



### 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

# MUSIC DIRECTOR ROBERT SPANO TO LEAD ATLANTA SYMPHONY IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *DIFFERENT RIVER*BY FORMER COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE ALVIN SINGLETON MAY 10, 11, and 12, 2012

Pianist Leon Bates To Perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* 

## Program To Also Include Copland's Symphony No. 3

Music Director Robert Spano will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the world premiere of *Different River* — a new work composed by Alvin Singleton and commissioned by Mr. Spano and the Orchestra — May 10, 11, and 12, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center. Guest pianist Leon Bates will join the Orchestra for Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and the program will also include Copland's Symphony No. 3, which is most famous for its finale that quotes the beloved *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

Mr. Singleton was the Composer-in-Residence for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from 1985 to 1988, following 14 years of living and working in Europe. A Fulbright Scholar, he has garnered numerous awards throughout his compositional life, including a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts ,and the Mayor's Fellowship in the Arts Award by the City of Atlanta. Of *Different River*, Mr. Singelton has said, "It is about an ever-changing perspective on a river that is always moving... Each time you step in, you're at a different place."

Prior to the concert on <u>Thursday, May 10, 2012</u>, Mr. Singleton will join ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer for the evening's <u>Concert Preview</u> to discuss the world premiere of *Different River*. The concert preview will take place from 7:00–7:30 p.m. in Atlanta Symphony Hall and is free for all concert ticket holders.

#### **About the Repertoire**

ALVIN SINGLETON Different River

Scored for full orchestra with extra percussion, this one-movement work lasts about 25 minutes. Of the title the composer writes: it is "about an ever-changing perspective on a river that is always moving...

Robert Spano, Music Director | Donald Runnicles, Principal Guest Conductor | Michael Krajewski, Principal Pops Conductor | 1280 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 4074, Atlanta, Georgia 30309 | 404.733.4200 | facebook.com/atlantasymphony | twitter.com/atlantasymphony

Each time you step in you're at a different place." Are we in this river or observing it? And of what is it made (composed)?... (more)

GERSHWIN Rhaspsody in Blue

George Gershwin composed his *Rhapsody in Blue* at the request of his friend, bandleader Paul Whiteman. Whiteman planned to stage a concert in New York to demonstrate that American jazz "had come to stay and deserved recognition"... (more)

COPLAND Symphony No. 3

Aaron Copland was one of the most respected American classical composers of the twentieth century. By incorporating popular forms of American music such as jazz and folk into his compositions, he created pieces both exceptional and innovative... (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)

As one of America's leading pianists, **Leon Bates** has earned for himself a place on the international concert circuit. His performance schedule includes dates across the United States, in Canada, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland, England as well as Africa. He is invited to perform on the major concert stages around the world and audiences and critics find his musical spirit to possess all the elements of greatness... (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 <u>Concert Previews</u> given by composers, conductors, educators, and musical experts, all hosted by <u>ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer.</u> Thursday evenings, 7:00–7:30 p.m. in Atlanta 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 Turner Broadcasting System.

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

Turner Voices is **Turner Broadcasting**'s philanthropic initiative that focuses on building the next generation of storytellers in the arts and high school education arenas.

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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 <a href="atlantasymphony.org">atlantasymphony.org</a>, or by calling (404) 733-5000. Tickets may also be purchased at <a href="www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a>, all ticketmaster outlets, and the <a href="Woodruff Arts Center Box">Woodruff Arts Center Box</a> <a href="Office">Office</a>, 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.; and Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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#### ROBERT SPANO CONDUCTS WORLD PREMIERE OF DIFFERENT RIVER

### **Delta Classical Series**

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 11, 2012, 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8:00 p.m.

Robert Spano, conductor Leon Bates, piano Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

ALVIN SINGLETON GERSHWIN COPLAND Different River † Rhapsody in Blue Symphony No. 3

† denotes world premiere

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