

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2009

Contacts: Melissa A.E. Sanders

(404) 733-4846, melissa.sanders@woodruffcenter.org

Laura Soldati

(404) 733-4105, laura.soldati@woodruffcenter.org

**MUSIC DIRECTOR ROBERT SPANO
AND PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR DONALD RUNNICLES
ANNOUNCE 2009–10 SEASON OF THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**MR. SPANO TO LEAD ORCHESTRA IN FIVE WORLD PREMIERES
DURING 65TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

**Atlanta School of Composers Jennifer Higdon and Michael Gandolfi;
Wynton Marsalis's *American Symphony*;
Angel Lam's New Cello Concerto With Soloist Yo-Yo Ma;
And Dejan Lazic's New Piano Arrangement of Brahms's Violin Concerto**

NEW WORKS BY JENNIFER HIGDON AND MICHAEL GANDOLFI TO BE RECORDED

**MR. SPANO TO LEAD ASO THEATER OF A CONCERT PERFORMANCE
OF STRAVINSKY'S *THE NIGHTINGALE***

**MR. SPANO AND THE ORCHESTRA
TO PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL, NOVEMBER 7, 2009**

**Program To Feature New York Premiere of Angel Lam's New Cello Concerto with Yo-Yo Ma
And Stravinsky's *The Nightingale* During Carnegie Hall's China Festival**

**MR. RUNNICLES TO LEAD ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS
IN BRAHMS'S *A GERMAN REQUIEM***

**Mr. Runnicles and ASO Chorus Invited To Return to Berlin Philharmonic
In December 2009 For Third Visit**

**LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS AND CHORUS AMERICA
TO HOST NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN ATLANTA, JUNE 2010**

**LAO 65th National Conference To Launch 10th Anniversary of Atlanta School of Composers
And Feature Mr. Spano Leading the Orchestra in Works By Jennifer Higdon,
Michael Gandolfi, and Christopher Theofanidis**

The Creative Partnership of Music Director Robert Spano, Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles, and President and CEO Allison Vulgamore, today announced the 2009–10 season of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. This will mark the Orchestra's 65th anniversary season, the Youth Orchestra's 35th anniversary season, and Mr. Spano and Mr. Runnicles's ninth season.

(more)

At the conclusion of the season, the ASO will host the League of American Orchestras' 65th National Conference in Atlanta, which will also kick off the 10th Anniversary of the Atlanta School of Composers by featuring new works by the composers. Chorus America will also host its 2010 National Conference in Atlanta in partnership with the ASO and the League of American Orchestras.

The 24-week season affirms the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's reputation as an orchestra that celebrates the music of past centuries, paving the way for the great music of the future with performances by today's leading soloists and conductors. The Atlanta School of Composers reflects Mr. Spano and the Orchestra's commitment to nurturing and championing music through multi-year partnerships defining a new generation of American composers.

The season opens on Thursday, September 24, 2009 with Robert Spano leading the Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique." Also on the program is Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3, featuring Garrick Ohlsson. The 65th anniversary season also features five world premieres by: Atlanta School of Composers Jennifer Higdon and Michael Gandolfi; Wynton Marsalis; Angel Lam; and a new Brahms arrangement by pianist Dejan Lazic. Mr. Spano and the Orchestra will return to Carnegie Hall in November 2009 to perform the New York premiere of Angel Lam's *Awakening from a Disappearing Garden* for Cello and Orchestra, with Yo-Yo Ma as soloist, (following the world premiere in Atlanta) as part of their China festival and Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus have been invited to perform, for the third time, with the Berlin Philharmonic in December 2009. Mr. Spano will lead the Orchestra in a Theater of a Concert presentation of Stravinsky's *The Nightingale* in October 2009. January 28, 29 and 30, 2010, Mr. Spano will lead the Orchestra in Atlanta School of Composers Osvaldo Golijov's latest orchestral composition, Suite from *Youth Without Youth*. June 2010 the League of American Orchestras will host its 65th National Conference in Atlanta, also launching the 10th Anniversary of the Atlanta School of Composers (2010–11), including a concert featuring Ms. Higdon, Mr. Gandolfi, and Christopher Theofanidis's most recent ASO commissions. There will also be a conference-concert at the new Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park featuring Mr. Spano with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Verdi's *Requiem*.

"The ASO offers a unique blend of musical offerings, and we are delighted to be sharing it with our community of music-lovers in Atlanta and throughout the country," said President and CEO Allison Vulgamore. "This 65th anniversary season is a year for us to celebrate the highest quality of music-making, while also reflecting on the ASO's beginning as a youth orchestra, founded to serve the very same community we partner with today as a performer, presenter, and educator."

"One of my greatest joys in life is working with the ASO. Their energy, passion, and creativity are unparalleled," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Robert Spano. "It is especially thrilling to be performing five new works this season: two from our good friends Jennifer Higdon and Michael Gandolfi, and three from new voices to be heard at Symphony Hall — Wynton Marsalis's first purely orchestral work, Angel Lam's new concerto for Yo-Yo Ma, and Dejan Lazic's fresh, personal perspective on Brahms's Violin Concerto. Our engagement with these dynamic creative musical minds is a great inspiration."

"I am very much looking forward to the 2009-10 season here at the ASO. Collaborating with this great orchestra is always enormously fulfilling, as is the chance to work again with great artists such as James Ehnes. I am thrilled also to collaborate with the great ASO Chorus for performances of Brahms's *A German Requiem* both here in Atlanta, and in Berlin as part of our third visit to the Berlin Philharmonic," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor Donald

(more)

Runnicles. “I always cherish my time in Atlanta with these great musical institutions — the music and camaraderie here is as exciting as ever, and the ongoing dedication to composers and music of the 21st century makes for an unending diversity of repertoire.”

COMMISSIONS AND PREMIERES

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform five world premieres during the 2009–10 season, three of which are ASO commissions.

- October 1–3, 2009: **Dejan Lazic** will give the world-premiere performance of his new arrangement of the Brahms Violin Concerto, which he has arranged for piano.
- October 15–16, 2009: Music Director Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform the world premiere of Chinese composer **Angel Lam**'s *Awakening from a Disappearing Garden* for Cello and Orchestra, with Yo-Yo Ma as soloist, in Atlanta. The work, a Carnegie Hall commission, will be reprised for a New York Premiere at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, November 7, 2009 as part of their festival, *Ancient Paths, Modern Voices: Celebrating Chinese Culture*. (See tour information below.)
- November 19, 20, and 22, 2009: Music Director Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform the world premiere of *American Symphony* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer-musician **Wynton Marsalis**. One of Mr. Marsalis's goals as a composer has been to write a new work exclusively for symphony orchestra. *American Symphony* is that work. Using six movements — March, Spiritual, Danzón, Ragtime, Blues and 4/4 Swing — the work displays a wide range of sound techniques. Marsalis creatively utilizes pointillism, extreme registers and the juxtaposition of blocks of sound against a swinging cymbal, among other means, to achieve a sonic world of vibrant orchestral colors steeped in some of America's richest musical traditions. The new work is an ASO co-commission with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with generous support from the National Black Arts Festival.
- June 3, 5, and 6, 2010: Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform two world premieres by **Atlanta School of Composers Jennifer Higdon** and **Michael Gandolfi**, both ASO commissions. Ms. Higdon's new work is for the new music ensemble eighth blackbird and Orchestra, and Mr. Gandolfi's new work is for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus — both are ASO commissions. Ms. Higdon and Mr. Gandolfi belong to the Atlanta School of Composers, a term that evolved from a continuing commitment by Robert Spano and the ASO to nurture, commission, and record contemporary music through multi-year partnerships with a new generation of American composers. Other Atlanta School of Composers are Christopher Theofanidis and Osvaldo Golijov.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's special artistic initiatives surrounding The Atlanta School of Composers, Theater of a Concert, recordings, commissions, and premieres in the 2009–10 Season are generously funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

(more)

TOURS

- **Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** have been invited to return to **Carnegie Hall** to participate in *Ancient Paths, Modern Voices: Celebrating Chinese Culture*, a citywide festival exploring the diverse and vibrant culture of China and its influence around the world with 21 days of events at Carnegie Hall and New York City partner institutions from October 21 through November 10, 2009. On Saturday, November 7, 2009, Mr. Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform the New York premiere of **Angel Lam's** *Awakening from a Disappearing Garden for Cello and Orchestra*, with **Yo-Yo Ma** as soloist. The work was commissioned by Carnegie Hall through the generosity of Henry R. Kravis in honor of his wife, Marie-Josée. The world-premiere performances of the work will be performed in Atlanta October 15–16, 2009. The program also includes a concert version of Stravinsky's *The Nightingale* featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus and vocal soloists. Stravinsky's opera, set in ancient China, was inspired by a folk tale by Hans Christian Andersen that tells the story of a Chinese emperor who is completely enraptured by the singing of his beloved nightingale.

With more than 30 events, the Festival will feature performances by renowned international musicians, including some artists and ensembles that are traveling outside of China for the first time. The festival's musical offerings will include programs created in collaboration with leading Chinese musicians—pipa player Wu Man, pianist Lang Lang, composer/conductor Tan Dun, and conductor Long Yu—highlighting different musical aspects of Chinese culture. Programs include many genres of music, encompassing Western symphonic and chamber music influenced by Chinese culture, traditional folk music, and contemporary music including premieres by internationally-recognized Chinese composers Chen Qigang, **Angel Lam**, and Tan Dun. The festival also offers traditional marionette theater, dance, film screenings, calligraphy, art exhibitions, and much more, offering insight into a world that mixes the ancient and the modern, the traditional and the cutting-edge. For more information, visit carnegiehall.org/chinafestival.

The ASO's history at Carnegie Hall dates back to its first performance with Robert Shaw in March of 1971. At the invitation of Carnegie Hall, the Orchestra has performed 20 concerts to date — 12 times with Robert Shaw, five with Yoel Levi, and three with Robert Spano. When Mr. Spano and the Orchestra played Carnegie Hall in April 2008, *The New York Times* wrote, "Mr. Spano drew a swelling, variegated sound that packed a visceral punch..." The November 7 performance will mark Mr. Spano's fourth with the Orchestra.

- The ASO has accepted a third invitation for **Donald Runnicles** and the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus**, with Director of Chorus **Norman Mackenzie**, to return to the **Berlin Philharmonic** December 17–19, 2009, to perform Brahms's *A German Requiem*. The work will be sung in German. Prior to this, Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus will perform the work at Atlanta Symphony Hall October 29 and 30, 2009.

In December 2003 Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus made their debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in Britten's *War Requiem*. Following the performance, *Der Tagesspiegel* wrote: "The world has really turned a bit topsy-turvy when our fabulous Berliner Philharmoniker turn around in their orchestra seats to applaud an American amateur chorus." Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus most recently sang with the German orchestra in May 2008 to perform the Berlioz *Requiem*. Past tours to Berlin have been generously funded in part by The Halle Foundation.

(more)

- **Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** will open the **Savannah Music Festival** Thursday, March 18, 2010, performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 with **Lang Lang** as soloist. Also on the opening night program is Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. This will mark the Orchestra's fourth visit to the festival.

The Savannah Music Festival is dedicated to presenting a world-class celebration of the musical arts by creating timeless and adventurous productions that stimulate arts education, foster economic growth, and unite artists and audiences in Savannah, Ga. The 2010 festival runs from March 18 through April 3, 2010, including nearly 100 performances of world-class jazz, classical, blues, bluegrass, gospel and other genres of American and international roots music in intimate venues throughout the historic district.

ASO THEATER OF A CONCERT

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Theater of a Concert presentations continue with onstage exploration of different formats, settings, and enhancements for the musical performance experiences.

"Inherently, concerts are theatrical because they take place on a stage. Certain repertoire further invites theatrical treatment affording us an opportunity to enhance the concert experience in powerful ways," said Music Director Robert Spano. "That's the philosophy behind the ASO Theater of a Concert."

To create a concert experience, various visual elements have been brought into the concert hall. In past seasons this has included film and projected images synchronized with the music, lighting effects, art installations, and semi-staged performances of operas creating a marriage of the auditory and the visual, allowing concertgoers to connect with the music on multiple levels.

During the 2009–10 season, Music Director Robert Spano will lead the Orchestra in an ASO Theater of a Concert presentation of Stravinsky's opera *The Nightingale*, directed by James Alexander Thursday and Friday, October 15–16, 2009. The cast will feature Celena Shafer (Nightingale), Jessica Rivera (Cook), Thomas Glenn (Fisherman), Denis Sedov (Chamberlain), Dimitry Ivashchenko (Bonze), Kostas Smoriginas (Emperor), Irina Tchistyakova (Death), and the ASO Chorus.

The work will be repeated during the Orchestra's tour to Carnegie Hall Saturday, November 7, 2009. No Theater of a Concert staging will be used for this performance.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's special artistic initiatives surrounding The Atlanta School of Composers, ASO Theater of a Concert, recordings, commissions, and premieres in the 2009–2010 Season are generously funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ATLANTA SCHOOL OF COMPOSERS

Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform two world premieres by **Atlanta School of Composers Jennifer Higdon** and **Michael Gandolfi** June 3, 5, and 6, 2010, both of which are ASO commissions. Ms. Higdon's new work is for new music ensemble eighth blackbird

(more)

and the Orchestra, and Mr. Gandolfi's new work is for the Orchestra and ASO Chorus — marking the next genre of music they are each composing as part of their multi-year relationship with the ASO. Those works will be performed again, this time on a program including **Christopher Theofanidis**'s new symphony (which will have been performed at the ASO in March 2009) June 17–20, 2010 during the League of American Orchestra's 65th National Conference, to be hosted in Atlanta. The concert will launch the 10th Anniversary of the Atlanta School of Composers, (which will be celebrated in the 2010–11 season). January 28, 29 and 30, 2010, Mr. Spano will lead the Orchestra in Atlanta School of Composers **Osvaldo Golijov**'s latest orchestral composition, Suite from *Youth Without Youth*.

Since the creation of the Creative Partnership of Robert Spano, Donald Runnicles, and Allison Vulgamore in September 2001, the Orchestra and audiences together experience a creative programming mix, recordings, and visual enhancements, such as the ASO Theater of a Concert, the Orchestra's continuing exploration of different formats, settings, and enhancements for the musical performance experience. The **Atlanta School of Composers** reflects Mr. Spano and the Orchestra's commitment to nurturing and championing music through multi-year partnerships defining a new generation of American composers.

"The Atlanta School of Composers represents an aesthetic shift," said Music Director Robert Spano. "The composers all use really interesting melody, their music is both tuneful and tonal, and they are all fascinated by, and inspired by, world and popular music — and you can hear the elements of this world of music coming into their musical language. It's a very exciting time in American music."

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is well known for its dedication to American music through its Atlanta School of Composers, and since the beginning of his tenure in 2001 (through the 2008–09 season), Music Director Robert Spano and the Orchestra have performed nearly 100 contemporary works (composed since 1950), including 10 ASO-commissioned world premieres, and two additional world premieres.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's special artistic initiatives surrounding The Atlanta School of Composers, Theater of a Concert, recordings, commissions, and premieres in the 2009–2010 Season are generously funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS AND CHORUS AMERICA TO HOST NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN ATLANTA, JUNE 2010

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will host the 65th National Conference of the **League of American Orchestras** in Atlanta June 16-20, 2010. The Conference is the annual occasion when some 1200 representatives of the orchestra family — including administrative staff, board members, volunteers, conductors and musicians — assemble to discuss important developments in the field. The four-day event features a broad range of seminars, presentations, meetings, exhibits, and performances.

"We are thrilled to be holding our 65th Conference in the city of Atlanta during its own orchestra's exciting 65th anniversary season," said League of American Orchestras President and CEO Jesse Rosen. "This is a great opportunity to acquaint our national orchestra community with the ASO's vibrant artistic life, embodied by its deep engagement with living composers and by the collaborative spirit of its many partnerships with the people and organizations of Atlanta."

(more)

As the LAO Conference host, the ASO has organized four special performances for Conference attendees:

- On Thursday, June 17, 2010, the ASO will launch the 10th anniversary of the Atlanta School of Composers (to be celebrated in 2010–11). Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will repeat the new works commissioned from **Jennifer Higdon** and **Michael Gandolfi** (after giving the world premieres June 3–6, 2010). Ms. Higdon’s new work is for new music ensemble eighth blackbird and the Orchestra. Mr. Gandolfi’s new work is for the Orchestra and ASO Chorus. Also on the program will be **Christopher Theofanidis**’s new symphony (which will have been given world-premiere performances by the ASO in March 2009).
- Next, the Conference will take League members out to the ASO’s new Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, the Orchestra’s 12,000-seat state-of-the-art facility located in Alpharetta, GA (north of Atlanta), and the summer home of the ASO. The concert, to be led by Robert Spano, will feature the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Verdi’s *Requiem* Friday, June 18, 2010.
- On Saturday, June 19, 2010, the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform a Conference concert, led by Jere Flint.
- The ASO will welcome the **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra** to Atlanta Symphony Hall where they will perform during the Conference. Mr. Spano has a long-standing affiliation with the LPO, and this concert represents the partnership and collaborations of these two orchestras, now fostered by Ms. Vulgamore and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Managing Director Babs Mollere. Their appearance will both celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and commemorate the Orchestra’s triumphant return following Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans and the surrounding area five years ago.

Chorus America will also host its 2010 National Conference in Atlanta in partnership with the ASO and the League of American Orchestras, featuring specialized workshops and seminars, a variety of concerts and special events, and guest speakers who will address a range of critical issues for choruses and arts leaders. Delegates of Chorus America will also have the opportunity to attend the LAO’s concert at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park to hear the ASO Chorus featured in Verdi’s *Requiem* on Friday, June 18, 2010.

Founded in 1942, and chartered by Congress in 1962, the **League of American Orchestras** leads, encourages, and supports America’s orchestras while communicating to the public the value and importance of orchestras and the music they perform. Its vision is to be a transformative and unifying force for the orchestra field — a catalyst for understanding and innovation, a place for conversations that matter, and a champion for orchestras. The League provides a wealth of services, meaningful information, learning and leadership opportunities, and grass-roots advocacy to its diverse membership, which encompasses nearly 1,000 member symphony, chamber, youth, and collegiate orchestras of all sizes, and links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers, board members, volunteers, staff members, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org to learn more.

(more)

POPULAR, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Along with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's classical concerts presenting many of today's finest international concert artists, the Orchestra also offers orchestral pops, family, and community programming through its series of nsoro SuperPOPS! concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday concerts, and Family concerts.

In addition, the ASO offers approximately 40 free community performances throughout the metro area at various locations, including libraries, churches, senior centers, bookstores and parks (details to be announced).

nsoro SuperPOPS!

- October 9 and 10, 2009 – “Broadway Rocks” including music from *Mama Mia*, *Tommy*, *Rent*, *The Wiz*, *Hairspray*, and *Phantom of the Opera*, led by Michael Krajewski.
- November 27 and 28, 2009 — “Cirque de la Symphonie,” an encore performance with new starts from the world of cirque, led by Michael Krajewski.
- December 18 and 19, 2009 — “A Very Merry Holiday Pops,” a program of popular holiday standards conducted by Michael Krajewski.
- February 5 and 6, 2010— “Michael Feinstein Sings Sinatra,” with Jere Flint conducting.
- March 20 and 21, 2010 — “The Movie Magic of John Williams,” with Michael Krajewski conducting.
- April 30 and May 1, 2010— “On Broadway with Marvin Hamlisch,” with Marvin Hamlisch on piano and conducting.

Coca-Cola Holiday Concerts

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra spreads the joy of the season with six holiday programs beginning December 3, 2009, and concluding December 31, 2009.

- December 3 and 5, 2009 — “Handel’s Messiah,” with Norman Mackenzie conducting the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus.
- December 4 and 5, 2009 — “ASO Gospel Christmas,” with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the ASO Gospel Choir conducted by Chelsea Tipton II.
- December 6 and 13, 2009 (four performances) — “ASO Kid’s Christmas” featuring popular holiday tunes for a family sing-along with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, conducted by Jere Flint.
- December 10, 11, and 12, 2009 (four performances) — “Christmas with the ASO” — A traditional Atlanta Christmas event for five decades featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the Morehouse College Glee Club, and the Gwinnett Young Singers, conducted by Norman Mackenzie.
- December 18 and 19, 2009 — “A Very Merry Holiday Pops,” a program of popular holiday standards featuring Santa, and the Lassiter and Walton High School Choruses, conducted by Michael Krajewski.
- December 31, 2009 — “ASO New Year’s Eve with Sylvia McNair,” a program of timeless pops and classics with a complimentary glass of champagne to ring in the New Year, led by Michael Krajewski.

(more)

Family Concerts

Jere Flint conducts this popular series of Sunday concerts for children of all ages. The series is presented by Delta and Publix Super Markets.

- October 25, 2009 (two performances) — “Halloween Magical Musical Toybox,” with Lee Harper & Dancers
- February 7, 2010 (two performances) — “The Classical Clown,” with guest artist Dan Kamin
- March 14, 2010 (two performances) — “Green Eggs and Ham”
- May 9, 2010 (two performances) — “Peter and the Wolf,” with Magic Circle Mime Company

Starbucks Free Parks Concerts

An Atlanta summer tradition, the ASO performs free outdoor concerts annually in the parks throughout Atlanta and Fulton County, reaching 25,000 listeners annually, including a free concert for the community at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park. Details will be announced.

ASO SPECIAL PRESENTATION ONE-NIGHT-ONLY CONCERTS

Throughout the 2009–10 Season, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will offer two Special Presentation one-night-only performances.

- On Thursday, January 14, 2010, Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform the 18th annual tribute concert for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., entitled “A King Celebration.” The performance, commemorating the life and work of the celebrated civil rights leader, will take place in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College in partnership with Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, The King Center, and Target. The concert, broadcast each year on American Public Media’s *Performance Today*, will feature Mr. Spano and the Orchestra with the Morehouse and Spelman College Glee Clubs.

A King Celebration concert and ASO Around Georgia are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

- On Wednesday, March 17, 2010, Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with pianist Lang Lang as soloist. Also on the program is Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5.

2009–10 SEASON GUEST CONDUCTORS

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra continues to present new conducting talent, and will welcome 13 guest conductors in the 2009–10 season. *Eight guest conductors will make their ASO debuts:* Kristjan Järvi, Hannu Lintu, Grant Llewellyn, Ludovic Morlot, Vasily Petrenko, Ilyich Rivas, Vassily Sinaisky, and Lothar Zagrosek. *Returning to Atlanta are:* Roberto Abbado, Mei-Ann Chen, Oliver Knussen, Bridget Reischl, and Hugh Wolff.

Music Director Robert Spano will lead the Orchestra in eight subscription programs, in addition to special presentation-concerts, and tours. Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles will lead the Orchestra in three subscription programs, in addition to performances with the ASO Chorus at the Berlin Philharmonic.

(more)

2009–10 SEASON INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will welcome 18 instrumentalists and one string ensemble to the stage during the 2009–10 season. *Three artists will make their ASO debuts:* pianists Simone Dinnerstein and Juho Pohjonen, violinist James Ehnes, and the string ensemble, eighth blackbird. *Returning to Atlanta are:* pianists Barry Douglas, Kirill Gerstein, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Dejan Lazic, Robert Levin, Olli Mustonen, Pedja Muzijevic, Garrick Ohlsson, Jon Kimura Parker, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet; violinists Leila Josefowicz, Midori, Vadim Repin, and Elena Urioste; and cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The ASO will welcome 24 vocalists for classical presentations, opera, and as soloists next season. *16 vocalists will make their ASO debuts:* sopranos Angela Brown, Inva Mula, Chen Reiss, Celena Shafer, and Irina Tchistyakova; mezzo-sopranos Ruxandra Donose, Mariana Pentcheva, and Marianna Pizzolato; tenors Nicholas Phan, John Osborne, and Dmitri Pittas; baritone Matthew Worth; bass-baritone Kostas Smoriginas; and basses Dimitry Ivashchenko, Lorenzo Regazzo, and Andrea Silvestrelli. *Returning to Atlanta are:* sopranos Barbara Hannigan, Georgia Jarman, Sylvia McNair, and Jessica Rivera; mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor; tenor Thomas Glenn; and baritone Denis Sedov.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS AND CHAMBER CHORUS

During the 2009–10 Season, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Choruses will be featured in seven concert programs including Stravinsky's *The Nightingale*, Mahler's Symphony No. 3, Verdi's *Requiem*, and the world premiere of Atlanta School of Composers Michael Gandolfi's new choral work.

Acclaimed for the beauty and expressiveness of its singing, the 200-member **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus** have been directed by Norman Mackenzie since 1999, following the death of its founder, the legendary Robert Shaw, who founded the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus. Mr. Mackenzie had worked closely with Mr. Shaw for 14 years, and under his current direction, the chorus has won two Grammy® Awards for Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* and the Berlioz Requiem, and conducted the ASO Chamber Chorus in its own Telarc recording of Vaughan Williams's Mass in G minor. Mr. Mackenzie recently prepared the Chorus for performance with the ASO at Carnegie Hall in April 2008, as well as its Berlin Philharmonic debut in 2003 under Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. The ASO Chorus will perform with the Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in November 2009, and have been invited to perform with Donald Runnicles and the Berlin Philharmonic for a third time in December 2009 to sing Brahms's *A German Requiem*. The work will be sung in German.

Norman Mackenzie has been Director of Choruses since 1999, following the death of the legendary Robert Shaw, who founded the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus. Mr. Mackenzie had worked closely with Mr. Shaw for 14 years and is building and creating anew upon the foundation that is the Robert Shaw Chorus. Under Mr. Mackenzie, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus has won two Grammy® Awards for Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* and the Berlioz Requiem, and conducted the ASO Chamber Chorus in its own Telarc recording. Mr. Mackenzie prepared the ASO Chorus for its acclaimed Berlin Philharmonic debut in Britten's *War Requiem* conducted by ASO Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles in 2003. In November 2009 he returns with them to Carnegie Hall and in December 2009, he will lead them for their third engagement with the Berlin Philharmonic.

(more)

VERIZON WIRELESS AMPHITHEATRE AT ENCORE PARK

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will open the second classical season of its summer home, Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. The concert will be led by Music Director Robert Spano, and feature excerpts from Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

The 12,000-seat, state-of-the-art venue — nominated by Pollstar Concert Industry Awards as 2008 “Best New Major Concert Venue” and “Best Major Outdoor Concert Venue,” — serves as the summer home to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The Amphitheatre opened on May 10, 2008 with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, followed by four sold out Eagles concerts on May 14, 16, 17, and 20, 2008. The inaugural classical concert season featured Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in an array of programs including a concert-staged production of Puccini's *La Bohème*, a 4th of July spectacular, a free concert for the community, plus artists including Garrick Ohlsson, Robert McDuffie, Julie Andrews, Robert Osborne (Turner Classic Movies), and the Marcus Roberts Trio. The popular concert season featured the Eagles, John Mayer, Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Rush, Stone Temple Pilots, Alan Jackson, and Rod Stewart, among others. The Amphitheatre is located in the northern suburbs of Atlanta, minutes from GA 400 and North Point Mall in Alpharetta, Ga., and a 30-minute drive from midtown Atlanta.

In addition to the June 20 opening, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform seven other concerts in the summer of 2009: On Saturday, June 27, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., an all-Mozart evening will be led by conductor Grant Llewellyn, featuring pianist Pedja Muzijevic, plus the Overture to *Marriage of Figaro*, and Symphony No. 41, “Jupiter;” A “Yankee Doodle Dandy” celebration will take place on Friday, July 4, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. with conductor Bridget Reischl; On Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow and ASO Assistant Conductor Mei-Ann Chen will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus in Holst's *The Planets* featuring NASA footage of the solar system. Also on the program is Richard Strauss's Prelude to *Also sprach Zarathustra*, and John Williams's Suite from *Star Wars*; On Saturday, July 25, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., conductor Hugh Wolff will lead an all-Beethoven concert; On Saturday, August 1, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., Richard Kaufman will return to Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park to lead the Orchestra in an evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein, hosted by Turner Classic Movies' Robert Osborne; On Saturday, August 15, 2009, at 8:00 p.m., rising conductor Ilyich Rivas will make his U.S. debut leading a major American Orchestra. On this program is Verdi's *Vespre* Overture, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with violinist Elena Urioste. (See separate release for full details and chronological listing.)

- As part of the annual Starbucks Free Parks Concerts, the ASO will perform a free concert for the community at the Amphitheatre. Details will be announced.
- The Dave Matthews Band is the first of the popular-season concerts to go on sale at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, with performances Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28 and 29, 2009. Kenny Chesney will perform Thursday, May 28, 2009. Additional concerts will be announced.
- On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce will hold its 36th Annual Chairman's Gala at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park.

(more)

- On Saturday, May 23, 2009, the local Alpharetta High School Class of 2009 will hold their graduation at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, the first of many community events to take place at the venue.

For up-to-date concert listings and information, visit vzwamp.com.

DELTA CLASSIC CHASTAIN

The 2009 Delta Classic Chastain season will open on Friday, June 5, 2009 with Pink Martini, and conclude in August 2009. Additional concerts will be announced.

Consistently hailed as one of the South's favorite concert experiences by media and music lovers alike, Delta Classic Chastain will once again be held at the beautiful Chastain Park Amphitheater located in the leafy suburb of Buckhead in Atlanta, Ga. Encouraging patrons to bring their own food, wine and spirits to help enhance their concert experience, Chastain Park Amphitheater is a perennial choice in *Pollstar* magazine's annual listing of top U.S. outdoor venues, and has been nominated for the 2008 "Red Rocks Award For Small Outdoor Venue." Chastain Park Amphitheater is a City of Atlanta venue, and is operated by Chastain Ventures, a joint venture between the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Live Nation. A time-honored and revered tradition, Classic Chastain has also been recognized as a favorite outdoor music experience by readers of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Creative Loafing*, and more.

For up-to-date concerts listings and information, visit classicchastain.com.

ON THE AIR

- On Thursday, January 14, 2010, Robert Spano will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 18th annual tribute concert to Martin Luther King, Jr., entitled "A King Celebration." The concert will be recorded for a broadcast to nearly 250 radio stations across the country on American Public Media's *Performance Today* on Monday, January 18, 2010. Hosted by Fred Child, the broadcast reaches an international radio audience of more than 2.5 million listeners. The concert, in partnership with Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, The King Center, and Target, will take place in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel of Morehouse College featuring the Atlanta Symphony with the Morehouse and Spelman College Glee Clubs.
- In February 2010, the Atlanta Symphony will launch another season of local broadcasts with 90.1 FM WABE, a partnership spanning more than 25 years. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's "Master Season Concerts," hosted by WABE's Lois Reitzes, will air Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m., including conversations with the conductors and soloists.
- The Atlanta Symphony returns to Georgia Public Radio for a sixth season of statewide broadcasts in March 2010 with 26 concerts from the Orchestra's season. Hosted by Sarah Zaslaw, the broadcasts air on Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m., with commentary from conductors, guest artists, and members of the Atlanta Symphony; a rebroadcast airs on Sundays at 10:00 p.m. over most stations of the GPB Radio network.

(more)

“INSIDE THE MUSIC” PRE-CONCERT LECTURES

“Inside the Music” pre-concert lectures take place one hour before the start of all Thursday evening classical concerts, on stage at Atlanta Symphony Hall unless otherwise noted, and are open to all concert weekend ticket holders. ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer, as well as special guests, offer a lively and informative discussion about the composers, music, and performers of the evening.

CONVERSATIONS OF NOTE

Moderated by ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer, the Conversations of Note series offers the opportunity to explore how art, history, and society intertwine from the perspective of its creators and foremost interpreters, including live music and dialogue with Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles. These intimate conversations provide participants with a unique view into the world of music.

ASO AROUND GEORGIA

For six decades, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has had an historic engagement and connection with Georgia communities through a series of local community concerts and engagement activities spanning 30 counties and 60 communities. In the 2009–10 season, “ASO Around Georgia” will take the Orchestra to Athens on Thursday, November 5, 2009; Savannah on Thursday, March 18, 2009, to open the Savannah Music Festival; as well as Callaway Gardens, Rabun Gap, and Waleska.

A King Celebration Concert and The ASO Around Georgia are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

ATLANTASYMPHONY.ORG

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra recently launched a newly-designed website, at **atlantasympphony.org**, in conjunction with the opening of the 2008–09 season. The redesigned site boasts streamlined navigation, restructured information architecture, and a new content management system. The site also offers single-ticket buyers the opportunity to “Select Your Own Seat” at Symphony Hall, providing patrons with real-time availability.

In addition to the site’s new easy-to-use interface, other highlights include: a new menu structure offering clearer choices as well as multiple avenues for accessing information; A revamped Event Calendar with four custom views: mini, list, graphic, and print; an overview of events which can be filtered by concert series; A newly designed Media Center with online photo albums, videos, and other new media initiatives, plus sound clips of upcoming concerts; downloadable program notes two weeks in advance of any concert; an online newsroom; and more.

All of this and more at: **atlantasympphony.org**.

(more)

RECORDINGS

In the 2009–10 season, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will record Atlanta School of Composers Jennifer Higdon and Michael Gandolfi's new works: Ms. Higdon's Concerto for eighth blackbird, and Mr. Gandolfi's new choral work.

The Grammy® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 31-year relationship with Telarc has been among the longest of any major American orchestra. The Atlanta Symphony, winner of 26 Grammy Awards, has two recordings nominated by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) for Grammy® Awards. The 2008 Telarc recording of Puccini's *La Bohème*, the first American recording of the opera since 1956, has been nominated for "Best Engineered Album, Classical" (Michael Bishop, engineer — Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus); and the Telarc recording of Atlanta School of Composers Michael Gandolfi's *The Garden of Cosmic Speculation* has been nominated for "Best Classical Contemporary Composition" (Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra). The work was an ASO commission. Winners will be announced at the 51st Annual Grammy® Awards Ceremony, to be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at Staples Center in Los Angeles, and will be broadcast live on CBS at 8:00 p.m. (ET).

THE DECORATORS' SHOW HOUSE AND GARDENS

The Decorators' Show House & Gardens will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2010 with a host of events and celebrations to mark the occasion. Benefiting the Learning Community, the ASO's arts education program, The Decorators' Show House & Gardens has been a major component of the ASA's contribution to the ASO since 1970. Each spring the public is treated to a transformation of a carefully selected Buckhead residence that is given a makeover by a team of metro Atlanta's best interior and landscape designers. In addition to more than 20 design professionals donating their time and talent to this worthy project, over 2,000 volunteers staff the house during its three-week run. Past Show Houses include the Peacock House, White Hall, Holland Park and most recently the St. Regis Residencies.

THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has been playing educational concerts for young people, and taking its music into schools, hospitals, and community centers since its earliest days. The Orchestra now offers a wide spectrum of engaging and entertaining musical experiences for all ages — in Atlanta Symphony Hall, and throughout the greater Atlanta area.

Each year the Orchestra's commitment to music for young people has expanded to create a wider variety of musical and educational experiences for citizens of all ages. ASO musicians travel throughout the greater Atlanta area, partnering with community groups and schools to perform concerts in small community venues, coaching young musicians and providing classical music education for all ages. The programs are designed to educate, stimulate interest in classical music, and create musical opportunities for people who may not otherwise have access to them.

The Learning Community at the ASO is generously funded in part by The Zeist Foundation.

(more)

Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra

Since 1974, the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra has provided Atlanta's top, student instrumentalists with an opportunity to perform orchestral masterworks under the finest conductors. Annually, nearly 400 high school instrumentalists audition for the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra — standards are high, and approximately 120 students are selected to work under the guidance of conductors and players from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Many of the Youth Orchestra's members have gone on to study in conservatories and university music departments.

In 2006, Collective Soul, the multi-platinum recording pop artists, requested that the ASYO perform with them for the band's first live DVD entitled "Home: A Live Concert Recording With the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra" recorded live at two sold-out Atlanta performances. The two-CD set of the 20-song collection that followed won such widespread attention that several members of the ASYO appeared on NBC's Tonight Show.

During its 35th anniversary season in 2009–10, the students will perform three ASYO subscription concerts, four holiday performances, and one family concert (see chronological listing of concert dates). Programming to be announced. The ASYO is presented by GE Energy.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Staff Conductor **Jere Flint** leads a musical-triple life: he leads the Atlanta Symphony during the Orchestra's popular Family Concerts series and Symphony Street concerts for youngsters; and he also regularly conducts on the Classic Chastain pops series at Chastain Park. As Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra (holder of the Zeist Foundation Chair), he directs ASYO rehearsals and three major concerts a year, as well as other special concerts throughout the season. And when not on the podium, Mr. Flint is a member of the ASO's cello section, where he has performed for more than three decades.

Talent Development Program

Established in 1993, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Talent Development Program was the first intense training program by a major American orchestra to support talented, young African-American and Latino students of every orchestral instrument who desire to pursue classical music. One hundred percent of students completing the Talent Development Program graduated from high school and continued on to college, many attending leading conservatories, or college or university music departments, including: Oberlin Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, New England Conservatory of Music, and the Curtis Institute of Music, among others.

The excellence of the Program has been achieved through lessons and chamber instruction — from master teachers — combined with the benefits of the summer music program experiences. TDP students are guided by ASO musicians (or equally qualified instructors) who serve as their private teachers and mentors, and the distinction of the Program is reflected through TDP students becoming finalists in the national Sphinx Competition, featured guests on the NPR's "From the Top," and solo performers with the ASO in National Black Arts Festival concerts, donor appreciation concerts, and the ASO's King Celebration concerts. TDP students comprise a significant segment of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and regularly place in the top All-State ensembles (many in principal positions). In addition, through the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund, the Program provides financial assistance to these students to attend leading summer music study programs.

The TDP annually includes 25 students ranging from 4th to 12th grade, most of whom remain in the Program through high school graduation. Cellist and TDP graduate, Ismail Akbar, recently secured

(more)

a one-year appointment with the Augusta Symphony Orchestra, the second TDP graduate to secure a position with a professional orchestra. In 2007, bassist and TDP graduate Eric Thompson was appointed to a one-year position at the Charlotte Symphony — he now holds a permanent position there.

The annual TDP Fall Musicale, a student performance showcase, will be held in October 2009, and the TDP Junior and Senior Recitals will be held in May 2010. Details to be announced.

The Talent Development Program as part of The Learning Community at the ASO is generously funded in part by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

Kids with Strings

Kids with Strings (KWS) is a collaboration between the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and Beacon of Hope's Renaissance Learning Center (RLC), and is jointly administered by both parties. The program introduces school-age children to classical music through an interactive, entertaining, and engaging music curriculum. The program offers access and education through daily classroom instruction, facilitated interactions with ASO students and musicians, and concert attendance. The program provides underserved children with access to quality music education, and a positive introduction to classical music. It also identifies and encourages individuals with musical talent and strengthens communities and families through music education.

Kids With Strings grants intensive instrumental instruction to 20-25 students between the ages of 3 and 12, and access to classical music to all other RLC students. A feeder program for the Talent Development Program, KWS will become a model for other music-education initiatives.

Humana awarded a \$100,000 signature grant to launch Kids with Strings, a joint initiative between the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Beacon of Hope Renaissance Learning Center.

Rhythm In Time

For the past eleven years, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Learning Community has created programs geared towards educating, sharing and building community through music. Annually, its community engagement component reaches over 13,000 Metro Atlanta residents. ASO musicians perform over 1,400 hours of community service each year through classroom contact, neighborhood chamber music concerts, and interaction with members of community service organizations. The Learning Community also reaches nearly 50,000 Atlanta area school children through school day concerts and expanded learning materials.

The ASO is now endeavoring to work with Metro Atlanta neighborhoods to completely re-imagine the way that it interacts with the city of Atlanta. This ground-breaking program, entitled, *Rhythm In Time: A Community Experience*, seeks to build community partnerships that will create unique and meaningful experiences, with original programming, while building bridges across the city of Atlanta.

Over the course of three years, each Rhythm in Time Community will progress through three programmatic cycles with distinct goals. *Year One: Explore* has a goal of determining the “who, what, when, where, why and how” of the partnership, with a focus on building trust and relationships within the community. *Year Two: Engage* will evaluate the model created during year one, improving the effectiveness of the services to students in the community. *Year Three: Envision* is

(more)

designed to allow the ASO and community to envision how a continuation of the program will continue as new communities are added to Rhythm In Time.

In the 2008–09 season, the Atlanta area known as Midtown South, encompassing the lower half of Midtown below North Avenue (the old Fourth Ward), and part of the Morningside/Highland area, was selected as the first zone of the initiative. Partnerships have been established with Centennial Place Elementary School, Inman Middle School, Grady High School and the Renaissance Learning Center to provide music education to the children of the neighborhood. During the 2009–10 season, a second Atlanta area will be added, bringing two communities into the fold of the ASO’s Rhythm In Time initiative.

Rhythm in Time is funded in part by MetLife’s Music for Life Initiative.

Concerts for Young People

Each year, the ASO brings close to 30,000 upper elementary and middle school students to Symphony Hall to hear “Discover” and “neXt Generation” concerts, including national award-winning in-school teaching tools to intertwine the concerts with the Georgia music curriculum. An additional 10,000 pre-school through second-grade students hear the Atlanta Symphony in schools and venues around the city at “Symphony Street” concerts, designed to introduce young listeners to the Orchestra and its instruments, while featuring singing, dancing, and easily-accessible music.

SUBSCRIBING AND PURCHASING TICKETS

Season Ticket packages for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s 2009–2010 season are on sale now. Information on becoming a subscriber is available by phone from the ASO Season Ticket Office at (404) 733-4800, or online at **atlantasymphony.org**. Tickets to individual concerts will go on sale to the general public in August 2009.

TICKET INFORMATION

Delta Classical Series

6-concert series	Prices start at \$108
12-concert series	Prices start at \$213
18-concert series	Prices start at \$315
24-concert series	Prices start at \$408

nsoro SuperPOPS! Prices start at \$114 for the 6-concert series

Compose Your Own Series Prices start at \$160 for an 8-concert series combining Delta Classical and nsoro SuperPOPS! series concerts

Family Concert Series Prices range from \$45 to \$60 for the 4-concert series

ASO Special Presentations

Lang Lang Prices range from \$29 to \$80
(Only available as an additional purchase with a season ticket purchase)

(more)

Coca-Cola Holiday Concerts

ASO Kids' Christmas	Prices range from \$15 to \$22
Christmas with the ASO	Prices range from \$29 to \$62
Handel's Messiah	Prices range from \$29 to \$59
Gospel Christmas	Prices range from \$15 to \$42
A Very Merry Holiday Pops	Prices range from \$18 to \$48
ASO New Year's Eve	Prices range from \$30 to \$68

(Only available as an additional purchase with a season ticket purchase)

Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerts

Fall, Winter, and Spring concerts Prices range from \$8 to \$12

Group Sales

The ASO's group sales program offers discounts to any company, organization or civic group. Groups of 10 or more can enjoy discounted tickets, priority seating, and convenient service by calling the Group Sales Hotline at (404) 733-4848 or emailing asogroups@woodruffcenter.org.

Corporate Sales

The ASO's corporate sales program offers specially priced tickets for your company through our corporate email program. To sign up, call Russell Wheeler, Corporate Sales Manager at (404) 733-4807 or email russell.wheeler@woodruffcenter.org.

Individual Concert Tickets – On Sale August 2009

To purchase single tickets by phone, concertgoers may call (404) 733-5000; purchase in person at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office (located at 15th and Peachtree Streets); or visit the Orchestra online at atlantasymphony.org.

Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park – On Sale Monday, March 9, 2009

Tickets may be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com, by calling 1-800-745-3000 or by visiting any Ticketmaster outlet, including Publix Super Markets. Additional seating and ticket information for orchestral concerts will be announced.

The Starbucks Free Parks Concert for the community will be a free event, but will require tickets. Details will be announced.

Additional concert and ticket information for popular concerts will be announced.

ABOUT THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Director Robert Spano, currently in his eighth season as music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, is recognized internationally as one of the most imaginative conductors today. Since 2001 he has invigorated and expanded the Orchestra's repertoire while elevating the ensemble to new levels of international prominence and acclaim.

The Orchestra and audiences together explore a creative programming mix, recordings, and visual enhancements, such as Theater of a Concert, the Orchestra's continuing exploration of different formats, settings, and enhancements for the musical performance experience, such as the first concert-staged performances of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* in November 2008. The Atlanta

(more)

School of Composers reflects Mr. Spano and the Orchestra's commitment to nurturing and championing music through multi-year partnerships defining a new generation of American composers, including Osvaldo Golijov, Jennifer Higdon, Christopher Theofanidis, and Michael Gandolfi. Since the beginning of his tenure, Mr. Spano and the ASO have performed nearly 100 contemporary works (composed since 1950), including seven ASO-commissioned world premieres, two additional world premieres, and one U.S. premiere.

Last season, Mr. Spano conducted and recorded the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Puccini's *La Bohème*, the first American recording of the opera since 1956. It was released by Telarc in conjunction with the semi-staged performance he led at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, the Orchestra's new state-of-the-art 12,000 seat venue in Alpharetta, Ga., where he conducted all of the orchestral concerts in the inaugural season.

Mr. Spano continues to expand the discography of the Atlanta Symphony to include the music of Atlanta School of Composers Christopher Theofanidis, Jennifer Higdon, and Michael Gandolfi, as well as John Adams, David Del Tredici, Sibelius' *Kullervo*, Brahms's *Requiem*, a recently-released live recording of *La Bohème* and the Grammy® Award-winning recordings of Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* and Berlioz's *Requiem*. Mr. Spano and the ASO have also recently recorded two discs of the music by Atlanta School of Composers Osvaldo Golijov for Deutsche Grammophon: one including *Three Songs* and *Oceana*, and the other including the chamber opera *Ainadamar*, which was awarded two Grammys. In 2008, Robert Spano was named *Musical America* Conductor of the Year.

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles is currently in his eighth year of the Creative Partnership with Music Director Spano and President and CEO Allison Vulgamore. One of today's most consistently acclaimed conductors of both opera and symphonic repertoire, Mr. Runnicles has been Music Director and Principal Conductor of the San Francisco Opera since 1992, and is Music Director of the Grand Teton Music Festival. In 2009, he will become General Music Director of the Deutsche Oper Berlin and Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Orchestra.

Mr. Runnicles's acclaimed recordings with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra include a concert disc with soprano Christine Brewer singing Strauss and Wagner, and a new Strauss disc recorded live in Atlanta Symphony Hall. With the ASO, Mr. Runnicles has also recorded the Mozart *Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and a Britten album. In the 2009–10 season, Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus have accepted a third invitation to return to the Berlin Philharmonic, December 17–19, 2009, to perform Brahms's *A German Requiem*. The work will be sung in German. Prior to this, Mr. Runnicles and the ASO Chorus will perform the work with the ASO at Atlanta Symphony Hall, October 29 and 30, 2009.

Mr. Runnicles has ongoing musical relationships with today's finest orchestras and opera companies. Among the more than 60 productions he has conducted at San Francisco Opera was the 2005 world premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*.

President and CEO Allison Vulgamore was named President of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1993, and given the additional title of Managing Director in 2002. Now as President and CEO, Ms. Vulgamore leads the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as a model of strategic planning, talent and

(more)

business development, and patron enrichment, leveraging the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra nationally and internationally. During Ms. Vulgamore's tenure, the Grammy® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra initiated planning for a new home for the Orchestra; acquired the national teleservices company SD&A; doubled the Orchestra's endowment; and on May 10, 2008, opened the 12,000-seat Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, making it the first U.S. orchestra to annually perform and present in its concert hall, and in two amphitheatres. In June 2008, the Orchestra celebrated 35 years at legendary Chastain Park Amphitheater, the award-winning 6,500-seat venue in Atlanta, where it presents the Delta Classic Chastain concert series. Together with Music Director Robert Spano and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles, Ms. Vulgamore established the groundbreaking Creative Partnership that has shaped the artistic direction of the Orchestra since 2001.

The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**, currently in its 64th season, is one of America's leading orchestras, known for the excellence of its live performances, presentations, renowned choruses, and its impressive list of Grammy® Award-winning recordings. The leading cultural organization in the Southeast, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra serves as the cornerstone for artistic development and music education in the region. Under the Creative Partnership of Music Director Robert Spano, Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles, and President and CEO Allison Vulgamore since September 2001, the Orchestra and audiences together explore a creative programming mix, recordings, and visual enhancements, such as the ASO Theater of a Concert, the Orchestra's continuing exploration of different formats, settings, and enhancements for the musical performance experience. Another example is the Atlanta School of Composers, which reflects Mr. Spano and the Orchestra's commitment to nurturing and championing music through multi-year partnerships defining a new generation of American composers.

During its 31-year history with Telarc, the Orchestra has recorded more than 100 albums and its recordings have won 26 Grammy Awards in categories including Best Classical Album, Best Orchestral Performance, Best Choral Performance, and Best Opera Performance. The ASO Chorus has earned nine Grammy® Awards for Best Choral Performance, most recently for the Berlioz Requiem in 2005.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performs more than 200 concerts each year to a combined audience of more than a half million in a full schedule of performances which also feature educational and community concerts. A recognized leader and supporter of contemporary American music, the Orchestra recently received the 2007 award for Strongest Commitment to New American Music from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. In addition, Music Director Robert Spano was named *Musical America* 2008 Conductor of the Year. With the opening of the 12,000-seat Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park (**vzwamp.com**) in May 2008, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra became the first U.S. orchestra to annually perform and present in its concert hall, and in two amphitheatres. In Summer 2008, the Orchestra celebrated 35 years at legendary Chastain Park Amphitheater, the award-winning 6,500 seat venue in Atlanta, during the ASO's annual Delta Classic Chastain concert series (**classicchastain.com**).

Acclaimed for the beauty and expressiveness of its singing, the 200-member **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus** has been directed by Norman Mackenzie since 1999, following the death of its founder, the legendary Robert Shaw, who founded the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus. Mr. Mackenzie had worked closely with Mr. Shaw for 14 years, and under his current direction, the chorus has won two Grammy Awards for Vaughan

(more)

Williams's *A Sea Symphony* and the Berlioz Requiem, and conducted the ASO Chamber Chorus in its own Telarc recording of Vaughan Williams's Mass in G minor. Mr. Mackenzie recently prepared the Chorus for performance with the ASO at Carnegie Hall in April 2008, as well as its Berlin Philharmonic debut in 2003 under Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. In May 2008, they returned with Mr. Runnicles to Berlin for their second engagement with the acclaimed German orchestra. The Chorus will perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in November 2009, and have been invited to perform with Donald Runnicles and the Berlin Philharmonic in December 2009 for the third time.

The **Woodruff Arts Center** is the largest arts center in the Southeast as well as one of the largest in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opening in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center, please visit **woodruffcenter.org**.

* * *

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's special artistic initiatives surrounding The Atlanta School of Composers, Theater of a Concert, recordings, commissions, and premieres in the 2008–2009 Season are generously funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Funding is provided directly by the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of Atlanta, Office of Cultural Affairs; and the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts. Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Commission under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council.

#

Additional contacts:

Jennifer Scott, Shuman Associates
(212) 315-1300, jscott@shumanassociates.net

Caren West, Caren West/PR
(404) 614-0001, caren@carewestpr.com