



**For Immediate Release**

February 2, 2010

**Contact:** Angela Olson  
(301) 581-5194  
aolson@strathmore.org

Strathmore Artist in Residence Presents  
**LOREN WESTBROOK**

***Classically Trained Ensemble Primitivity to Perform Megadeth for Cello***

N. Bethesda, Md.-- Strathmore presents a rock cello concert by February Artist in Residence Loren Westbrook with his band Primitivity, a cello quartet with percussion, at the Mansion at Strathmore. They perform on Wednesday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Their new album *Megadeth for Cello* is scheduled to have its official release at the February 24 concert. The February 24 concert also includes the world premiere of a work commissioned by Strathmore. Tickets are \$12. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (301) 581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

Westbrook is one of a handful of cellists that is also expanding the cello's repertoire to include rock music. His original compositions for rock cello quartet are influenced by musicians such as Shostakovich, Apocalyptica and Metallica. The program combines Westbrook's original rock music compositions, plus well-known songs such as Metallica's "Master Of Puppets" and Megadeth's "Symphony Of Destruction" for an undeniably unique concert. Westbrook composes the music and plays lead cello alongside cellists David Teie of the National Symphony, Kristin Ostling of the Baltimore Symphony, Mauricio Betanzo of the Maryland Symphony and percussionist Robby Burns from the University of Maryland. As Primitivity blends refined classical approaches and the new sounds of heavy metal, their goal is to ensure that rock cello thrives forever.

Westbrook has performed as soloist at the Kennedy Center, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, major universities around the United States and many venues in the Washington, D.C. area, and was featured on NPR. He was selected as concerto soloist with the 2002 Kennedy Center Summer Youth Orchestra. He was principal cellist of the Kennedy Center Summer Music Institute Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and Repertoire Orchestra at the University of Maryland. He taught cello at the International School of Music, D.C. Youth Orchestras, Levine School of Music, Ottley School of Music and in his own private studio. He was conductor of the D.C. Youth Orchestra and assistant conductor at Wootton High School and Thomas Pullen Arts Magnet School.

The Artist in Residence program is one of Strathmore's signature programs. Introduced in 2005 as an initiative to help cultivate local musical talent in the Washington, D.C. area, the program connects established performers with emerging musicians. Each Artist in Residence is a featured performer for the duration of one month. During this month, the artist presents two diverse public performances. The artists have the opportunity to develop an audience in the community, perfect their performances, create an educational program, and premiere a new work commissioned by Strathmore. The class of musicians attends professional development workshops presented by Strathmore, including classes on marketing, recording and booking events. Former Artist in Residence graduates include Grammy-nominated hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon, singer-songwriter and Jammin' Java owner Luke Brindley, Indie singer-songwriter Laura Burhenn, saxophonist Jeff Suzda and percussionist Simone Mancuso of the Mancuso-Suzda Project, and harmonicist Frédéric Yonnet.

Strathmore is an established arts presenter and cultural destination, nurtures art, artists and community through creative and diverse programming of the highest quality. Artist in Residence performances are held in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD. The Mansion at Strathmore is located one-half mile north of the Capital Beltway and immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro's Red Line. Tickets are \$12, general admission. To purchase tickets call (301) 581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

###

*Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, the MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities.*

*Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.*

## **Strathmore Artist in Residence**

**Loren Westbrook, rock cello**

**Wednesdays, February 3 and 24, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike

North Bethesda, Md. 20852

Tickets: \$12

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

## **Program**

Overdrive

Sacrifice

Symphony of Destruction

Ascend

Quutamo

Heat

Bittersweet

Revival

Somewhere Around Nothing

Convergence

Conclusion

Master of Puppets

All songs composed and arranged by Loren Westbrook except

“Symphony of Destruction” by Megadeth, “Master of Puppets” by Metallica,

“Quutamo,” “Heat,” “Bittersweet,” “Somewhere Around Nothing,” and “Conclusion”

by Apocalyptica.