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Russian River Chamber Music is Re-Inventing Itself
A Special Thanks to Outgoing Founder Gary McLaughlin

HEALDSBURG – September 10, 2013 – **Russian River Chamber Music** is in the process of re-inventing itself. After presenting a world-class chamber music series for the past 20 consecutive years, it is now turning its focus to an educational endeavor called **The Overture Project**. As part of this restructuring it has eliminated the position of Artistic Director that had been held by RRCM's founder Gary McLaughlin since 1992. The concert series legacy that Gary created for **Russian River Chamber Music** was nationally renowned, and recognized as one of the finest. We remain forever grateful, and know that our new direction will benefit greatly from that legacy.

The Overture Project was officially launched last October, with after school stringed instrument lessons every Tuesday at Healdsburg Jr. High School, and continued throughout the summer with lessons every Tuesday and Thursday at Healdsburg High School. A public recital was performed on the Oakville Grocery patio on August 15th. The kids were great! Our goal is to be able to provide instruments and lessons to all of Healdsburg's kids, especially those in financial need. Classroom space has been secured, teachers and coaches are ready for the new season, and fundraising effort have begun. We're anxious to put instruments in the hands of kids, provide teachers and coaches, and foster the love of music from the ground up, by building individual and group pride, self discipline and group cooperation, thus becoming a vital part of the cultural patchwork of Sonoma County.

While pursuing this new direction, RRCM would also love to continue the tradition of presenting world-class chamber music in Healdsburg. This past January, the **Cypress String Quartet** performed to a standing room only audience at Healdsburg Community Church, and as in the past, the concert was free of charge (donations accepted!). More concerts, fundraisers and special events are planned for the 2013-2014 season. Please visit our website and Facebook page for announcements of upcoming activities. The community's interest and financial support has sustained RRCM for over 20 years, and we are looking forward to thanking the community for that support with programs and events that contribute and enhance the cultural fabric of all of Sonoma County.

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