

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GUEST CONDUCTOR ROBERTO ABBADO TO LEAD THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN TWO WEEKS OF CONCERTS  
FEBRUARY 11-13, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 18-20, 2010**

**First Program To Feature Atlanta Premiere Of Two Mozart Church Sonatas For Organ And Strings, The *Coronation Mass*, And Beethoven's Symphony No. 1**

**Second Program To Feature Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1  
With Violinist Leila Josefowicz  
And Schubert's Symphony No. 9**

Guest Conductor Roberto Abbado returns to lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in two weeks of programming. The first program, February 11-13, 2010 at 8:00 p.m., features the Atlanta Premiere of two Mozart Church Sonatas for Organ, the *Coronation Mass*, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 1. The second program, February 18-20, 2010 at 8:00 p.m., features Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 with guest soloist Leila Josefowicz, and Schubert's Symphony No. 9. Both concerts are at Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center.

**Fanfare Pre-Concert Dinner Buffet**

A great ASO tradition returns in the 2009-2010 season — *Fanfare*, the pre-concert buffet-style dining by Restaurant Associates, will be available to all concertgoers at all Delta Classical, Superpops, and Coca-Cola Holiday concert-evening performances from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m... [\(more\)](#)

**Concert Preview Talks**

Audiences have the opportunity to learn more about the music they'll be hearing at concerts with free [Concert Previews](#), hosted by ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer. Join Mr. Meltzer and his special guests, composers, conductors, and musicians for lively and informative discussions. All concert previews are located in Atlanta Symphony Hall and are **free and open to all concert ticket-holders**. (Speakers and locations are subject to change.)

## **About the Repertoire**

### **Program I**

MOZART (1756-1791)

Church Sonata in C Major

In September of 1777, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart left his native Salzburg and began an 18-month journey to Munich, Augsburg, Mannheim and Paris. Mozart felt his talents were not appreciated in Salzburg, and hoped his travels would lead to new employment opportunities... [\(more\)](#)

MOZART (1756-1791)

*Coronation Mass*

In September of 1777, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart left his native Salzburg and began an 18-month journey to Munich, Augsburg, Mannheim and Paris. Mozart felt his talents were not appreciated in Salzburg, and hoped his travels would lead to new employment opportunities ... [\(more\)](#)

BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Symphony No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven completed the first of his Nine Symphonies in 1800. This was one of the happiest periods in Beethoven's life, a time when the young musician was dazzling Vienna with his unique and remarkable talents as a composer and piano virtuoso ... [\(more\)](#)

### **Program II**

MOZART (1756-1791)

Overture to *La clemenza di Tito*

During the last years of Mozart's brief life, he was plagued by financial problems, a product both of the troubled Viennese economy and the composer's own fiscal irresponsibility. Mozart was often reduced to begging for money from associates and friends—his letters to Michael Puchberg offer a heartbreaking glimpse into this tragic period in the composer's life ... [\(more\)](#)

PROKOFIEV

Violin Concerto No. 1

In 1917, Russia was in the grips of the Revolution that led to the overthrow of the Czarist regime. Sergei Prokofiev chose to distance himself—physically and emotionally—from these turbulent events. As Prokofiev recalled in his autobiography: “I spent the summer of 1917 in the country near St. Petersburg all alone, reading Kant and working a great deal ...” [\(more\)](#)

SCHUBERT

Symphony No. 9

At the end of March in 1824, Franz Schubert was already suffering the ravages of the disease that, in all likelihood, caused his untimely death four years later ... [\(more\)](#)

## About the Artists

### Program I

Acclaimed as "a conductor you want to hear again and again," **Roberto Abbado's** crisp, dramatic music-making, instinctive lyricism and evocative command of varied composers and styles have made him an esteemed conductor among orchestras and opera companies today... [\(more\)](#)

Winner of a 2008 Sullivan Foundation grant and a finalist in the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, American soprano **Kiera Duffy** is recognized for both her gleaming high soprano and insightful musicianship, and is enjoying a flourishing concert and operatic career in repertoire that spans from Handel and Praetorius to the new sounds of Elliott Carter and John Zorn... [\(more\)](#)

Hungarian-Canadian mezzo-soprano **Krisztina Szabó** has become highly sought in both North America and Europe as an artist of supreme musicianship and stagecraft. The *Chicago Tribune* exclaimed, "Krisztina Szabó stole her every scene with her powerful, mahogany voice and deeply poignant immersion in the empress' plight" after her performance of Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* ... [\(more\)](#)

With assured musicality and the varied tonal palette of a lieder specialist, Canadian lyric tenor **Colin Balzer's** 2008-2009 season includes the title role of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Edmonton, Haydn's *Die Schoepfung* with Yoav Talmi and the Quebec Symphony, Haendel's *Messiah* with the Calgary Philharmonic, the Mozart *Requiem* with the National Philharmonic ... [\(more\)](#)

The *New York Times* declared that **Matthew Burns** "has a beautiful bass-baritone voice ... He manages the tricky feat of portraying (Blitch) as both sympathetic and credibly bad" following recent performances of *Susannah* ... [\(more\)](#)

Acclaimed for the beauty, precision and expressive qualities of their singing, the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Choruses** have been an important part of the Orchestra's programming since their founding by the late Robert Shaw. Both the ASO Chorus and Chamber Chorus are composed entirely of volunteers, who meet weekly for rehearsals and perform with the ASO several times each season. They are also featured on the majority of the ASO's recordings, having garnered 14 Grammy awards (9 for Best Choral Performance; 4 for Best Classical Recording and 1 for Best Opera Recording) ... [\(more\)](#)

### Program II

Acclaimed as "a conductor you want to hear again and again," **Roberto Abbado's** crisp, dramatic music-making, instinctive lyricism and evocative command of varied composers and styles have made him an esteemed conductor among orchestras and opera companies today... [\(more\)](#)

**Leila Josefowicz** is a violinist who is captivating audiences with her technically precise and emotionally resonant performances of both traditional and contemporary works. Since her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of sixteen, Josefowicz has blossomed into one of today's preeminent soloists, performing around the globe with the world's most prestigious orchestras and conductors ... [\(more\)](#)

## **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**, now in its 65th season, is considered 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... ([more](#))

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This concert is part of the Delta Classical Concert Series. **Delta Air Lines** is the Official Airline of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

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Single tickets for these performances are \$20 to \$75. All single for the 2009-2010 are now available online at [atlantasympphony.org](http://atlantasympphony.org) or by calling **(404) 733-5000**. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Woodruff Arts Center Box Office** located in the Woodruff Arts Center at 15th and Peachtree Streets. Box office hours are Monday through Friday 10am-8pm, and Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 8pm.

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### **ROBERTO ABBADO CONDUCTS Delta Classical Series**

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 13, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Roberto Abbado, conductor  
Kiera Duffy, soprano  
Krisztina Szabó, mezzo-soprano  
Colin Balzer, tenor  
Matthew Burns, bass

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MOZART	Sonata No. 13 in C Major
MOZART	<i>Coronation Mass</i>
MOZART	Sonata No. 12 in C Major
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 1

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**ROBERTO ABBADO AND LEILA JOSEFOWICZ**  
**Delta Classical Series**

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 19, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 20, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Roberto Abbado, conductor

Leila Josefowicz, violin

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MOZART

PROKOFIEV

SCHUBERT

Overture to *La clemenza di Tito*

Violin Concerto No. 1

Symphony No. 9

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