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For Immediate Release
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FIFTH HOUSE ENSEMBLE WELCOMES COMPOSER DAN VISCONTI TO ITS CORE ROSTER



CHICAGO, IL – Fifth House Ensemble (5HE), known for pioneering the art of narrative chamber music through cross-media collaborations, educational initiatives, and storytelling, is excited to announce the addition of composer Dan Visconti, winner of the 2013 Rome Prize, to its core roster, beginning with the 2013-2014 season. An internationally recognized, composer, Dan's work has been recognized by the Naumburg Award, Berlin Prize, and commissions from the Kronos Quartet, Fromm Foundation, and the Berlin Philharmonic's Scharoun Ensemble.

Dan says that "with Fifth House constantly designing new educational workshops featuring original musical cues, and with the ensemble frequently collaborating with other musicians from the world of popular music, rock, and bluegrass," he views his role with the group as allowing him to "create homebrewed music and arrangements for a variety of occasions, made exactly to order," rather than being outsourced. Visconti will also add his voice to the ensemble's creative programming process, foster new relationships between 5HE and living composers, and will have the chance to work on some of his own project ideas that would not be possible "without such a close, intimate relationship with a group like Fifth House that is so musically curious and full of adventurous spirit."

Upcoming projects for Visconti and 5HE include newly commissioned works, cross-genre arrangements for 5HE and its artistic collaborators, the development of compositional activities for use in 5HE's education and outreach programs with composer Stacy Garrop, and the development of new site and venue-specific collaborative projects. Visconti will also continue his work as a freelance composer, collaborating with chamber music organizations, orchestras, and soloists across the US and abroad.

Visconti officially joins the ensemble after working alongside 5HE as a composition faculty member at the 2013 **fresh inc festival** (www.freshincfestival.com) last June. About his experience, Visconti says that "as a composer who has made his living completely outside of academia, it was particularly exciting to participate in a festival where making a life in music out in the real world is both emphasized and encouraged!"

Praised by the New York Times for its "conviction, authority, and finesse," the Chicago-based **Fifth House Ensemble** has pioneered the art of narrative chamber music performance. Through unprecedented artistic collaborations, 5HE creates multi-media experiences that depict, inspire, and respond to stories from around the world, intertwining dramatic narrative with chamber music of all genres.

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Having established itself as a regular on the Chicago chamber music scene, Fifth House Ensemble has performed on some of the city's most well-regarded series and venues including the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, Mostly Music Series, Waukegan Chamber Music Society, Pritzker Pavilion, Byron Colby Barn, PianoForte Chicago, Live from the Morse/WFMT, WFMT Impromptu, Sunday Salon Series at the Chicago Cultural Center and Rush Hour Concerts at St. James.

Recognized nationally as a leader in audience engagement in the field of chamber music, SHE has led performances and training residencies at institutions including the Colburn School, New England Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, TEDxMichiganAve, the Midwest Clinic, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and Yale. In addition to its work on the concert stage, SHE began presenting curriculum-integrated residencies for students grades K-12 within its first season, exploring links between chamber music and language arts, social studies, and science. SHE now collaborates with the International Music Foundation, Ravinia's Reach*Teach*Play program, the Chicago Teachers' Center, Rush Hour Concerts, Communities in Schools Chicago, and the Illinois Arts Council to present these programs in Chicago Public Schools.

To learn more about Fifth House Ensemble, visit their website at <http://fifth-house.com/>.

Dan Visconti's music has been commissioned by ensembles including the Kronos Quartet, the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Albany Symphony, and the Berlin Philharmonic Scharoun Ensemble, at venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, London's Barbican Theatre, and the Sydney Opera House.

His compositions have been honored with the Rome Prize and Berlin Prize fellowships, the Bearns Prize from Columbia University, the International Barlow Prize, and the Cleveland Arts Prize; awards from BMI and ASCAP, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Naumburg Foundation; and grants from the Fromm Foundation, Meet the Composer, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Chamber Music America. He has also been the recipient of artist fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Copland House, the Lucas Artists Program at Villa Montalvo, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Recordings of his music are available from Bridge Records, Naxos, and Fleur de Son Classics.

Visconti is a member of BMI and currently serves as artistic director of the Washington, DC's VERGE ensemble, the city's longest-standing presenter of contemporary music.

To learn more about Dan Visconti, visit his website at <http://danvisconti.com/>.

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