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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Atlantic Classical Orchestra Announces 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Orchestra Breaks New Ground in 2010 Concerts**

**March 26, 2009, Fort Pierce, Florida---** The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, today announced its Orchestra Series concerts for 2010, the ACO's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

In honor of 20 years of service to the community and artistic excellence, Maestro Robertson and the ACO have assembled a season that pays tribute to the spirit of the past twenty years of growth and the excitement and the promise the future holds for this rapidly growing artistic gem of the Treasure Coast.

"The 2010 Season, our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, is one in which we are celebrating not only the myriad past accomplishments of the ACO but looking forward to the future," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "The artistic growth of the ACO has been phenomenal, as has been the enthusiasm and dedication of our patrons and volunteers. And together, the entire ACO family, we are looking forward to a bright future of continued artistic growth and increased service to the Treasure Coast community."

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season opens on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxalx Center at St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, and Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart, with perhaps the most artistically and technically challenging program yet for the ACO. Ralph Vaughn Williams Overture to *The Wasps* opens the program, composed as incidental music to a performance of the Greek author Aristophanes' play of the same name. Maurice Ravel's *La Tombeau de Couperin* is a delightful *homage* to the famed French baroque composer Couperin and completing the program is a masterpiece that will stretch the abilities of the ACO to the utmost- Gustav Mahler's delightful Fourth Symphony, in a rarely

performed chamber version utilizing only 13 instrumentalists! Mahler's Fourth Symphony is arguably this great composer's most accessible work- the entire composition breathes a rare innocence and beauty that is unique not only in Mahler's *oeuvre* but in the classical music world as a whole.

"Our season opens with a program that will stretch the individual musicians of the ACO to the utmost," states Kopp. "The chamber version of Mahler's Fourth Symphony is a real test of the individual abilities of our musicians. And the program as a whole is fantastic and really is a great and festive way to open our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season."

The ACO's Second Orchestral Series Concerts feature two of the titans of Germanic music- Richard Strauss and Ludwig van Beethoven- as well as the ACO's virtuoso Principal Bassist Luis Gomez! The Series II Concerts will be heard on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center at St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, and Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart.

Richard Strauss' *Tanzsuite* is based on the music of a composer who was also the inspiration for a Series I composition- Couperin! And Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, nicknamed the "*Pastoral*," is this great composer's paean to nature, including bird songs, bubbling brooks, a thunderstorm and a peasant dance! One of Beethoven's most engaging and innocently beautiful compositions, it has remained an audience favorite since its premiere performance. Rounding out the program of Germanic masterpieces is Venezuelan composer Juan Francisco Sans "*De la liberacion de las formas*," a jazz-influenced double bass concerto featuring the ACO's own virtuoso Principal Bassist Luis Gomez. A concert truly to satisfy every musical taste performed with virtuosic flair by the ACO!

The ACO Season continues on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 8:00 pm, in Vero Beach at the Waxlax Center at St. Edward's School, and Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart, with a program of classics from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries!

Contemporary composer Michael Torke's *Adjustable Wrench* has been called by an influential critic "...the modern equivalent of a Mozart Divertimento..." and brings with it a new musical dimension to programs of the ACO. Darius Milhaud's *La Création du Monde* is an acknowledged masterpiece of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century- a piece that borrows extensively from and is inspired by jazz music. The final work on the program is a meeting of the

immortals- Beethoven's Violin Concerto performed by one of today's finest and most influential violin soloists, Elmar Oliveira. The first and only American Gold Medalist at the Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow, Mr. Oliveira maintains an active performance schedule worldwide, and was the recipient of a Grammy nomination in 2008 for his recording of the Ernst Bloch Violin Concerto.

The ACO ends its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a concert of pairs- two 19<sup>th</sup> Century masterpieces and two young talents introduced to Treasure Coast audiences for the first time.

First, the two masterpieces. Arch-romantic Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto is the acknowledged masterpiece of the romantic-era concerto- and Franz Schubert's Symphony #8, the "*Unfinished*" Symphony, will be heard in a "finished" version! Adding a recent completion by a musicologist of Schubert's sketches of the third movement and the reintroduction of the fourth movement from its use in the incidental music to *Rosamunde*, the ACO will be performing Schubert's Eighth Symphony as the composer originally intended it to be heard!

The two young talents? Tom Poster, pianist, will be featured in his American debut as soloist in the Schumann Concerto. This fantastic young pianist is the winner of the 2007 Scottish International Piano Competition. And young American composer Paul Dooley's composition *Pomo Canyon Air* will receive its Florida and Treasure Coast premiere to open the concert.

"The ACO's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season ends in a very fitting way- with a pair of classic works representing the past and two incredibly talented youth representing the future," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "I say that our anniversary season is a celebration of our living legacy as an organization, and it is. And this juxtaposition of the old and new, past, present and future, is perfectly shown in the fabulous season we have put together for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."

Continuing in 2010 at all orchestra performances are Maestro Stewart Robertson's incredibly popular Pre-Concert Conversations. A chance for audience members to hear the loquacious Maestro Robertson give an in-depth personal analysis of the works being performed on that evening's performance, it is an incredible opportunity to gain invaluable insights from a master musician gleaned from decades of experience. New in

2010 will be the time of these presentations: they will begin at 7:00 pm prior to all Vero Beach Waxlax Center performances, and 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm prior to all Stuart Lyric Theatre orchestral performances.

A season of musical delights, in world-class performances by virtuoso performers. The Atlantic Classical Orchestras 2010 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season!

Season Brochures will be mailed the first week in April to all current subscribers and those who purchased single tickets over past season. Brochures may be requested by contacting the ACO at their toll-free Ticket Hotline, (866) 310-7521, or by e-mail at [info@acomusic.org](mailto:info@acomusic.org). Subscriptions may also be ordered through the ACO's website, [www.acomusic.org](http://www.acomusic.org).

Ticket prices for the ACO will not see price increases in 2010- and subscribers receive a substantial saving over single ticket prices as well as having the opportunity to reserve the best seating available for all concerts. Subscriptions for Vero Beach performances at the Waxlax Center are \$144; 4:00 pm performances at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart are \$135; 8:00 pm performances are \$160. Single tickets for Vero Beach performances are \$40; single ticket prices for 4:00 pm Lyric performances are \$40.00 and \$45 for 8:00 pm performances.

"I strongly recommend all ACO patrons who wish to subscribe to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season to mail your requests as soon as possible," states Kopp. "Demand is great for our concerts and promises to be at the highest levels yet. Subscribers have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to renew current seats and we are going to be strict in enforcing this deadline. All changes for seats and new subscriptions are processed in the order they are received, so the earlier we receive your request the better your chances for obtaining the seats that you want."

For more information concerning the ACO's 2010 Orchestra Series, electronic copies of artist photos, artist biographies or an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact Director of Communications Silvia Longa at (772) 460-0850. The ACO office is located at 415 Avenue A, Suite 301, Fort Pierce, and is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Mail should be sent to 415 Avenue A, Suite 301, Fort Pierce, FL 34950. For more information about the Atlantic Classical Orchestra or its events, call the Orchestra office at (772) 460-0850 or fax (772) 460-0851. E-mail to [marketing@acomusic.org](mailto:marketing@acomusic.org). Press and advertising information can be obtained through the Symphony office as well.