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Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings Brings Composer William Bolcom to Andover High School

Southfield, MI, March 21, 2011 – With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings is focusing the 2010-2011 season around the work of Michigan composer William Bolcom. DCWS is performing one work by the composer on each concert and will conduct a series of unique educational initiatives with Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills.

The NEA grant has thus far allowed students of the Andover High School Band to attend an open rehearsal with DCWS and conductor H. Robert Reynolds on February 19, 2011. On April 27, 2011, William Bolcom will coach band students on his composition *Machine*, which the students will perform on their spring concert on Sunday, May 15, 2011. Students will also be coached by DCWS Artistic Advisor H. Robert Reynolds on May 13, 2011.

“This is a unique opportunity for our students,” says Andover High School Band Director Robert Ambrose, “By working directly with a composer on rehearsing an upcoming piece, the students will gain a new appreciation for how music makes it from the page to the stage.”

A recently retired University of Michigan faculty member, Bolcom is one of the most sought-after composers of his generation. He was named 2007 Composer of the Year by *Musical America*, and honored with multiple Grammy Awards for his ground-breaking setting of Blake’s *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. In 1988, William Bolcom received the Pulitzer Prize in Music.

H. Robert Reynolds is the Musical Artistic Advisor of Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. In addition, he is currently Principal Conductor of the Wind Ensemble at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California where he holds the H. Robert Reynolds Professorship in Wind Conducting.

Robert Ambrose, 2002 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Teacher of the Year, has directed bands Division I ratings at MSBOA District and State Festivals. During his tenure at Andover, the Andover High School Bands have been featured in the Lord Mayor of Westminster’s New Year’s Day Parade and Concerts in 1996, 2000 and 2008, and the Edinburgh Easter Festival Parade and Concert in 2004. In addition his bands have performed at conferences in Ann Arbor, Mt. Pleasant and Kalamazoo Michigan, and in Boston, Chicago, Toronto, Orlando, and the Bahamas. He is in wide demand as an adjudicator, conductor and clinician, and has given numerous workshops and clinics for universities and professional conferences on musicianship and adjudicating.

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings is an ensemble of musicians drawn primarily from the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theatre orchestras. Now in its 29th year, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents mixed works for winds, brass and strings. Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings is Crain’s Detroit Business 2010 Best-Managed Nonprofit.

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