

MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO DEBUT NEW WORK BY AWARD-WINNING AMERICAN COMPOSER JOSEPH SCHWANTNER AND NEW COMPOSITION BY SHELLY BERG; PART OF THE SYMPHONY'S "MADE IN AMERICA" SERIES

*Jazz piano great Shelly Berg to perform as guest artist for Florida Premiere of his composition, "Blackbird Pavanne, Incandescent, Iridescent, Effervescent".*

MIAMI – Maestro Eduardo Marturet and the Miami Symphony Orchestra ([www.miamisymphony.org](http://www.miamisymphony.org)) have been selected by the Ford Motor Company Fund, the nation's largest commissioning consortium of orchestras, to present the Florida premiere of a critically acclaimed new work by award-winning American composer Joseph Schwantner, *Chasing Light*. The premiere of *Chasing Light* is part of the symphony's "Made in America" concert series, generously underwritten by the Ford Motor Company Fund. Performance dates are February 7, 2009 at the University of Miami's Gusman Concert Hall and February 8, 2009 at the Lincoln Theatre in Miami Beach, with curtain time at 8:00 p.m. for both concerts.

Programming for the "Made in America Series" also includes *Symphony N. 9 from the New World* by Antonin Dvorak as well as the Florida Premiere of *Blackbird Pavanne, Incandescent, Iridescent, Effervescent* by pianist Shelly Berg. Berg, called "one of the most eloquent, swinging and accomplished jazz pianists of our time" will perform with the Miami Symphony Orchestra as guest artist for the series.

Berg who has garnered accolades as a composer, arranger, author and educator is currently Dean of the University of Miami Frost School of Music. He is the recipient of multiple awards for excellence in both music and education and has a distinguished and sweeping musical career that includes composing and orchestrating for television and movies. Berg composed the theme song to the 1986 U.S. Olympic Festival, and orchestrated *Japan Concert* for the 10th anniversary of the coronation of the Emperor of Japan. Berg has written for orchestras worldwide including the Royal Philharmonic and the American Symphony, as well as for an impressive list of contemporary music luminaries including Carol King, Joe Cocker, Lou Rawls, Chicago and KISS.

"We are proud to have been selected by the Ford Motor Company Fund as the designated orchestra representing the state of Florida under the landmark 'Made in America' program, now in its second year," says Maestro Marturet. "The Miami Symphony Orchestra is equally proud to showcase the talents of Shelly Berg, one of America's –and the world's--leading jazz pianists."

Sharing the podium with Maestro Marturet for this series will be Cristian Grases, a brilliant Frost School of Music doctoral candidate and the first recipient of the Miami Symphony Orchestra's new Assistant Conductor

program. Mr. Grases will make his debut conducting the music of Shelly Berg.

Single tickets for the Miami Symphony Orchestra's "Made in America" 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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#### Comments from Berg Reviews:

*"Berg burns hard, his fingers flying over the keyboard while his body nearly levitates off the bench. Exhilarating . . . filled with breakneck parallel runs, sudden rhythmic shifts and harmonic modulations that leave the crowd breathless!" LA Times Sunday Magazine*

*"A whirlwind of motion on the piano bench....Berg gave a lesson in exuberance—with a set filled with moment of high emotion and drama." – L.A. Times*

*"Shelly Berg is a great jazz pianist who seems to have total command of his instrument." –Dave Brubeck*

*"Shelly Berg is one of the finest pianists around in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." –All About Jazz*