

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR ROBERT SPANO AND THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TO PERFORM WORLD PREMIERE
OF WYNTON MARSALIS'S *BLUES SYMPHONY*
NOVEMBER 19-22, 2009**

**Concert To Also Feature Pianist Olli Mustonen
Performing Ravel's Piano Concerto, Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs*,
And Gershwin's *An American in Paris***

Music Director Robert Spano will lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the World Premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer-musician Wynton Marsalis's new symphonic work, *Blues Symphony*. The new work celebrates the blues through the prism of different moments in American history, and will be the first work by Marsalis composed exclusively for symphony orchestra. Mr. Marsalis will not be playing on this piece. The evening's performance will also include Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with guest pianist Olli Mustonen, Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* featuring the ASO's Principal Clarinetist Laura Ardan, and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, on November 19 and 20, 2009, at 8:00 p.m. and November 22, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at Atlanta Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center.

About the Repertoire

BERNSTEIN

Prelude, Fugue and Riffs

Leonard Bernstein's *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs*, for Solo Clarinet and Jazz Ensemble, was commissioned in 1949 by the American clarinetist and bandleader... [\(more\)](#)

WYNTON MARSALIS

Blues Symphony (World Premiere)

This piece celebrates the blues through the prism of different moments in American history. It incorporates the call and responses, train whistles, stomp-down grooves, big city... [\(more\)](#)

RAVEL

Piano Concerto in G

Toward the close of 1927, Maurice Ravel embarked upon a four-month tour of the United States and Canada. Ravel traveled across the North American continent, appearing... [\(more\)](#)

GERSHWIN

An American in Paris

On February 12, 1924, American bandleader Paul Whiteman presented a special concert at New York's Aeolian Hall. Whiteman hoped the program, which he called... [\(more\)](#)

About the Artists

Music Director Robert Spano, now in his ninth season as music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, is recognized internationally as one of... [\(more\)](#)

Wynton Marsalis has been described as the most outstanding jazz musician and trumpeter of his generation, as one of the world's top classical trumpeters... [\(more\)](#)

Olli Mustonen has a unique place on today's music scene. As a pianist, he has challenged and fascinated audiences throughout Europe and America with his... [\(more\)](#)

Laura Ardan, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Principal Clarinetist since 1982, holds the endowed Robert Shaw Chair. She has been a featured soloist with... [\(more\)](#)

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.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's special artistic initiatives surrounding The Atlanta School of Composers, "Theater of a Concert," recordings and commissions are generously funded in part by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation."

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Single tickets for these performances are \$25 to \$80. All single tickets for the 2009-2010 season are now available online at **atlantasymphony.org** or by calling **(404) 733-5000**. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Woodruff Arts Center Box Office** located at 15th and Peachtree Streets. Box office hours are Monday through Friday 10am to 8pm, and Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 8pm.

Ancillary Events

Conversations of Note

On November 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., *Conversations of Note*, hosted by [ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer](#), will feature a discussion with ASO Music Director Robert Spano and Composer-Musician Wynton Marsalis. The evening's conversation will focus on the marriage of jazz and classical music. Other highlights will include a live jazz band performance.

Admission is complimentary, but RSVPs are strongly encouraged. All *Conversations of Note* are held on-stage at Atlanta Symphony Hall unless otherwise noted. To RSVP for this event please call (404) 733-4850. For additional information, please contact [Melanie Darby](#).

The November 18th *Conversations of Note*, with special guests Wynton Marsalis and Robert Spano, is generously sponsored by BNY Mellon Wealth Management.

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Concert Preview Talks

Audiences will have the opportunity to learn more about the music they'll be hearing at concerts with free [Concert Preview Talks](#) given by composers, conductors, educators, and musical experts, all hosted by [ASO Insider and Program Annotator Ken Meltzer](#). All concert previews are **free and open to all concert tickets holders**. Speakers and locations are subject to change.

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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM WORLD PREMIERE OF WYNTON MARSALIS'S *BLUES SYMPHONY* Delta Classical Series

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 20, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 22, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Robert Spano, conductor
Olli Mustonen, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

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| BERNSTEIN | <i>Prelude, Fugue and Riffs</i> |
| MARSALIS | <i>Blues Symphony</i> |
| RAVEL | Piano Concerto in G |
| GERSHWIN | <i>An American in Paris</i> |

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