FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contacts: Melissa A.E. Sanders
(404) 733-4846, *melissa.sanders@woodruffcenter.org*
Kimberly Nogi
(404) 733-4105, *kimberly.nogi@woodruffcenter.org*

PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR DONALD RUNNICLES TO LEAD ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN TWO WEEKS OF CONCERTS

First Program To Include Atlanta Symphony Premiere of Britten Violin Concerto With Guest Violinist James Ehnes

Second Program To Feature Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, With Soprano Nicole Cabell and Mezzo-Soprano Kelley O'Connor

ORCHESTRA TO HOST PRE-CONCERT CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL JANUARY 19, 2012

MR. RUNNICLES TO LEAD READING SESSION WITH ATLANTA SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles, who is celebrating his 11th season of artistic partnership with Music Director Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, will lead the Orchestra in Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony January 19 and 21, at 8:00 p.m., and January 22, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center. Guest violinist James Ehnes will join the Orchestra for the Atlanta Symphony premiere of Britten's Violin Concerto. These performances will mark Mr. Ehnes's second appearance with the Orchestra, as well as his second collaboration with Mr. Runnicles and the Orchestra in Atlanta.

Prior to the performance on Thursday, January 19, 2012, members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will host a pre-concert chamber music recital from 6:45–7:30 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall. The program will include the First Movement of Beethoven's "Archduke" Piano Trio and Mahler's Piano Quartet, and will feature the following Orchestra musicians: Violins William Pu and Olga Shpitko, Viola Lachlan McBane, Cellos Karen Freer and Brad Ritchie, and Pianist Peter Marshall. The chamber music recital is **free and open to all concert ticket holders**.

The following week, Mr. Runnicles will lead the Orchestra in Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony January 26 and 28, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center. The program will feature the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, as well as Soprano Nicole Cabell and Mezzo-Soprano Kelley O'Connor. The performance on January 28 is dedicated to Robert C. Lower,

who was a charter member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and a partner of Alston & Bird for 39 years.

Ms. Cabell and Ms. O'Connor are both frequent guests, and friends, of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Ms. O'Connor was recently featured in the Orchestra's June 2011 ASO Media release of Lieberson's *Neruda Songs* and Atlanta School of Composers member Christopher Theofanidis's Symphony No. 1.

Additionally, Mr. Runnicles will lead a reading session with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra during a rehearsal in late January. This will mark his first collaboration with the Youth Orchestra.

About the Repertoire

BRITTEN **Violin Concerto**

In 1938, English composer Benjamin Britten and his lifelong partner, tenor Peter Pears, received a visitor at their home in Snape, near Aldeburgh… (more)

BEETHOVEN **Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"**

The story of Beethoven's dedication of his Third Symphony, the "Eroica," is one the most compelling in the history of concert music... (more)

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MAHLER **Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"**

Gustav Mahler's epic "Resurrection" Symphony was the product of an extended and mighty struggle. Mahler composed the various movements in fits and starts over a seven-year period. Even after Mahler had completed four of the Symphony's five movements, the composer despaired that he would never be able to fashion a suitable conclusion... (more)

About the Artists

Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles is currently in his 11th year of artistic partnership with Music Director Robert Spano... (more)

Violinist James Ehnes was born in 1976 in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. He began violin studies at the age of four, and at age nine he became a protégé of the noted Canadian violinist Francis Chaplin… (more)

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Soprano Nicole Cabell, the 2005 Winner of the BBC Singer of the World Competition in Cardiff and Decca recording artist, is fast becoming one of the most sought-after lyric sopranos of today… (more)

Possessing a voice of uncommon allure, musical sophistication far beyond her years, and intuitive and innate dramatic artistry, the Grammy® Award-winning **Mezzo-Soprano Kelley O'Connor** has emerged as one of the most compelling performers of her generation… (more)

The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus**, which celebrated its 40th anniversary during the 2010-11 season, is regularly acclaimed for the beauty and expressiveness of its singing… (more)

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**, currently in its 67th season, consistently affirms its position as one of America's leading Orchestras by performing great music, presenting great artists, educating, and engaging… (more)

Concert Previews

Audiences have the opportunity to learn more about the music they'll be hearing at concerts with free Concert Previews given by composers, conductors, educators, and musical experts, all hosted by ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer. Thursday evenings, 7:00–7:30 p.m. in Symphony Hall (unless otherwise noted). Concerts previews are **free and open to all concert ticket holders**. Speakers and locations are subject to change.

Fanfare Pre-Concert Dinner Buffet

An Atlanta Symphony tradition returns in the 2011–2012 season — *Fanfare*, the pre-concert buffet-style dining by Legendary Partners, will be available to all concertgoers at all evening Delta Classical, Superpops!, and the Cola-Cola Holiday concert performances from 6:00–8:00 p.m. … (more)

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The first concert is part of the Delta Classical Series.

The second concert is part of the Delta Classical Series and sponsored by Porsche Cars North America and Jim Ellis Porsche

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

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Single tickets for these performances are $21 to $79. All single tickets for the 2011–2012 season are on sale now, and available online at atlantasymphony.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 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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DONALD RUNNICLES CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S "EROICA"

Delta Classical Series

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, January 19, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 22, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Donald Runnicles, conductor
James Ehnes, violin
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BRITTEN	Violin Concerto ‡
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

‡ *denotes Atlanta Symphony Orchestra premiere*

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DONALD RUNNICLES LEADS MAHLER'S "RESURRECTION" SYMPHONY

Delta Classical Series

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 28, 2012, 8:00 p.m.

Donald Runnicles, conductor
Nicole Cabell, soprano
Kelley O'Connor, mezzo-soprano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

MAHLER	Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"

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