



**Atlanta  
Symphony**  
Orchestra

news

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTMASTER DAVID COUCHERON  
NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE MABEL DORN REEDER HONORARY CHAIR**

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has announced Concertmaster David Coucheron is the new recipient of **The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair**. The chair, which was first announced in January 2011, was established with a \$1.85 million endowment gift from the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation. Mr. Coucheron was awarded The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair at the Orchestra's annual meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012.

The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair is awarded, based on merit, for a period of five years to an Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musician who demonstrates excellence in musical artistry, leadership, collegiality, and community engagement. The chair may be granted to any tenured Orchestra member, including those who already occupy a named chair. Recipients will be awarded a one-time \$10,000 stipend at the start of their five-year term as the honoree, to be utilized for professional development.

"It is such an honor to be named the recipient of The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair," said Mr. Coucheron. "The Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the arts in the Atlanta community and I am very appreciative of their continued support of the Atlanta Symphony. Their ongoing advocacy efforts have a tremendous impact on our Orchestra and our city."

"Mrs. Reeder called Atlanta home for most of her life and wholly understood the value a fine orchestra can have to a growing city," Brian Frank, Co-Trustee of the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, has said. "Building upon her long-time support of the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair is an exceptional tribute to her love of music. The Foundation is delighted that her name and her generosity will be preserved in such a meaningful way."

"We are incredibly grateful to the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation for their generous support," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra President Stanley E. Romanstein, Ph.D. "I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair than our concertmaster, David Coucheron. In just two seasons with the Atlanta Symphony, he has demonstrated he is an incredible asset to this organization — through his passion, musicianship, innovative spirit, and commitment to music education and the Atlanta community. David perfectly exemplifies what this Orchestra stands for."

## **About David Coucheron**

**David Coucheron** joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as **Concertmaster** in September 2010. Originally from Oslo, Norway, Mr. Coucheron began playing violin at the age of three. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, his Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and his Master of Musical Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with teachers including Igor Ozim, Aaron Rosand, Lewis Kaplan, and David Takeno.

Mr. Coucheron has worked with conductors such as Robert Spano, Alan Gilbert, Michael Tilson Thomas, Simon Rattle, Mstislav Rostropovich, David Zinman, Roger Norrington, Simone Young, and Charles Dutoit, and performed as a soloist with orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra (Maxim Vengerov conducting), the Sendai Symphony Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

He has played solo recitals at the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall (London), the Kennedy Center, the Olympic Winter Games (Salt Lake City, Utah), as well as in Beograd, Serbia, and Shanghai, China. Mr. Coucheron's chamber music performances have included appearances at Suntory Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, and Alice Tully Hall. His recordings with sister, and pianist, Julie Coucheron, include "David and Julie" (Naxos/Mudi), and "Debut" (Naxos).

Some of his awards and recognitions are first prize at the Concorso Internazionale di Musica "Citta di Pinerolo" Competition in 2009 (Turin, Italy), first prize at The Princess Astrid Competition in 2002 (Trondheim, Norway), and third prize at the Manchester International Violin Competition in 2005 (Manchester, U.K.).

Mr. Coucheron plays a 1725 Stradivarius.

## **About The Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation**

Mabel Dorn Reeder (1908-2007) grew up in the small town of McCormick, South Carolina, and was passionate about making a better world for future generations. The daughter of a prominent businessman and state senator, Mrs. Reeder graduated from Greenville Women's College and attended graduate school at Columbia University in New York. She then taught elementary school for several years before marrying Thomas H. Reeder and moving to Atlanta, Georgia, where she lived until her death at 98. Today, her passions for music, education, photography, animals, travel, and history are carried on through the work of the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation.

This year the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra received a generous endowment gift from the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation to establish **The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair**.

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Brian Frank, Co-Trustee of the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, shared, "Mrs. Reeder called Atlanta home for most of her life and wholly understood the value a fine orchestra can have to a growing city. Building upon her long-time support of the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair is an exceptional tribute to her love of music. The Foundation is delighted that her name and her generosity will be preserved in such a meaningful way."

We are very grateful to the Foundation trustees for this generous investment and for the opportunity to acknowledge Mabel Dorn Reeder this evening and in perpetuity through The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair.

## **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.

The Orchestra is known for the excellence of its live performances, presentations, renowned choruses, and its impressive list of GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings. As the leading cultural organization in the Southeast, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra serves as the cornerstone for artistic development and music education in the region. Since September 2001, the Orchestra and its audiences have together explored a creative mix of programming, including Theater of a Concert performances, which explore 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. Since the beginning of his tenure (to date), Mr. Spano and the Orchestra have performed more than 100 concerts containing contemporary works (composed since 1950), and by the end of the 2011-12 season will have performed 15 Orchestra-commissioned world premieres.

During its 32-year history with Telarc, the Orchestra and Chorus recorded more than 100 albums and their recordings have won 27 GRAMMY® Awards in categories including Best Classical Album, Best Orchestral Performance, Best Choral Performance, and Best Opera Performance. The Orchestra continues to record regularly on its new in-house label, ASO Media, which demonstrates the Orchestra's commitment to celebrating classical masterworks while continuing to perform commission, premiere, and record with some of today's leading composers.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performs more than 200 concerts each year for a combined audience of more than a half million in a full schedule of performances, including 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](http://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 Orchestra's annual Delta Classic Chastain concert series ([deltaclassicchastain.com](http://deltaclassicchastain.com)).

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