

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

NEW YORK

For Immediate Release

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**CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY ANNOUNCES
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2009
GUITAR MASTER CLASS WITH BEN VERDERY ON MAY 7**

Bronxville, NY - Concordia Conservatory Chamber Music Festival 2009 will feature a master class with guitarist Ben Verdery on Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 PM at Sommer Center for Worship and the Performing Arts at Concordia College. Student guitarists will be participating in the master class are: Samantha Brooks, Michael Anagnostakis, Juliana Cirillo, Tashi Doma, Kevin Flanagan, and Christopher Magnani. The participants range in age from 7 – 14 years old.

Distinguished as "one of the classical guitar world's most foremost personalities," by Classical Guitar Magazine, "an American original, an American master," by Guitar Review Magazine, and "iconoclastic" and "inventive" by The New York Times, **Benjamin Verdery** has enjoyed an innovative and eclectic musical career.

Since his 1980 New York debut, Benjamin has performed worldwide, including the International Guitar Festival (Havana, Cuba); Festival International de Agosto (Caracas, Venezuela); Theatre Carré (Amsterdam); Chichester Cathedral (England); Bad Urach Schubert Festival (Germany); the 92nd Street Y, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Opera (NYC), the Ambassador Theater in Los Angeles, and concerts in Japan, Korea and Singapore. He has recorded and performed with such diverse artists as Frederic Hand, William Coulter, Leo Kottke, Anthony Newman, Jessye Norman, Paco Peña, Hermann Prey and John Williams. Several composers have composed music for him, including Daniel Asia, John Anthony Lennon, Ingram Marshall, Anthony Newman, Roberto Sierra, Van Stiefel and Jack Veas. Benjamin has released over 15 albums, his most recent, Start Now (Mushkatweek) won the 2005 Classical Recording Foundation Award.

A prolific composer, many of Benjamin Verdery's compositions have been performed and published over the years. Benjamin's Scenes from Ellis Island, for guitar orchestra, has been extensively broadcast and performed at festivals and universities in the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Europe, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet included it on their CD Air and Ground (Sony Classical).

In addition to his solo tours, recording and teaching, Benjamin performs with guitarist Bill Coulter (Bill and Ben), his ensemble Ufonia and with flutist Rie Schmidt Benjamin Verdery is curator of 'The Guitar' at the 92nd St Y in New York City and in 1985, Ben Verdery was appointed chair of the guitar department at the Yale School of Music in New Haven, CT and has built it into one of the most vibrant and innovative guitar departments in the country.

Tickets are: \$10 adults and \$5 children/seniors and may be purchased by calling 914-395-4507 or by visiting www.concordiaconservatory.org.

Concordia Conservatory's mission is to inspire, instruct and enrich lives through music for all people regardless of age, ability, ethnic origin or financial situation and to serve as a musical education resource for the southern Westchester County community.