

**Message from the Artistic Directors  
Gryphon Trio**

Welcome to another summer of live chamber music! This is where the yearlong work by musicians, OCMS board and staff, and the devoted volunteers comes to fruition. For us, this is a celebration of that special bond between performer and audience, where the magical communication of music happens. We all know and love that exchange of energy that has kept us all coming back for more.

This year, we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1809, the year of Haydn's death and Mendelssohn's birth. Over a dozen string quartets from around the world and a handful of piano trios and other ensembles will be performing masterpieces by these musical giants during Chamberfest '09. We will also have a special concert by James Campbell and Gene DiNovi to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Benny Goodman's birth.

We are excited to welcome you to two new venues this summer: Southminster United Church and Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts and Humanities. Lovely acoustics make both of these churches a wonderful discovery and we are delighted to take the festival into new parts of the city and participate in the regeneration of Lowertown.

Musicologist Harry Halbreich returns this year for a week of *Musical Musings*. This year, these sessions will each include a live performance of a work by Haydn before Harry goes into a vibrant discussion of the day's music. Gary Kulesha, who fuses his many talents as a composer, conductor, pianist and professor, will get you excited about new music as he shares his insights and communicative skill during the second week of Chamberfest.

As always, the best Ottawa talent will shine brightly at Chamberfest, with singers Shannon Mercer (2009 Juno Award winner), Matthew White, Julie Nesrallah, Donna Brown and Doreen Taylor-Claxton enchanting you with their angelic voices. Gary Hayes will host a gathering of pieces by Ottawa's New Music Creators.

James Ehnes and Jon Kimura Parker will blaze through the festival's Opening Night Benefit Concert, and the St. Lawrence and Ying String Quartets join Donna Brown and a Festival Cello Ensemble (eight cellos!) for an extraordinary Closing Benefit Concert.

We look forward to sharing live music with all of you.