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For immediate release:

**Eastman Studio Orchestra to premiere Russell Scarbrough's  
*Concerto Grosso for Jazz Quintet and Orchestra***

Russell Scarbrough's major new work for the jazz repertory, *Concerto Grosso for Jazz Quintet and Orchestra* will be premiered on March 10, 2006 at 8 p.m. in a free concert in the historic Eastman Theatre in Rochester, New York. Bill Dobbins will conduct the Eastman Studio Orchestra, a 75-piece ensemble made up of members of the Eastman Philharmonia and the Eastman Jazz Ensemble.

The concerto's jazz soloists are John Britton, trumpet; David DiGiacomo, tenor saxophone; Christopher Ziemba, piano; Ryan Kotler, bass; and Allen Ware, drums. They are all students in the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Media at the Eastman School of Music.

Scarbrough, 33, is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School, and director of Jazz Ensemble at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. In 2005, he was the first recipient of Eastman's "Billy Joel Scholarship" award, named for the popular music star who endowed the scholarship. In receiving the \$6,000 tuition scholarship, he proposed to write a major new work that explores the relationship between classical and popular music.

This new work is a Concerto Grosso, a baroque form made prominent in the 18th century by such composers as Johann Sebastian Bach, Arcangelo Corelli, and Antonio Vivaldi. A Concerto Grosso differs from the standard concerto in that it features a small group of virtuoso instruments against a larger orchestra, rather than an individual soloist. "It seemed a natural format for a jazz group to be featured in an orchestral setting," said Scarbrough.

Although he pulls from several classical influences – the first movement of the piece in a loose sonata form, for example – Scarbrough breaks down traditional orchestral boundaries by using such non-traditional techniques as improvised solos, an asymmetrical pulse, and a jazz-based melodic language. "Hopefully, it will be recognizable to the listener as having some formalistic qualities that are long-established," said Scarbrough, "while evoking the sounds and spirit of contemporary jazz."

More information about Russell Scarbrough and his music can be found on his web site:  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~rscarbro/russell/>

Eastman School of Music:  
<http://www.esm.rochester.edu/>

Russell Scarbrough is available for interviews.  
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