



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO LAUNCH NEW LABEL: ASO MEDIA

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY TO PARTNER WITH NAXOS OF AMERICA, INC.
FOR PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION**

FIRST RECORDING TO BE RELEASED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

**First Release To Feature Music Director Robert Spano
And Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
Performing Recent World Premiere-Atlanta Symphony Commissions
By Atlanta School of Composers Members Jennifer Higdon and Michael Gandolfi**

On February 22, 2011, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will release the first recording on its new label, **ASO Media**. The physical and digital recordings will be distributed by Naxos of America, Inc.

The premiere ASO Media recording will feature Music Director Robert Spano leading the Orchestra in Atlanta School of Composers member, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Jennifer Higdon's new concerto, *On A Wire*, featuring the chamber ensemble eighth blackbird. Also on this first recording will be Atlanta School of Composers member Michael Gandolfi's new choral work, *QED: Engaging Richard Feynman*, featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Both works were commissioned by the Atlanta Symphony, and given world-premiere performances in June 2010 at Atlanta Symphony Hall. The production team will include long-time Atlanta Symphony Orchestra collaborators Elaine Martone and Michael Bishop.

Two additional ASO Media recordings with Mr. Spano are scheduled to be released in the 2010-11 season: a spring release will feature the Atlanta Symphony's commission of Christopher Theofanidis's *Symphony*; and a fall release will include pianist Garrick Ohlsson playing Rachmaninov.

Ms. Higdon and Mr. Gandolfi are members of the Atlanta School of Composers, a continuing commitment by Robert Spano and the Orchestra to nurture and champion contemporary music through multi-year partnerships with a new generation of American composers. Other notable members are Mr. Theofanidis, Osvaldo Golijov, and Adam Schoenberg. Since the beginning of Mr. Spano's tenure in 2001, he and the Orchestra have performed nearly 100 concerts featuring contemporary works (composed since 1950).

"This is an exciting time in the Orchestra's history of performing great music and presenting great artists," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra President Stanley E. Romanstein, Ph.D. "We are especially thrilled to begin this distribution partnership with Naxos as we launch ASO Media.

Together, we will ensure the Orchestra's recordings are available to music lovers around the globe."

"One of the many impressive facets of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is the great recording history it has had with Telarc," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Robert Spano. "Our new relationship with Naxos provides the exciting opportunity to perpetuate this legacy, with our recording history remaining a vital and integral part of our future."

"Naxos of America is eager to begin this partnership with the forward-thinking Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the distribution of its new label, ASO Media," said Naxos CEO Jim Selby. "The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, under the pioneering leadership of Music Director Robert Spano, clearly values not only beloved classical orchestral repertoire, but also that of living American composers. This alignment of principles between Naxos and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra promises to produce a long and fruitful relationship of great recordings."

"It is in keeping with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's mission and vision for excellence that this new partnership with Naxos has been formed," said Producer Elaine Martone. "I am ecstatic that I will continue to work with Robert Spano, Norman Mackenzie, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to make outstanding recordings which will stand the test of time."

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About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

The Grammy® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 32-year relationship with Telarc was among the longest of any major American orchestra. That relationship came to a conclusion in September 2010 when the Orchestra's final recording was released under the Telarc name — it featured Jennifer Higdon's *The Singing Rooms*, Alvin Singleton's *Praisemaker*, and Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy*. In its 32-year recording history, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and its recordings have won 27 Grammy Awards, including Best Choral Performance, Best Classical Recording, and Best Opera Recording... [\(more\)](#)

About Naxos of America

Headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville, **Naxos of America** is the #1 independent classical music distributor in the U.S. Specializing in state-of-the-art distribution, marketing and promotion, Naxos of America distributes nearly 20,000 SKUs to traditional brick and mortar retail, as well as offering a comprehensive suite of services tailored to consumer direct fulfillment. Naxos of America is also the largest digital distributor of independent classical music, supplying a catalog of over 25,000 albums to hundreds of digital download and mobile outlets worldwide. Naxos of America offers marketing, e-marketing, publicity, e-publicity, physical and digital e-commerce services, licensing opportunities, streaming services, sales and customer service for all new releases and active catalog titles of Naxos Records and more than 100 distributed labels.

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