

PIANO PRODIGY GEORGE LI AND SOPRANO SUSANA DIAZ TO PERFORM AS FEATURED GUEST SOLOISTS FOR MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S "ROMANTIC SERIES" IN MARCH

*Also in the spotlight: Maestro Marturet will present the World Premiere of his own arrangement for Webern's "small masterpiece", Langsamer Satz*

MIAMI, FL - George Li, the 13-year old piano prodigy, is being hailed as "astonishing" and possessing "a talent and technique somewhat larger than this solar system". Maestro Eduardo Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra ([www.miamisymphony.org](http://www.miamisymphony.org)) are bringing the talented Li to Miami as part of the symphony's 2009 "Romantic Series". In two concerts, March 21 at UM Gusman Concert Hall and March 22 at the Lincoln Theatre, Miami audiences can experience Li's keyboard virtuosity in person. Both concerts begin at 8:00 p.m.

Li, one of two featured guest artist for the 2009 "Romantic Series", will perform with Maestro Eduardo Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra for Mendelssohn's exhilarating *Piano Concert N. 1*. Filled with glittering passagework, this piece should give Miami a dynamic introduction to the young prodigy, who is already winning competitive awards and garnering musical raves worldwide. Li has appeared with the Boston Philharmonic, Xiamen Philharmonic, Symphony Pro Musica and Simon Bolivar Youth Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, among others, and performed at the opening ceremony of Boston's new Institute of Contemporary Art, at the inauguration of President Tony Woodcock at New England Conservatory, and at Boston's Steinway Hall. He also played at New York's Carnegie Hall in the new TV series produced by the NPR radio show, "From the Top".

The "Romantic Series" program also includes Gustav Mahler's *Symphony N. 4*, featuring the brilliant coloratura voice of guest soloist, soprano Susana Diaz singing "Das himmlische Leben", the fourth movement of the Mahler's composition written to express a child's vision of heaven. Ms. Diaz, a Miami resident, has appeared with the Cincinnati Opera, Dayton Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Ballet Florida, Bay View Music Festival, and others. An engaging recitalist and concert singer, she excels in the works of Mozart, Debussy, Turina, Richard Strauss, and Webern. She was an award winner at the Metropolitan Opera District Auditions, a finalist in the Columbus Opera Competition and winner of the Schloss Leopoldskron Voice Competition in Salzburg, Austria.

Presenting composers from music's "Romantic" period has become a tradition with Maestro Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra, as has premiering the "new"—new artists, new composers and new works. The 2009 "Romantic Series" program showcases the World Premiere of Marturet's own arrangement of Anton Webern's highly-charged, emotion-filled *Langsamer Satz*, a work that has been called "a small masterpiece".

"Langsamer Satz was originally written for String Quartet. I hope my arrangement for orchestra will make this great work available to a much wider audience," says Maestro Marturet.

Single tickets for the Miami Symphony Orchestra's "Romantic Series" concerts range from \$15 to \$60. For more information, 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 celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> performance 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](http://www.miamisymphony.org), or call (305) 275-5666.

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