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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

**CUTTME PRODUCTIONS TO PERFORM CLASSICAL MUSIC IN NON-TRADITIONAL
VENUES WITH KNIGHT ARTS CHALLENGE SUPPORT**

Detroit, MI – CutTime Productions will expand a continuing series of engaging community events with classical music in non-traditional venues of Detroit, thanks to a new \$30,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The support will professionalize and expand the series threefold to 36 events.

In partnership with Classical Revolution series of San Francisco, CutTime® owner Rick Robinson has been voluntarily producing and hosting such events since 2010 in popular neighborhood bars, clubs, eateries and cafes to expose new audiences directly to classical. Inviting local musicians and groups to rotate in like a jazz *jam session*, this Detroit chapter also features amplification, plus words and activities to draw listeners inside the music. A former bassist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO), Robinson resigned after 23-years to share his passion specifically with people who avoid such music.

The future of many American orchestras increasingly depends on creating accessible pathways inside for young and non-white audiences. Named after a musical symbol, CutTime recommends cutting some formality out of the concert experience, contending that this is the crucial barrier which prevents orchestras and newcomers from crossing a widening cultural divide.

“The people of this city deserve beauty and in every possible way,” Robinson said. “The traditional concert in the big hall is lost on most people until we can put it in places where they discover other music such as the corner bar or café. Casual venues provide the balance and inclusivity many seek.”

The funding is part of the Knight Arts Challenge, a community-wide contest that funds the best ideas for engaging and enriching Detroit through the arts. "Today's audiences demand to be engaged. Getting artists out of the performance halls and into people's everyday lives helps provide the reminder many people need of the importance of the arts to our lives," said Dennis Scholl, VP for arts at Knight Foundation.

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit KnightFoundation.org.

CutTime Productions manages a music publishing division, three ensembles, plus a large and growing library for those ensembles of symphony music adaptations and snappy new compositions which blend classical with familiar urban pop styles. It recently won a *Salute to Entrepreneurs* award from Crain’s Detroit Business in the Social Entrepreneur category for creating jobs for musicians while serving cultural change in the city. For more information, find CutTime online at cuttime.com and on both Facebook and Twitter as MrCutTime and ClasRevDetroit.

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