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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Calendar Item

SONIC ESCAPE: “Daredevils with Instruments.” Friday, January 16, 8:00 p.m., one performance only. Virtuoso trio of elite Juilliard graduates deliver riveting performances on violin, flute, cello, plus voice and story to reshape the concert experience! From classical masterpieces to bluegrass, from pop-fusion to folk, plus ground-breaking original numbers. Shawn Wyckoff, flute; Maria Kaneko Millar, violin; Nan-Cheng Chen, cello. Reserved seating tickets are \$15.00-\$25.00; available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Press Release

SONIC ESCAPE: Daredevils with Instruments ***Virtuoso Trio in Riveting Concert***

Pleasanton, Calif. They are virtuosos, these Juilliard-trained musicians from New York City. Maria is known by many as the Riverdance dancing fiddler; flutist Shawn has been featured soloist at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and is First Prize winner of The Judith Lapple National Flute Competition; cellist Nan-Cheng is the Executive Director of the New Asia Chamber Music Society and a member of Trio 212 and Chen Trio. And their passion is SONIC ESCAPE.

Lincoln Center (NYC) Manager Hillary McAndrew-Plate says SONIC ESCAPE is “an absolutely riveting experience... pure and radiant talent! The audience response... has been tremendous!” Reviewer David Nichols notes “...I could fill the review page with the word, PERFECT, in a very large type!”

Armed with flute, violin and cello, their passion, according to the group, “has led us to stubbornly write our own rules in a world that encourages everything but. The results are frequently hilarious, always heartwarming and addictive beyond belief!” Their magical sound and incredibly insightful presentations – crafted in the practice rooms of Juilliard and honed on hundreds of stages across 30 North American states & provinces – sideswipes audiences, who find themselves laughing, occasionally tearing-up...

Violinist and composer Maria Kaneko Millar has performed as a soloist throughout Canada, Ireland, China, Japan and the US; her work has aired on The Canadian, British and American Broadcasting Corporations as well as The WB’s *One World Jam*, CBS Sunday Morning and CBS The Early Show. 170 performances as Solo Dancing Fiddler in *Riverdance On Broadway* and the North American and Asian Tours of *Riverdance*. Her arrangements and aural transcriptions of Asian, Celtic, Gypsy, Klezmer, Tango, Turkish, blues, jazz, pop, rock and classical music have laid the foundation for fearless ad-libbing in any setting. Maria holds accelerated BM/MM’s in Violin Performance from The Juilliard School.

Flutist Shawn Wyckoff is an avid solo and chamber musician who has been featured in performances at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, The Kennedy Center, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, The Library of Congress, BargeMusic, MOMA and the Guggenheim Museum. Shawn is the artistic director, flutist and music arranger for *TetraWind*, a woodwind quartet specializing in contemporary American music. He is recipient of numerous prestigious national and international performance awards. Shawn holds a BM in Flute Performance from The Juilliard School.

Cellist Nan-Cheng Chen, recently praised for his “beautiful tone” by New York Concert Reviews, is passionate about sharing music with music lovers. He has soloed with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra, Queens Symphony Orchestra, Metro-West Symphony, Quincy Symphony and Symphony Pro Musica. Recent recital and chamber music engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel and Weill Recital Halls, The Juilliard School’s Paul Hall, and WMP Concert Hall. Nan-Cheng is the Executive Director of the New Asia Chamber Music Society and a member of Trio 212 and Chen Trio. He has also participated in top-tier US and international music. Nan-Cheng holds a BM and MM in Cello Performance from The Juilliard School.

Stephen Brookes in The Washington Post, March 2014, wrote: “It was an evening designed to entertain... with a wide-ranging, anything-goes sense of fun. Wonderfully imaginative... smile-inducing... impressive.” Perhaps Touhill Performing Arts Center Coordinator Terry Marshall sums up best: “Sonic Escape is in the process of becoming an American Treasure.”

Reserved seating tickets for SONIC ESCAPE are \$15.00 - \$25.00, and can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444

Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and two hours prior to the performance.

The Firehouse Arts Center is dedicated to inspiring passion through the arts. The center is comprised of the 227-seat Firehouse Theater, the 2000 square foot Harrington Gallery, classrooms and rehearsal space, the grand atrium lobby, and the famous interior glass bridge. With world-class performing and visual arts, exciting interactive programs for all ages, and a state-of-the-art venue which opened in 2010, we combine the sophistication of the culturally rich Bay Area arts landscape with the hospitality and intimacy of our own home town. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Media: Jane Onojafe, jonojafe@cityofpleasantonca.gov, or 925-931-4855

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