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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: URGENT! DEADLINE APPROACHING

**The Riverside Symphonia's Caprio Young Artists Competition
Deadline is Fast Approaching. \$2,000 and \$1,000 prizes to be
awarded.**

The Riverside Symphonia is accepting submissions for its *Caprio Young Artists Competition*. The competition is open to all non-keyboard instrumentalists who will be no more than 22 years of age on March 15, 2008. All contestants must either reside in or study in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. The deadline for submission of application with a recorded performance in CD format is January 4. The recorded performance will be used for the preliminary round of the competition.

Finalists of the *Caprio Young Artists Competition* will perform in a public audition on March 15, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Lambertville, N.J. The competition provides a unique opportunity for the local young talented players to perform next to their peers in an open public concert with the top winner having the honor performing solo with the Riverside Symphonia. The winner of the performance will also be awarded a prize of \$2,000. The second place winner will be awarded \$1,000. The *Caprio Young Artists Competition* was established in honor of the late John-Michael Caprio, the founding conductor of the Riverside Symphonia. In addition to his work as conductor and music director at the Riverside Symphonia and at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York,

Caprio was a former teacher dedicated to helping young performers prepare for their own musical careers.

The Caprio Competition has become a stepping stone for many talented up and coming musicians. Winners from years past have continued on to become recognized names in the world of classical music making the competition an opportunity for young artists and classical music audiences alike. "The caliber of musicians this competition draws is unbelievable. I am constantly amazed by the musical talent heard during these performances." says Riverside Symphonia's Outreach Director Candace Jones Phillips.

Cellist Denise Djokic, the 2000 winner, has become perhaps one of the most captivating young artists of her generation. She is currently one of North America's most sought after soloists. Only two years after winning the Caprio Competition she released her debut recording on a Sony label and won the East Coast Musician's Award for "Best classical recording of the year". That same year Djokic was a featured performer at the Grammy Awards. She has also recently released her second recording "Folklore" on the Allegro/Endeavor label.

Double bass player Fora Baltacigil, joined the Minnesota Orchestra as principal bass just months after winning the competition in 2006 and was named acting principal bass in July 2007.

Violist Rachel Ku, the 2002 second place winner, went on to become the youngest member of the Philadelphia Orchestra in September 2004.

For more information about the competition or to download an application visit the website www.riversidesymphonia.org. or call the Riverside Symphonia office at 609 397-7300.