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## **Fourth Annual TORONTO SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL Exceeds All Expectations**

Renowned conductor and Artistic Director of the **Toronto Summer Music Festival (TSM)**, **Agnes Grossmann**, is thrilled to announce that this year's Festival has been the most successful yet. In its fourth year, the **TSM** has attracted an unprecedented number of concert-goers and some of the most renowned artists in the world of chamber music.

Ticket sales revenue has increased by 20% compared to last year, eight out of the 12 concerts were completely sold out, and overall attendance numbered more than 10,000 patrons. Night after night people lined up at the box office, hoping to buy tickets that might not have been picked up. In addition to the ticketed concerts, more than 2,000 people attended free events, including pre-concert lectures and Emerging Artists concerts.

The Festival was also an enormous artistic success. On Tuesday, **July 21**, the **TSM** opened at the historic and spectacularly refurbished Carlu Concert Hall with two extraordinary Canadian artists appearing together for the first time – violinist **James Ehnes** and pianist **Jon Kimura Parker**. The reviews were unanimous in their praise. The Globe and Mail's Ken Winters wrote: "I found it hard to imagine this music more fully understood or more thrillingly played," and John Terauds of the Toronto Star wrote: "Serious music usually takes a summertime break in Toronto. But that didn't stop an upstart downtown festival from giving us one of the finest concerts of the year Tuesday night... Organizers could not have picked a finer way to showcase the quality of musician that artistic director Agnes Grossman has attracted."

Festival favourites, such as legendary pianists **Menahem Pressler** and **Anton Kuerti**, violinist **Mayumi Seiler**, the **Gryphon Trio**, and the **Leipzig String Quartet**, returned to Toronto again this year. They were joined by other chamber music greats - popular Canadian duo pianists **James Anagnoson** and **Leslie Kinton**, French star flutist **Patrick Gallois** and Swedish pianist **Cecilia Löfstrand**, cellist **Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi** with violinist **Yasuko Ohtani** and violist **Yoshiko Kawamoto**, clarinetist **Karl Leister**, soprano **Monica Whicher**, and **Penderecki String Quartet**, **Cecilia String Quartet**, and **Tokai String Quartet**. The **Festival** concluded last night with a veritable feast of operatic highlights, featuring alumni of **TSM's** Opera Studio with the **National Academy Orchestra** and conducted by **Agnes Grossmann**, which left the audience already eagerly awaiting next year's festivities.

The fifth instalment of the **TSM** is already being planned for summer 2010. More details will be available soon at [www.torontosummertime.com](http://www.torontosummertime.com).

**Media Contact: FLIP PUBLICITY**, Barbora Krsek 416.533.7710 X236 [barbora@flip-publicity.com](mailto:barbora@flip-publicity.com)  
720 Bathurst Street, #403 TOR M5S 2R4 [www.flip-publicity.com](http://www.flip-publicity.com)