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Photo credit: John Cobb, Asheville Art Museum, 2011. **High resolution image available upon request.**

***Asheville Art Museum Welcomes Pianist John Cobb to Perform
in Pianoforte Concert Series this February***

Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

ASHEVILLE, NC — The Asheville Art Museum welcomes the return of pianist John Cobb for a special Pianoforte concert on **Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Museum's East Wing. **Tickets are \$6 for Museum members and \$8 plus regular Museum admission for non-members.** Advance reservations are recommended as seating is limited for the concert. **Tickets may be purchased online at www.ashevilleart.org, at the Museum's front desk, or by calling (828) 253-3227.**

This season's Pianoforte concert features John Cobb's performance of composer Johannes Brahms' *Liebeslieder* (Lovesong) *Waltzes*, Opus 52 and 65. These popular waltzes are scored for four voices and four hands. As such, for this Pianoforte concert guests will enjoy a marvelous vocal quartette including: Gwenn Roberts, soprano/alto; Lois Henrickson, alto/soprano; Vance Reese, tenor; and Timothy Wilds, baritone. John Cobb will also be accompanied by pianist Deborah Belcher.

Johannes Brahms began composing Opus 52 in 1868, and it premiered in late 1869. The waltzes were so popular with the general public that Brahms responded with the Opus 65 sequel, the "New Liebeslieder Waltzes", five years later. Their popularity has held fast ever since and both sets have been performed by some of the world's outstanding singers and pianists.

As a special prelude to the concert, Asheville Art Museum invites audiences to tune into WCQS radio (88.1 FM in Asheville and Hendersonville, or listen from anywhere in the world on www.wcqs.org), at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, February 19, as pianist John Cobb speaks with WCQS's Dick Kowal.

Dr. John Cobb is an international performer and recording artist known for his broad interpretive range and technical command. *The New York Times* has praised his “solid technique, bronze tone and flexibility of interpretive style.” *The Chicago Daily News* commented, “...the vibrations that filled the hall were less those of the piano than those of an exquisite musical mind.”

John has made recordings of 20th century as well as early piano music on original instruments at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, has performed internationally some of the most important works of contemporary music and has worked directly with many of the most influential composers of our era.

While completing a Doctor of Music degree at Northwestern University, John held a fellowship at the University of Chicago, where he pursued doctoral studies in musicology and held the position of staff pianist with Ralph Shapey’s Contemporary Chamber Players.

John Cobb is a direct musical descendant of Franz Liszt through his teacher, pianist Claudio Arrau, whose teacher was a pupil of Liszt. He has recorded for Nonesuch, Desto, Spectrum, Coronet and Serenus. In 2002 he played a program of John Cage’s piano music for the Asheville Art Museum’s exhibition of art works by Cage, and has also been a favorite among audiences of the Museum’s Pianoforte concert series for many years. In 2003 he was piano soloist in Samuel Barber’s Piano Concerto with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Deborah Belcher, pianist, has performed as soloist and collaborative pianist throughout the eastern United States and in Canada. Her work as orchestral soloist has included guest appearances with the Windermere Chamber Orchestra (Ontario), the Elmhurst (IL) Symphony, the Converse College Chamber Orchestra (SC), and the Sammartini Chamber Orchestra (IL). Her performances have been heard in public radio broadcasts throughout the midwest and the southeast. Her chamber music affiliations have included tenures in The Abelard Trio, Trio Appassionata and, for twenty-five years, as pianist in the Statsky-Belcher Duo.

Equally at home in academia, Deborah holds performance degrees from Winthrop University, Indiana University, and Michigan State University, and has studied further with Eugene List at The Eastman School of Music and with Robert Goldsand at the Manhattan School of Music. She has received performance grants and scholarships from The Presser Foundation, The Michigan Council for the Arts, and Michigan State University. Prior to moving to Asheville, NC in 1991, Deborah taught at The Interlochen Center for the Arts and The Cleveland Institute of Music, simultaneously holding teaching residencies and performing in the eastern United States and in Canada. She is currently a member of the music faculty at UNCA, teaches privately, leads pop piano seminars, and maintains an active performance schedule as soloist, accompanist and chamber music artist.

Lois Henrickson (Lytingale, or Lyte), soprano, is a prolific songwriter and versatile musician with talents ranging from vocals to keyboard, guitar, flute, alto flute, dulcimer, hand drums, and kazoo. Lyte graduated summa cum laude, University Scholar from University of Connecticut with a major in Music Education (voice), and has used her clear soprano voice for all styles of music, from rock to opera, blues and jazz, to musical comedy. Lyte has performed roles at Asheville Community Theater and has sung as soloist with The Asheville Choral Society, the North Carolina Symphony, and the Johnson City (TN) Symphony. She accompanies and sings with Womansong; her song, *I Will Carry You*, is the title track on Womansong's 2012 album. Lyte currently serves as Minister of Music at Unity Center in Mills River, teaches voice classes with Sing For Joy, and is starting Joyful Community Chorus.

Gwenn Roberts, soprano, began her musical career as a violist. While attending Hunter College in New York she turned to vocal study with a particular interest in early music performance practice. Gwenn has performed extensively and recorded with the Sine Nomine Singers and Baroque Orchestra and was a member of Primavera, a six-voice ensemble specializing in Italian music of the 16th and 17th centuries. In addition to early music, Gwenn is equally at home in music of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries and has appeared throughout the United States in music ranging from the 13th through the 21st centuries. Gwen is also a music consultant for various performing organizations in the Asheville area.

Dr. Vance Reese, tenor, has been serving as an organist, accompanist, singer, conductor and teacher in the greater Asheville area since 1996. Currently Dr. Reese works with the Asheville Symphony Chorus (pianist and assistant director), and the Asheville Symphony Orchestra (co-principal double bassist). He also serves as the organist for Christ School in Arden and the keyboardist for Congregation Beth Ha Tephila. Dr. Reese is currently working with Opera Creations on a production of *The Mikado* (March 1 – 3, 2013).

Timothy Wilds, baritone, is a native of Asheville, NC. He serves as an assistant professor of music at Montreat College, Montreat, NC, where he conducts the college choir and teaches applied voice, as well as courses in choral music, vocal music and worship arts. At Montreat, Mr. Wilds leads the Worship Arts Program and is the Program Chair for the Montreat College Friends of Music Concert Series. He is the Founder-Teacher of Soundings Studio and the three choirs of the Soundings Choral Group (www.soundingsstudio.com), and a Co-Founder of Opera Creations (www.operacreations.org). Mr. Wilds holds a Master's degree in Church Music and Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ.

About the Asheville Art Museum

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural

heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming Public Programs at the Museum can be found online at www.ashevilleart.org.

Special thanks to [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines for their support as a Media Sponsor of the Museum for the 2013 fiscal year. For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at kglass@ashevilleart.org.

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

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