



CONTACT: Natalia Murillo, director of press and communications, Cartagena Festival Internacional de Musica
nmurillo@cartagenamusicfestival.com or + 571 611 1186

Editor's Note: Digital images are available upon request or by visiting:
<http://www.victorsalvifoundation.com/news.html>

For Immediate Release

**CARTAGENA, FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE MUSICA PREMIERES
JANUARY 6-13, 2007
-- World Renowned Artists to Perform --**

Cartagena, Colombia – From January 6 to 13, the historic city of Cartagena will be filled with music during the first Cartagena, Festival Internacional de Music. Under the artistic direction of Charles Wadsworth, renowned pianist and creator of chamber music events worldwide, festival concerts will take place in historic venues throughout the city, including the Teatro Heredia and the beautiful chapels of the Hotels Santa Clara, Santa Teresa, Iglesia Santo Toribio and the Plaza San Pedro Claver.

“I am convinced that Cartagena is one of the world’s most ideal cities for a music festival of this kind,” says Charles Wadsworth, festival artistic director. “The beauty and charm of the historic walled city, with festival venues in easy walking distance, make it a perfect setting. The late-night concerts planned for the city’s charming Plaza San Pedro Claver will provide a unique and wonderful venue for the four concerts, which will be free to the general public.”

Wadsworth first gained international attention in 1960 at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, where he originated the festival's famed "Midday Concerts." In 1977, he started the chamber concert series of the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, which he continues to direct, perform in as pianist and introduce as its acclaimed host. In 1969, he organized and performed in the opening concerts of Alice Tully Hall. As founding artistic director of the Chamber Society of Lincoln Center, he then led 20 seasons of concerts with wit and originality, invoking considerable enthusiasm and introducing chamber music to new audiences. He commissioned 65 new chamber works from such celebrated composers as Boulez, Barber and Bernstein as well as young composers. He presented Beverly Sills, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Andre Watts, and introduced such new artists as Kathleen Battle, Richard Goode, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Serkin, Pinchas Zukerman and Jessye Norman. He has been recognized worldwide for his enormous contributions to the music world.

"We have engaged magnificent world-renowned artists and one of the world's finest chamber orchestras to be part of the festival," says Wadsworth. "Distinguished virtuoso musicians from nine countries will perform masterworks of the chamber and solo repertoire. They will also appear as soloists in concerts with our festival chamber orchestra."

Throughout the week-long festival, guests will have the opportunity to attend informal lectures on the evening's featured programs. These talks will be led by Susan Wadsworth, executive director of Young Concert Artists in New York City; Geoffrey Norris, music critic of The Daily Telegraph (London); Jose Felix Patino, opera expert; and Alejandro Mantilla, director to the Music Department of the Ministry of Culture.

"Music is a very important part of Colombian culture," says Julia Salvi, president of the Victor Salvi Foundation and president of the board of directors of the festival. "As a native of Colombia, it is a personal pleasure for me to bring the foundation's support to

this country. Through the festival we hope to expand music educational opportunities for gifted and talented young children from Colombia who have been distinguished by their abilities show in national auditions. These children will have the opportunity to participate in master classes throughout the week of the festival.”

“We believe that when children are taught at an early age to appreciate the arts – whether it’s music, art, dance or any other creative outlet – they ultimately grow up to be healthier, better-rounded adults. The arts nurture the soul and bring beauty into the lives of others. It’s the best antidote to war, something that has plagued this country for many years now,” she added.

The Victor Salvi Foundation (Colombia) will continue to collaborate with Batuta and the Plan Nacional de Musica para la Convivencia, two public programs that bring music programs to more than 50,000 children primarily from underprivileged backgrounds and rural areas affected by war. It will provide assistance to these worthwhile programs as they try to recruit more trained teachers, increase the number of musical instruments available to participating students, further cultural journalism, and take a leadership role in expanding corporate support for the cultural needs of the country.

Performing Artists

Charles Wadsworth, artistic director and piano

Cyro Baptista, percussion

Jose Franch-Ballester, clarinet

Kenji Bunch, viola

Wendy Chen, piano

Andres Diaz, cello

I Musici de Montreal, chamber orchestra

Yuli Turovsky, musical director, I Musici de Montreal

Romero Lubambo, guitar

Paula Robison, flute

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

Chee-Yun, violin

Juan Carlos Rivas, artistic consultant

For more information and to order tickets please visit the festival website at

www.cartagenamusicfestival.com

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