PIANIST TO PERFORM BENEFIT FOR MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

[SUMMERSVILLE, WV] Pianist John Mark Walkup will present a benefit piano recital on Friday, Dec.5, at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church in Summersville, WV. In conjunction with this event, Walkup has set a goal to raise $7,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and he believes it will be surpassed.

The performance will feature works by Nineteenth-Century Composers Carl Maria von Weber and Frederic Chopin and Twentieth-Century composers Maurice Ravel and George Rochberg.

Walkup is an associate professor of music and chairman of humanities, education and social sciences at New River Community and Technical College. He teaches Music Skills for Classroom Teachers, Introduction to Music, Twentieth-Century Music, Music Theory, Applied Piano, and Introduction to Fine Arts at New River’s Nicholas County Campus. He has also served as assistant dean of New River’s Beckley Campus.

Walkup has prepared this recital as a final requirement for fulfillment of the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from West Virginia University, where he studies with Dr. James Miltenberger. He earned his master's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of
Illinois and his bachelors’ degree in Music Education from Glenville State College.

Personal experience shaped Walkup’s commitment to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. His oldest son, Wesley, is a cancer survivor and in 2003 was granted a wish by the Foundation.

“We’ve already raised $5,500, and are asking businesses and corporations to make advance donations of between $500 and $1,000,” Walkup said. All advance donations will go to Make-A-Wish to benefit local Wish kids. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is currently working to grant wishes for 49 children in southern West Virginia, five of whom live in the Nicholas County area.

Donations will also be accepted at the concert, with a suggested minimum donation of $10 for admission. Proceeds from the performance will be divided between the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the New River Community and Technical College Foundation to support scholarships for students on the Nicholas County Campus.

If you would like to support Walkup’s campaign, send your tax deductible contribution to Heather Galloway, Regional Manager, The Make-A-Wish Foundation, 1031 Quarrier Street, Suite 401, Charleston, WV 25301. Make the check payable to “The Make-A-Wish Foundation,” and be sure to note the Dec. 5 John Walkup benefit concert on the memo line.

For further information about the recital, contact Walkup at his New River office, 883-2435, or at home, 872-9472. The performance is made possible with support from the New River Community and Technical College Foundation and Gorby’s Music of South Charleston.

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