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## Music at Eden's Edge Unevils Emerging Artists at the Edge Program

**BEVERLY, MA:** Music at Eden's Edge ([www.edensedge.org](http://www.edensedge.org)), the North Shore's own resident chamber music ensemble, announced the introduction of its Emerging Artists at the Edge program in conjunction with its 2008 Summer Concert Series. Violinist Joshua Peckins, a native of Boxford, has been named the first MEE Emerging Artist in the program, which is designed to showcase promising young artists and give them invaluable performance experience with the region's most prominent chamber music ensemble.

"We are delighted to unveil this new initiative and introduce Joshua Peckins, our first Emerging Artist at the Edge, to our audiences. Training and experience in music are handed down one-on-one, artist to new artist. We are delighted to have Joshua playing as part of our ensemble as he prepares for an exciting and promising career," said Maria Benotti, Music at Eden's Edge's founder and artistic director.

Mr. Peckins will perform in "June Classically Discovered," the first concert in the Music at Eden's Edge 2008 Summer Concert Series. Featuring works by Beethoven and his contemporary Gyrowetz, Mozart and Boccherini, the performances take place on Friday, June 20 at 8 PM at New England Biolabs in Ipswich and Saturday, June 21 at 8 PM at Endicott College Chapel in Beverly. Mr. Peckins will also perform in the June 17, 2 PM outreach concert for seniors and families at the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers. Music at Eden's Edge artists in the June program are Maria Benotti, violin, Joan Ellersick, viola and Sarah Freiberg, cello.

A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Mr. Peckins began violin studies at the age of five, and first performed as soloist with orchestra at age 11, playing the Bach Concerto in A minor with the Essex County Symphony in Hamilton, MA. Two seasons later, he played the Haydn Concerto in C Major with the same orchestra. The Merrimack Valley Philharmonic has repeatedly engaged him as guest soloist to perform works by Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Sarasate at the Rogers Center for the Performing Arts in North Andover, MA.

Mr. Peckins has performed as chamber musician at Jordan Hall (Boston), Cité Universitaire (Paris), and Riverbend Centre (Austin). He has participated in the Yellow Barn Festival Youth-Intensive Program (Putney, VT), the Heifetz International Music Festival (Wolfboro, NH), and the Musicorda Festival (South Hadley, MA).

As an orchestral musician, Joshua Peckins has performed at Carnegie Hall, and in Boston at Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall. Last season, he played in two concert series with the Boston Philharmonic. He has toured South and Central America and Europe, performing in Panama, Venezuela, Cuba, and Guatemala with the NEC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Benjamin Zander, and in Italy with the NEC Youth Symphony Orchestra under conductor Aaron Kula.

His principal teachers include Syoko Aki, Lynn Chang, Marylou Churchill, Maria Benotti and Nicholas Kitchen. In addition to earning a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, he is currently pursuing Master of Music degree in violin performance at the Yale University School of Music. He has been the recipient of a From the Top Merit Scholarship, the Abbot and Dorothy Stevens Foundation Scholarship, and the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Society Scholarship.

The Music at Eden's Edge 2008 Summer Concert Series is sponsored by Central Bank, a full-service community bank providing a variety of deposit and lending services for retail and business customers and operating nine full-service offices in Somerville, Arlington, Burlington, Chestnut Hill, Malden, Medford, Melrose, and Woburn (two branches). Sponsors for individual concerts include New England Biolabs (New England Biolabs concerts), Pulsifer & Associates ("At the Edge of July's Garden," East India Marine Hall, Peabody Essex Museum) and Seamonds & Company ("The French-American Connection" at the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum).

Founded in 1982, MEE has come to represent the highest standards of musical performance artistry. Its Summer Chamber Music Series, which runs from June through September, features extraordinary musical artists performing in some of the area's most beautiful and distinctive settings. MEE is known for creative programming that ranges from the Baroque period to innovative 21st century compositions, and for concerts that combine rarely performed works with more familiar and traditional pieces in the chamber music repertoire. For more information, call 978-270-4463 or visit the website at [www.edensedge.org](http://www.edensedge.org).