

PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH COUNTRY CHAMBER PLAYERS CONCERT FEATURES NEW PIECE BY SUGAR HILL COMPOSER

When Sugar Hill resident Joseph Hansalik attended his first North Country Chamber Players concert, at the age of 8 or 9, he probably never imagined that only a dozen years later this esteemed group of musicians, recognized as one of New England's foremost musical ensembles for nearly four decades, would be presenting his newly composed piece at one of their performances. But this is exactly what happened on Saturday afternoon, May 20th at the Boys & Girls Club in Lisbon. At the Chamber Players' annual *Discovery Concert*, the group opened the program with the *World Premiere* performance of Mr. Hansalik's string quartet movement, called '*Rondo*'. A recent graduate of Ohio State University, where he studied composition, Joseph had previously taken piano lessons from Chamber Player Bernard Rose as part of the NCCP's free summer tutorials program. Mr. Hansalik was also a previous winner of the Player's *Mentoring Award*, in 2011, which provided him with a chaperoned visit to New York City where he attended rehearsals and concerts of some of the world's greatest musicians and ensembles. Mr. Hansalik plans to attend graduate school in his chosen field of musical composition and will be applying this fall. Chamber Players Artistic Director Ronnie Bauch remarked, "Mr. Hansalik has written a very fine piece. It has been very gratifying for our musicians to observe and take some small measure of pride in his considerable progress over the years. We look forward to his further development and a continued partnership."

In addition to the North Country Chamber Players free summer tutorials and mentoring program, the group has a far reaching outreach program partnering extensively with New Hampshire schools and community groups. The Players recently completed an intensive woodwind residency this April where they worked with band programs in Groveton, Whitefield, Lincoln, Franconia and Bethlehem. Over the past 39 seasons, the Chamber Players have presented interactive in-school programs for more than 80,000 NH students and will, once again this summer, be presenting free weekly programs for hundreds of campers at Copper Cannon in Bethlehem.

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