

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
VERMONT ARTS EXCHANGE
802-442-5549 or vtartxchange.org

June 10, 2012

**CON BRIO BRINGS VIGOR AND SPIRIT TO VERMONT ARTS
EXCHANGE
IN SPECIAL SUMMER BASEMENT MUSIC SERIES CONCERT
SAN FRANCISCO-BASED BAND FEATURES NORTH BENNINGTON NATIVE**

NORTH BENNINGTON, VT — Fresh from the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, flush with critical acclaim for its new live album and brimming with excitement for its first national tour and first music video, San Francisco's Con Brio makes a special stop in North Bennington for a first-ever summer Basement Music Series concert. Don't miss what the San Francisco Gate calls "an explosion of pure vocal bliss" on Friday, June 22, at Vermont Arts Exchange's Sage Street Mill; the concert begins at 8 p.m., doors open at 7. Come early for dinner and visit Thyme Tables LunchThyme Trailer, parked in VAE's front yard and offering full menu of dinner and gourmet snack options.

Powered by the strikingly soulful vocals of Xandra Corpora, Con Brio ("with vigor" or "spirit") blends old-school grit with new-school sophistication for a sound that's wholly its own. Featuring North Bennington native Micah Dubreuil (organ, rhodes, clavinet), Mike Hirsch (saxophone), Jonathan Kirchner (bass) and Andrew Laubacher (drums), the instrumentation is timeless: saxophone and trumpet roll over thick organ grooves while guitar, bass and drums keep feet tapping and the dance floor moving. Combining raw talent, a dynamic stage presence and spontaneous style with a professional polish usually seen in much more veteran ensembles, the band is tight and energetic — and when it comes to spirit, Con Brio has it in spades.

The East Bay Express praises Con Brio as a "concoction of bass-heavy funk rhythms, layered organ and piano, sumptuous trumpet and tenor saxophone, and tight percussion... the band's sound is that of seasoned musicians balancing respect for technical composition with a healthy love of improvisation — and clearly having a blast with it."

After forming in 2009, Con Brio immediately took to the stage and the studio, with a heavy schedule of local shows and the recording of its debut album, "From The Hip" (2010). The band ramped up its regional touring in 2001, with shows from Seattle to San Diego that earned it a loyal West Coast following, and higher-profile concerts in San Francisco — including performances at the renowned Great American Music Hall, The Independent, The Fillmore and Regency Ballroom (as part of SF Weekly's All Shook Down Festival). This year began strong with the sold-out release of its live

record, "The Bay is Burning" (2012), at The Independent in February, and continues with the recording of its second full-length studio album and first national tour.

Advance tickets for this Basement Music Series concert are \$18 through Brown Paper Tickets at brownpapertickets.com or by calling (toll free) 800-838-3006 — a small processing fee will be charged. Tickets are \$22 at the door on the day of show on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about Con Brio, visit thebandconbrio.com. Follow the 2012 Basement Music Series season on Facebook (facebook.com/VermontArtsExchange) and on Twitter (@BMSatVAE). Coming up: More West Coast fun with the always-popular Fishtank Ensemble, returning on July 7 with its "thrilling... cross pollinated gypsy music" (LA Weekly).

For more information about Vermont Arts Exchange, the Basement Music Series, exhibits, classes and workshops, contact VAE at 802-442-5549 or visit vtartxchange.org. Vermont Arts Exchange is an accessible facility; please contact VAE with any requests for, or questions about, special-needs accommodations.