaffe, high resolution downloadable photographs, and more general information on The Walden School are available by contacting Karen Ames at (415) 641-7474 or karen@karenames.com