



The CHARLES M. HOLMES CAMPUS of  
**THE CENTER**



## **MEDIA RELEASE - PHOTO ATTACHED**

### **For Immediate Release**

Contact:

Roberto Ordeñana  
Director of Community Development  
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center  
415-865-5665

Patrick Confeno  
Artist Representative  
patrick@justin-dougherty.com  
706-389-6407

### **The San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center presents a musical performance:**

#### ***Queering the Pitch: music for solo cello*** **Justin Dougherty, cello**

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 7:00 PM

Location: San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco  
Andrew Spencer Ceremonial Room

SAN FRANCISCO -- Cellist Justin Dougherty will present a recital of music by gay composers at the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The performance will be held in the Andrew Spencer Ceremonial Room on the fourth floor of the Center. The recital, which features music for solo cello by composers Benjamin Britten, Robert Muczynski, and Ned Rorem, is the first in a series of 'Queering the Pitch' recitals which seek to introduce and celebrate the great works of art being created by LGBT composers. The performance is free and open to the public.

#### **About Justin Dougherty**

With a performance style described as "inspirational, energetic...[and] passionate," dynamic young cellist Justin Dougherty has performed solo, chamber music, and orchestral concerts on many of the great stages in the United States and Europe. Currently, Mr. Dougherty is the cellist in the Georgia-based Hodgson String Quartet. Recent projects include collaborations with cellists Yo-Yo Ma, Scott Kluksdahl, John Moran and David Russell, pianists Judith Gordon, and Tae Kim, and violinists Risa Browder, and Stanley Ritchie. Dedicated to the efforts of living composers and the expansion of the cello repertoire, Mr. Dougherty has made premieres of more than three dozen works and recently

commissioned a Boston composers consortium – The Fifth Floor Collective – to compose a set of pieces for him to premiere in 2011.

Justin Dougherty received performance degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and The Boston Conservatory. He completed his graduate study as the assistant to his mentor, the renowned cellist Rhonda Rider. Currently, Mr. Dougherty is a doctoral fellow at the University of Georgia where he is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in violoncello performance. More information at [www.justin-dougherty.com](http://www.justin-dougherty.com).

### **About the Recital**

The three works presented on this recital represent compositions by some of the most prolific gay composers of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Composer Robert Muczynski (1929-2010) was born and raised in Chicago. Muczynski was a faculty member at DePaul University, Roosevelt University, and University of Arizona where he was head of the composition department until his retirement in 1988. Among the more than fifty published compositions in his catalog, many have entered the repertoire and remain frequently performed in recitals. Muczynski's piece, *Gallery: for unaccompanied cello*, was inspired by watercolors of American painter Charles Burchfield and composed after a suggestion by Mr. Muczynski's longtime companion, Harry Atwood. The brief work showcases that which is most beautiful about the cello. *Gallery* is earnest, economical and unostentatious, characterized by spare, neo-classical textures, and a restrained, but beautiful, lyricism.

Ned Rorem (b. 1923) is a Pulitzer Prize winning composer and diarist most well known for his song writing and the publication of his diaries in which he is honest about his and others' sexuality, describing his relationships with Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, and Virgil Thomson, while outing others. His *After Reading Shakespeare* was composed in 1980 for cellist Sharon Robinson. The piece was written, Rorem says, after dipping into Shakespeare's verses. Composed in nine movements, Rorem's piece does not tell a story, despite its literary inspiration, and is equally violent and comforting throughout. The vocal writing for which Rorem is so well known is present throughout and pleasantly balances the most aggressive parts of the piece.

The final work on the program, *Third Suite for cello, op. 87*, by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) is the only piece which has entered the standard cello repertoire. Britten was an English composer and pianist whose status as one of the greatest composers of the 20th century is now secure among professional critics. However, criticism of his music is apt to become entangled with consideration of his personality, his politics (especially his pacifism in World War II) and his sexuality. The *Third Suite for cello* is a theme and variations based on Russian folk songs (arranged by Piotr Tchaikovsky) and dedicated to the great Russian cellist, Mstislav Rostropovich. The nine movements run one into another and explore the entire lyrical range of the cello, finishing with the Kontakion, an Orthodox hymn for the dead.

### **San Francisco LGBT Community Center**

The Center's mission is to connect our diverse community to opportunities, resources and each other to achieve our vision of a stronger, healthier, and more equitable world for LGBT people and our allies. The Center inspires and strengthens our community by: fostering greater opportunities for people to thrive; organizing for our future; celebrating our history and culture; and building resources to create a legacy for future generations. Our safety net programs serve the most vulnerable members of the community while providing a welcoming gathering place for all LGBT and allied people. Each month, the Center serves over 9,000 visitors and hosts more than 200 events. The Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. To learn more visit the Center at [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org) or call us at 415-865-5555.

###