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### **Mallarmé Chamber Players to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Durham, NC* - National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is a Challenge America grant of \$10,000 to Mallarmé and the NC HIP Music Festival (HIP=historically-informed performance) for the visit to North Carolina by baroque flutist and conductor Barthold Kuijken. Mr. Kuijken will conduct and perform with the 2018 HIP Festival Orchestra as well as participate in educational activities.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to Mallarmé are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring."

The Challenge America grant from the NEA will support the appearance of prestigious guest artist, Barthold Kuijken, an internationally renowned Baroque flutist and distinguished early music pedagogue, currently serves as Artistic Director for the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra. One of the most prominent Belgian musicians involved with early music, he has made extensive recordings with labels such as Sony Classical, Harmonia Mundi, Accent and EuroArts. Presenting an early music celebrity like Kuijken will pique the interest of additional early music fans and draw attention from audiences outside of the Triangle.

Barthold Kuijken is serving as conductor and guest flutist for the Hip Festival Orchestra concert, "From Baroque to Classics" on February 17 at 3:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC. Baroque period-instrument artists from all over the United States will join together to perform music of Archangelo Corelli, Georg Fredric Handel, J.C. Bach and the W. A. Mozart Flute Concerto in D Major, K. 314 with Mr. Kuijken playing the flute solo.

Additionally, Mr. Kuijken will work with the UNC-Chapel Hill baroque music ensemble and give a flute master class while in the area. More information about the concert at [http://mallarmemusic.org/?event=nc-hip-festival-orchestra&event\\_date=2018-02-17](http://mallarmemusic.org/?event=nc-hip-festival-orchestra&event_date=2018-02-17) and class can be found [http://mallarmemusic.org/?event=barthold-kuijken-baroque-flute-traverso-master-class&event\\_date=2018-02-15](http://mallarmemusic.org/?event=barthold-kuijken-baroque-flute-traverso-master-class&event_date=2018-02-15)

The **Mallarmé Chamber Players** are a nationally acclaimed ensemble of professional musicians, performing in mixed ensembles of three to seven artists. Mallarmé's mission is to perform music among friends that serves to honor the artists and the art of chamber music, to expand cultural awareness, and to build bridges in the community through education and performance.

Created in 1984 by musicians Jane Hawkins and Anna Ludwig Wilson working with poet and arts administrator Margaret DeMott, the ensemble's name comes from Stéphane Mallarmé, the 19th-century French poet and philosopher who believed that true art is created through a unity of music, dance, literature, and the visual arts.

Mallarmé has also spurred the growth of a strong community of Historically Informed Performance ensembles and fans. Mallarmé organizes the NC HIP Music Festival, a month-long festival of early music on period instruments which started in 2013. The 2018 NC HIP Music Festival runs through Feb 25, 2018. [Hipmusicfestival.org](http://Hipmusicfestival.org)

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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