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(not for publication)

## The End of Time at Wintergreen

For immediate release

Wintergreen, VA – On July 15, 2008, the Wintergreen Chamber Players will perform Olivier Messiaen's great mystical masterpiece, the *Quartet for the End of Time*. This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of this great French composer and teacher. The *Quartet* was written and premiered in a German prisoner of war camp. Imagine a cold barracks that has been converted into a concert hall, an audience of German camp officers and 500 poorly clothed and emaciated prisoners, and a ragged quartet – a pianist, clarinetist, violist, and violinist. Then imagine the impact of the music filling the room, music based on the Revelations of St. John:

“And I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud with a rainbow on his head.... he raised his right hand toward heaven and swore by He who lives forever and ever...“There will be no more Time....”

Even though the *Quartet* is modern in tonality and rhythm, the prisoners and their guards were deeply moved, realizing they had heard music of great spiritual power.

The concert will be preceded by a panel discussion of the work that includes the performers. It is an event not to be missed.

This chamber concert is only part of Wintergreen Performing Arts' 2008 program: “Old World, New World – Spain, France, Italy and the Americas - A Journey of Discovery.” The 2008 festival includes solo recitals and orchestral concerts, a series of informal seminars, cooking classes, wine tastings, plays, a piano marathon, a Bastille Day Celebration, cabaret performances—more than 150 events in all. Ticket information and a full schedule of activities can be found at [www.wintergreenperformingarts.org](http://www.wintergreenperformingarts.org).

**Located in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Wintergreen Performing Arts, Inc. (WPAI), under the Artistic and Executive direction of Larry Alan Smith, is a non-profit organization that produces a high-quality summer music festival featuring symphonic and chamber concerts, as well as other performing arts programs throughout the year. Education is a major part of the organization's mission, reflected both in the Wintergreen Summer Music Academy and in outreach programs for those living in the surrounding area. By attracting first-rate musicians to participate as performers and educators, WPAI strives to enrich the lives of all—residents and visitors alike—who share the unique Wintergreen experience.**

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