

For Immediate Release

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**New Zenith Theatre Presents
SYMPHONY PASTORALE/FUGUE SERIES**

**The New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC, Aug 8th – 24th
Tickets \$15. For tickets visit www.FringeNYC.org**

The New Zenith Theatre presents SYMPHONY PASTORALE/FUGUE SERIES at the 11th New York International Fringe Festival – FringeNYC for five performances: Saturday, August 9th at 7:00 pm; Sunday, August 10th at 4:15 pm; Friday, August 15th at 4:30 pm; Monday, August 18th at 7:00 pm; and Saturday, August 23 at 12:00 noon. Performances will be at the New School for Drama Theatre, 151 Bank Street. Tickets are available online at www.FringeNYC.org.

SYMPHONY PASTORALE/FUGUE SERIES, written by Robert Barnett and directed by Ed Wierzbicki with “Fugue” music by Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, is an interrelated pair of one-act plays that brings music to life – literally.

A New York premiere, SYMPHONY PASTORALE is the story of a man’s life dramatized in four movements. The ensemble of five actors takes turns impersonating everything from John’s mother’s labor pains, his fumbling efforts at teenage seduction, his giddy ride on a rollercoaster with his children as a parent...to the racing pulse of his heart as he struggles for life. Each movement is orchestrated with its own rhythmic structure, creating spoken music that moves effortlessly from the outlandishly comic with John as a fetus refusing to be born – to the startlingly poignant as his children grow up before our very eyes each time the family revisits a amusement park...and all performed under the direction of a conductor’s baton.

FUGUE SERIES is like a silent movie come to life. The play is an ensemble mime piece set to an original score by Brian Wilbur Grundstrom (www.brianwilbur.com) and takes place in an art museum over the course of a day. In this New York world premiere, the cast creates a quick-change soufflé of people and personalities whose interweaving storylines become a visual fugue as they visit a museum gallery to view three interrelated paintings. The aging artist’s model wanting to share her past acclaim with her adult daughter...the snooty critic, the chattering matrons, the uncomprehending tourists, the put-upon docent, the lovers...become their own living pictures at an exhibition, set to the music that only we, the audience, hears.

The Los Angeles Times called SYMPHONY PASTORALE, “a delicious and sophisticated piece of theater” while the Chicago Tribune dubbed the double bill “a winning pair of one-act plays...novel and entrancing.”

Robert Barnett, Artistic Director of Yale Cabaret Hollywood, has had plays performed nationally, most recently at the Ashland New Plays Festival. Brian Wilbur Grundstrom has composed for film, orchestra, and chorus, piano, demonstrating an innovative use of harmony and melody, firmly rooted in the tonal tradition. Ed Wierzbicki, Artistic Director of New Zenith Theatre and a two-time Emmy Nominee, has directed musicals to Shakespeare to BIG LOVE.

Now in its 9th year, New Zenith Theatre (www.newzenith.com) is a youth-oriented theatre based at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut. It is dedicated to “live, interactive relationship ...that can only happen inside a theatre.”