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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Concert on March 15th

Riverside Symphonia Announces Finalists for the Caprio Young Artists Competition.

The Riverside Symphonia is pleased to announce its finalists for the *Caprio Young Artists Competition*.

This year's finalists are: flautist Ryu Cipris from the Peabody Institute, harpist Coline-Marie Orliac from the Curtis Institute of Music, trombonist Achilles Liarmakopoulos from the Curtis Institute of Music, violinists Ah Young (Julia) Choi from the Julliard Pre-College Division and Malwina Sosnowski from the Curtis Institute of Music. Each of the musicians was chosen upon the merits of a recorded performance submitted for initial rounds of judging.

They will perform in a public audition on March 15, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, Lambertville, N.J. Admission is free.

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.

This competition provides a unique opportunity for 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 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 visit the website www.riversidesymphonia.org. or call the Riverside Symphonia office at 609 397-7300.