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**PLAYWRIGHT CRAIG LUCAS AND COMPOSER EVE BEGLARIAN NAMED
INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF
HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT GREENFIELD PRIZE**

**David Lang, 2008 Pulitzer Prize-winner for Music, and
Joe Melillo, executive producer of Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM),
to speak at banquet in Sarasota Wednesday evening, April 22.**

SARASOTA, FLA: Obie Award-winning playwright **Craig Lucas** ("Prelude to a Kiss," "Light in the Piazza") and internationally acclaimed composer **Eve Beglarian** are the inaugural recipients of the Hermitage Artist Retreat's Greenfield Prize announced Hermitage Executive Director Bruce Rodgers.

Lucas and Beglarian will accept their prizes in Sarasota at the Greenfield Prize banquet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 at Michael's on East. Introducing them will be composer **David Lang**, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Music, and **Joe Melillo**, executive producer of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and chair of the Hermitage's national selection committee.

"We're delighted to have two of America's most outstanding artistic creators be the first recipients of the Greenfield Prize," Bruce Rodgers explained. "The intent of the prize is to have a significant impact on the broad, as well as the artistic culture of our society. We couldn't be more pleased with our first selections and are certain these exciting artists will be able to create works that will do just that. Additionally, the prize helps us to bring artists of remarkable

international stature to Sarasota and during their time here, they will share their creative talents with our local community. Everybody wins.”

The Greenfield Prize has been established by longtime Sarasota residents Bob and Louise Greenfield through the Philadelphia-based Greenfield Foundation. The prize will be the means by which a groundbreaking, enduring work of art will be created each year at the Hermitage Artist Retreat. The Prize consists of a \$30,000 commission of an original work of art, a six-week residency at the Hermitage, and a partnership with a professional arts organization, which may present the premiere of that work. A reading of Lucas’ play is planned to be performed in 2010 by the Asolo Repertory Theatre and Beglarian’s musical composition will be premiered in Sarasota in 2011 by the Sarasota Orchestra.

A distinguished five-person panel consisting of some of the most highly respected theatre and music authorities in America selected each Greenfield Prize recipient. Three voting members on each committee were joined by Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards in drama and Sarasota Orchestra Artistic Director Leif Bjaland in music. Joni Greenfield represented the Greenfield Foundation on both committees. Hermitage Executive Director Bruce Rodgers facilitated.

” It is our hope to make the Greenfield Prize a mark of the highest creative achievement,” said Rodgers. “By calling on some of the most respected names in each artistic discipline, we feel confident that we will be able to reach this ambitious goal.”

The banquet will also feature a performance of David Lang’s work by Chroma Quartet featuring members of the Sarasota Orchestra. Tickets for the first annual Greenfield Banquet are \$125 (\$250 for patrons), and are available by calling the Hermitage Artist Retreat at (941) 475-2098.

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About the Hermitage Artist Retreat: The Hermitage is a not-for-profit artist retreat located on Manasota Key. It brings mid-career painters, sculptors, writers, playwrights, poets, composers and other artists from all over the world for extended stays on its 8.5 acre campus. Each artist is asked to contribute two services to the community during their stay. So far, Hermitage artists have touched over 6,000 Sarasota County children and adults with their unique and inspiring programs. For more information about the Hermitage, call Bruce Rodgers, Executive Director at (941) 475-2098.

About the Greenfield Foundation: The Greenfield Foundation is based in Philadelphia, PA, but funds charitable initiatives across the country. Its president and most of its trustees are members of the family of Louise and Bob Greenfield of Sarasota, Florida. Its net income, which exceeds \$500,000 a year, is devoted to improving quality of life through contributions to not-for-profit institutions in the arts, education, health care and other services. The foundation originates and participates in innovative projects, which have a ripple effect beyond the immediate impact of the expenditures.

About Craig Lucas: Craig Lucas' plays include *Missing Persons*, *Blue Window*, *Reckless*, *God's Heart*, *The Dying Gaul*, *Stranger*, *Small Tragedy*, *Prayer For My Enemy* and *The Singing Forest*. He wrote the book for *The Light In The Piazza*, music and lyrics by Adam Guettel; the musical play *Three Postcards*, music and lyrics by Craig Carnelia; the libretto for the opera *Orpheus in Love*, music by Gerald Busby; and he has recently completed the libretto for *Two Boys*, an opera with composer Nico Muhly, commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera and scheduled to premiere there in a co-production with the English National Opera. His new English adaptations include Brecht's *Galileo*, Chekhov's *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya*, and Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. His screenplays include *Longtime Companion* (Sundance Audience Award), *The Secret Lives of Dentists* (New York Film Critics Best Screenplay), *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Reckless* and *The Dying Gaul*, which he also directed. Last year Lucas directed the film *Birds of America* (starring Ginnifer Goodwin, Ben Foster, Lauren Graham, Hilary Swank and Matthew Perry). Onstage he directed Harry Kondoleon's plays *Saved or Destroyed* at Rattlestick (Obie Award for Best Director) and *Play Yourself* as well as his own play *This Thing of Darkness* (co-authored with David Schulner) at the Atlantic. He has worked with directors Bartlett Sher, Norman René, Mark Wing-Davey, Daniel Sullivan, Joe Mantello, Michael Mayer, Lisa Peterson and Anders Cato. His work has been seen on and off Broadway, and at such institutional theaters as Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Berkeley Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Circle Rep, Ensemble Studio Theater, Goodman, Hartford Stage, Intiman, Lincoln Center, Long Wharf, Manhattan Theater Club, New York Shakespeare Festival, New York Theater Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, Portland Stage, Rattlestick, Roundabout, Seattle Rep, South Coast Rep, Steppenwolf, Trinity Rep & the Vineyard, and it is widely produced internationally. Twice nominated for a Tony (*Prelude to a Kiss* and *The Light in the Piazza*), three times for the Drama Desk (*Prelude*,

Missing Persons and *Reckless*), he has won the L.A. Drama Critics Award (*Blue Window*), the Steinberg/American Theater Critics Award for Best American Play (*The Singing Forest*), the Hull-Warriner Award (*The Light in the Piazza*), the LAMBDA Literary Award (for his anthology *What I Meant Was*), the Flora Roberts Award, the Excellence in Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Laura Pels/PEN Mid-Career Achievement Award and the Joan Cullman Award; he has twice won the Obie Award for Best Play (*Prelude* and *Small Tragedy*). He graduated from Boston University where he studied with poets Anne Sexton and George Starbuck. Lucas serves as Associate Artistic Director at the Intiman Theater in Seattle, and he is a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Writers Guild of America, the Directors Guild, SSDC and PEN America. He lives in upstate New York.

About Eve Beglarian: Eve Beglarian "is a humane, idealistic rebel and a musical sensualist."^ "One of new music's truly free spirits,"* and a "remarkable experimentalist,"+ she is a composer, performer, and audio producer whose music is "an eclectic and wide-open series of enticements." Her chamber, choral, and orchestral music has been commissioned and widely performed by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the California EAR Unit, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Relâche, the Paul Dresher Ensemble, Sequitur, the American Composers Orchestra, Maya Beiser, Lauren Flanigan, and Marya Martin, among many other groups and individuals.

Highlights of her work in music theater includes music for Mabou Mines' Obie-winning *Dollhouse*, *Animal Magnetism*, *Ecco Porco*, and *Choephora* directed by Lee Breuer; *Forgiveness*, a collaboration with Chen Shi-Zheng and Noh master Akira Matsui; and the China National Beijing Opera Theater's production of *The Bacchae*, also directed by Chen Shi-Zheng. She has collaborated with choreographers including Victoria Marks, Ann Carlson, Susan Marshall, and David Neumann, and with visual and video artists including Shirin Neshat, Kevork Mourad, Cory Arcangel, Barbara Hammer, and Anne Bray.

Performance projects include *Songs from a Book of Days*, *The Story of B*, *Open Secrets*, *Hildegurfs' Ordo Virtutum*, *twisted tutu*, and *typOpera*. Recordings of Eve's music are available on Koch, New World, Canteloupe, CRI Emergency Music, OO Discs, Accurate Distortion, Atavistic, and Kill Rock Stars. A recording of *Hildegurfs' Ordo Virtutum* is forthcoming on Innova.

About Bruce Rodgers: Hermitage Artist Retreat Executive Director Bruce Rodgers is a musician, writer, producer, educator, and administrator. With undergraduate training as a classical musician he performed with the world famous United States Military Academy Band at West Point for three years before obtaining his graduate degree in English and Creative Writing. As a playwright, his plays have been, and continue to be produced around the United States and some in Europe. He's won the "Dramalogue Award" in Los Angeles, been named a "Distinguished Artist" by the State of New Jersey and won fellowships from state arts councils in New Jersey and Florida. In 1998,

the Sarasota County Arts Council awarded him a special "Renaissance Leadership Award" for his work as an artist and for his work on behalf of the community. He has been a creative consultant to numerous Fortune 500 companies and has published a popular book on corporate creativity. He has consulted for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Council on the Arts and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. From 1993 to 2004 he was the Associate Artistic Director of the Asolo Theatre Company. He is a national board member of the Alliance of Artist Communities; board member of the Florida Alliance for Arts Education, and a past board member and current advisory board member of Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities. He is the founding Executive Director of the Hermitage Artist Retreat on the beach on Manasota Key in Englewood, FL.