

**MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2007/2008 CONCERT SERIES
EVENINGS OF GREAT MUSIC, October 5, 2007 – April 27, 2008**

Musical Journeys to the Old World and New, Classical Masterworks Plus Distinguished Guest Soloists Highlight The Symphony's 19th Season and Eduardo Marturet's Second Year as Music Director and Conductor

MIAMI, FL (July 10, 2007) – The Miami Symphony Orchestra, Miami's Flagship Orchestra, will kick-off its 2007/2008 concert series with a Gala Opening Concert at the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, October 5, 2007. In its second year under the baton of Maestro Eduardo Marturet, Music Director and Conductor, the symphony embarks on a musical journey showcasing music from the old world and the new; presenting programs of treasured masterworks accented by sparkling, less often heard gems.

Marturet's focus is to introduce a broader musical experience to Miami audiences, and to make classical music more accessible. Reflective of this, every program in the 2007/2008 series, including December's *Gershwin Spectacular*, presents musical encounters that are refreshingly new. "We are constantly challenged to bring freshness and relevancy to today's music lover," says Marturet. "The goal for our programming is to blend well-loved favorites with new music that takes listeners on a safe adventure of discovery."

From *The Four Seasons* by Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla planned for the opening Gala, to the Sibelius *2nd Symphony* at season close, Maestro Marturet and the symphony deliver something either completely new, such as the U.S. premiere of Berti's *Clarinet Concerto*, or music that is seldom played, such as Elgar's *Introduction & Allegro*. Even January's traditional *Evening in Vienna*, a Miami Symphony Orchestra staple, serves up a surprise with *Valse Triste* by Sibelius."

To further underscore the symphony's efforts to engage new audiences while pleasing the old, this year's programming features 12 guest artists. Canadian-born Lara St John, considered one of the top five young violinists in the world, will shine as guest artist for the symphony's Gala Opening Night at the Carnival Center, October 5, and Cuban pop singer Lucrecia is expected to "rock the audience" for the *Gershwin Spectacular* in December. American violinist Celeste Golden, a Bronze Medal Winner at the 2006 Indianapolis International Piano Competition, will make her South Florida debut with the Miami Symphony Orchestra in February, and world-renown American pianist Susan Starr helps close the season with the symphony's Masters Series in April. The sizable line-up of distinguished guest soloists includes pianist Yalov Kassman, Karin Lechner & Luis Fernando Benedini, the Amermet String Quartet and clarinet virtuoso, Alexander Fiterstein returns for another appearance, following his stunning performance last season to audience acclaim and stellar reviews.

GALA OPENING CONCERT

The 2007/2008 season, the 19th for the Miami Symphony Orchestra, takes off on with a robust start at the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts on October 5. The Gala Opening Concert program begins with *The Moldau*, a remarkable symphonic poem from Bohemian composer, Bedrich Smetana. The music map then shifts to Argentina for *The Four Seasons (Cuarto Estaciones Portenas)*, by Astor Piazzolla, one of Latin America's most esteemed composers. Piazzolla's piece, interweaves tango music into this portrait of the changing seasons, presenting an exciting showcase for violin and strings. The great music continues with *Gipsy Airs Op. 20*

(*Zigeunerweisen*) by Spanish composer, Pablo de Sarasate. *Gipsy Airs* embraces themes from czardas, or traditional Hungarian folk dances, in all their splendor, presenting the perfect scoring to showcase the violin artistry of guest soloist, Lara St. John. Closing the program for this special evening is *Scheherazade*, Rimsky Korsakov's magnificent symphonic representation of tales from *A Thousand and One Nights*.

GERSHWIN SPECTACULAR

In December, the Miami Symphony Orchestra swings back to Gusman Hall (Friday, December 7) and the Lincoln Theatre (Sunday, December 9). The programming swings as well, to music by America's George Gershwin. A Gershwin Spectacular, presented in partnership with Voices for Children Foundation, features *Girl Crazy Overture*, *Concerto in F*, *Rhapsody in Blue* and a vibrant medley of Gershwin songs that includes *The Man I Love* and *Summertime*, preformed by Cuban vocalist, Lucrecia.

AN EVENING IN VIENNA

In January, the Miami Symphony once again transports Miami audiences to Vienna, the grand Austrian capital, for a delightful, Evening in Vienna. The Miami Symphony Orchestra has presented a Viennese program every season since its founding in 1989, an annual tradition much anticipated by audiences. Vienna's celebrated Golden Age of music is richly represented in the program, with sweeping overtures, stirring marches and brilliant dances. The music is by the world's most treasured composers, including Beethoven, Brahms, Johann Strauss and Tchaikovsky.

NEW ARTIST SERIES

Maestro Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra are working to forge new pathways in the presentation of classical music for South Florida. In addition to presenting established legends from the classical music world, the orchestra also gives center stage to young and gifted legends-to-be. February's New Artist Series expresses this aptly, shining the spotlight on the talented contemporary Venezuelan composer Alexander Berti with the U.S. Premiere of his *Clarinet Concerto*. Rising star, clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein, is the featured guest soloist for the Berti's composition. Fiterstein was a sensation last season when he performed with the Miami Symphony Orchestra last spring (2007), drawing rave reviews. Another gifted young virtuoso, violinist Celeste Golden, will perform with the symphony for Max Bruch's magnificent *Violin Concerto*. The triumphant *Symphony No. 1* by Johannes Brahms rounds out the evening.

COMMERCEBANK ROMANTIC SERIES

On March 13, the Miami Symphony Orchestra returns to the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts with a splendid program of works by composers from music's Romantic era. The evening, underwritten by Commercebank, includes Grieg's *Piano Concerto*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*, and *Introduction & Allegro for Solo Quartet & Stings* by Sir Edward Elgar. Elgar's exhilarating *Introduction & Allegro*, written for the London Symphony Orchestra in 1904/05, is scored to display the virtuosity of orchestral strings. The Amernet String Quartet will join the symphony as guest artists for this piece. Acclaimed Russian pianist Yakov Kasman is the featured guest soloist for the *Piano Concerto* by Edvard Grieg, one of Grieg's most memorable works and among the most popular of all piano concerti.

THE MASTERS SERIES

Maestro Marturet brings the season to a powerful and dramatic close with The Master Series, presented April 26 at Gusman Concert Hall, and April 27 at the Lincoln

Theatre. The *Overture* from Richard Wagner's only comic opera, *Die Meistersinger*, opens the program on a grand note. Wagner's *Overture* is followed by Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4*, a composition that many consider one of the most artistic and complex piano concertos ever. This was the last work Beethoven composed for his own performance. Internationally renowned pianist, Susan Starr, will be at the keyboard as the featured guest artist for this lofty piece. *Symphony No 2*, by Jean Sibelius brings the curtain down on the 2007/08 season.

Subscriptions for the full season begin at \$90 for section D, and range to \$330 for A seats. Single tickets may be purchased for individual concerts, ranging from \$15 to \$60 at Gusman Concert Hall and Lincoln Theatre, and \$20 to \$75 for performances at the Carnival Center. A limited number of Golden Seats, priced at \$150 each, are available for Miami Symphony Orchestra concerts held at the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information or a season brochure, or to reserve seats, contact the Miami Symphony Orchestra at (305) 275-5666 or visit on the web at <http://www.miamisymphony.org>.

ABOUT THE MSO

The Miami Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1989 by Maestro Manuel Ochoa, is Dade County's flagship orchestra, numbering more than 80 musicians representing 22 nationalities, drawn from the finest orchestras around the world and throughout the United States. Now in its 19th season and under the baton and music direction of Maestro Eduardo Marturet, the MSO is hailed as "a magnificent symphonic orchestra which captures the city's spirit". The MSO made its first appearance at the new Carnival Center for the Performing Arts in February 2007, a highly successful debut in this venue, and over the years has performed at Art Basel Miami Beach and on the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City. For the 2005-06 season, the MSO doubled its budget and adopted a five-year plan allowing an increase in the number of subscription concerts it performs to 16 a year, expand its public school program, and provide free concerts at various venues in Dade County, including the inner city of Miami. For more information about the Miami Symphony Orchestra, visit the Web site at www.miamisymphony.org, or call (305) 275-5666.

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