FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MUSIC DIRECTOR ROBERT SPANO TO LEAD ATLANTA SYMPHONY
IN WORLD PREMIERE OF *LA LUNA AZUL*
BY ATLANTA SCHOOL OF COMPOSERS MEMBER ADAM SCHOENBERG
MARCH 1, 2 and 4, 2012

Guest Pianist André Watts
To Perform Grieg Piano Concerto

Program To Also Include Nielsen's Symphony No. 5

ORCHESTRA TO HOST PRE-CONCERT CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

Music Director Robert Spano will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the world premiere of *La Luna Azul* — a work by Atlanta School of Composers member Adam Schoenberg that was commissioned by Mr. Spano for the Orchestra. The program will also include the Grieg Piano Concerto, with frequent guest and friend of the Orchestra André Watts, and Nielsen's Symphony No. 5. The concerts will take place March 1 and 2, at 8:00 p.m., and March 4, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center.

Adam Schoenberg is the newest member of the Atlanta School of Composers — a continuing commitment by Mr. Spano and the Orchestra to nurture, commission, and record contemporary music through multi-year partnerships with a new generation of American composers. Previous Atlanta Symphony performances of Mr. Schoenberg's works include *Finding Rothko* (October 1-3, 2009), and the fanfare, *Up!* (September 30, October 1-2, 2010). *Up!* was commissioned by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in celebration of the 10-year artistic partnership of Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles, and 10 years of the Atlanta School of Composers.

Of *La Luna Azul*, Mr. Schoenberg has said, "This work is about love, lightness, curiosity, innocence, and a glimpse into the beautiful unknown. The main material evolved from a piano trio, *Luna y Mar*, which was inspired by my wife, Janine. We met in the woods of New Hampshire**,** at the MacDowell Colony where we both had residencies. The moon (*luna*) and the color blue (*azul*) have been very influential in her work as a poet, playwright, and screenwriter. I wanted to take these two ideas and see how they could inspire my own music."

Prior to the performance on Thursday, March 1, 2012, ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer and 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 selections from the Nielsen Woodwind Quintet. The chamber music recital is **free and open to all concert ticket holders**.

About the Repertoire

ADAM SCHOENBERG ***La Luna Azul***

La Luna Azul (The Blue Moon) was conceived in the form of an essay and tone poem… (more)

GRIEG **Piano Concerto**

Edvard Grieg's beloved Piano Concerto was the product of a particularly happy period in the Norwegian composer's life… (more)

NIELSEN **Symphony No. 5**

And in time, Nielsen's Fifth gained recognition as one of the finest symphonies of the 20th century, a powerfully eloquent and, ultimately, optimistic depiction of mankind's struggles… (more)

About the Artists

Music Director Robert Spano, currently in his 11th season as music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, is recognized internationally as one of the most imaginative conductors today… (more)

André Watts burst upon the music world at the age of 16 when Leonard Bernstein chose him to make his debut with the New York Philharmonic in their Young People's Concerts, broadcast nationwide on CBS-TV… (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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This concert is presented by Delta Air Lines and Merlin Wealth Management Group. **Delta Air Lines** is the Official Airline of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

The Atlanta School of Composers is presented by Turner Broadcasting System.

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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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ROBERT SPANO LEADS ADAM SCHOENBERG WORLD PREMIERE

Delta Classical Series

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, March 2, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 4, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Robert Spano, conductor
André Watts, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

ADAM SCHOENBERG	*La Luna Azul* †
GRIEG	Piano Concerto
NIELSEN	Symphony No. 5

† *denotes world premiere*

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