

On Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1989, at 5:30 pm, Manuel Ochoa presented the Miami Symphony Orchestra's first concert at the Rotunda Court of the Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables. The concert was "sold-out" and it was repeated the following weekend. The soloists were Cuban pianist Zenaida Manfugas and Jose LeMatt, bass. It was a simple and attractive program designed to attract the Miami audience (mostly absent from concert halls), to come, listen and enjoy symphonic music

**MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH FESTIVE GALA CONCERT AT ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER OCTOBER 18**

*Music by Shostakovich, Brahms, Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov plus the brilliant violin virtuosity of guest soloist Alexis Cardenas light up the stage to open symphony's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season*

MIAMI, FL (September 23 2008) – The Miami Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Eduardo Marturet, Music Director and Conductor, will open their 2008/2009 concert series with an explosive program of festive music featuring Shostakovich, Brahms, Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov, October 18 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season for the Miami Symphony Orchestra, Miami's flagship orchestra, and oldest continuing professional orchestra. The opening night concert is appropriately celebratory with *Festive Overture* by Russian composer, Dimitri Shostakovich as the program opening piece. Written for the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, the overture is replete with brass fanfare and rippling strings and winds. It has been described as a "brilliantly effervescent work, with its vivacious energy spilling over like uncorked champagne."

*Violin Concerto* by Johannes Brahms follows. Considered one of the largest and most challenging works in the violin repertoire, this piece will showcase the virtuosity of Venezuelan-born violinist, Alexis Cardenas, guest soloist for the gala opening.

Maurice Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, a series of eight romantic interludes and short waltzes, known for "shimmering orchestral colors" is the third offering of the evening.

The gala program closes with *Capriccio Espagnol*, an exciting composition based on Spanish dance themes and described by Tchaikovsky as "a colossal masterpiece of instrumentation" According to Maestro Marturet, *Capriccio Espagnol* is a brilliant work with exhilarating orchestration. When it premiered in October 1887 with the conductor at the podium, the audience demanded a full repetition "on the spot" as soon as it ended. Maestro Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra are hoping Miami audiences will demand another 20 years of classical music performances by the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

Single tickets for the gala opening night concert may be purchased ranging from \$20 to \$75. A limited number of Golden Seats, priced at \$150 each. Full and partial season subscriptions are also available, with full seasons tickets beginning at \$95. Contact the Miami Symphony Orchestra Box office for partial season ticket and groups.

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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