

November 2, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Announces First Ever Family Concert Saint-Saëns Classic *Carnival of the Animals* to be Performed

November 2, 2008, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, announced its upcoming Family Concert to be held on Friday, December 12th, 2008, 7:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edwards Upper School in Vero Beach. The concert will feature a performance of Saint-Saëns all-time childrens classic, *The Carnival of the Animals*.

The result of a collaboration between the ACO and the Miami based Dranoff International Two Piano Foundation, the concert will feature in the *Carnival of the Animals* prize-winners from the 2007 Dranoff International Two Piano Competition, Susan and Sarah Wang.

“For the first time the ACO will be providing a real Family Concert for Treasure Coast audiences,” states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. “The program, including the *Carnival of the Animals*, has been specially designed to introduce classical music and the orchestra to children as part of a concert that families can enjoy together.”

Besides Saint-Saëns *Carnival* the concert will feature selections by the Wang sisters and an introduction to the instruments of the orchestra by Maestro Robertson and the musicians of the ACO.

In the past the ACO has done extensive educational activities but this is the first time that the orchestra as a whole is actually performing a specially designed concert for children and their families. Education is an important element of the ACO's mission, and this concert is an exciting new way to provide educational programs to families of the entire Treasure Coast community.

Exciting also is the collaboration with the Dranoff Piano Foundation, who sponsor the biennial Dranoff International Two Piano Competition, the most prestigious competition worldwide for piano duos. This collaboration is bringing to ACO audiences prize-winners from the latest Dranoff Competition, held in late 2007.

“We are very happy to be welcoming not only the Dranoff Foundation but the pianists Susan and Sarah Chang to the Treasure Coast,” states Kopp. “We feel extremely fortunate to have such an illustrious partner as the Dranoff Foundation. Together we are going to be able to put together some fantastic education programs that will touch the lives of literally thousands. And artistically, the pianists we will be working with are among the finest in the world, which is an incredible opportunity for the youth of our area to hear pianists of that caliber.”

The collaborative program between the two organizations is an outgrowth of the Dranoff's *Family of Music Lovers* Program which to date has been seen by over 15,000 Dade County Youth. Not only will the ACO and the Dranoff partner in Family Concerts, but in-school programs will be presented as well- the Wang sisters and ACO musicians will be presenting a program at St. Edward's School the morning of the 12th prior to the Family Concert the same evening.

In January 2009, the ACO and the Dranoff will be repeating the Family Concert, this time in the Miami area, at a January 31, 2009, Concert at Gusman Hall at the University of Miami. And during the week of January 31st Dranoff pianists and ACO musicians will be making presentations in four elementary schools in the Coral Gables/Miami area.

“Between the Treasure Coast and the Miami area literally thousands of youth will have the opportunity to experience these specially designed programs,” states Kopp. “To us at the ACO, it is wonderful to be able to do so much good for the youth of South Florida and to reach so many with one program.”

And to make this program as accessible to all families as is possible, no admission will be charged for the December 12th Family Concert. The total costs of the entire program, both Family Concerts and in-school programs, a total well in excess of \$20,000, will be absorbed jointly by the ACO and Dranoff Foundation.

“Our goal was to make our Family Concert as accessible as possible and available to all children and their families,” stated Kopp. “Because of that, we decided not to charge admission. Donations are gladly accepted

for the Family Concert to help defray the considerable expenses, but there is no admission charge, and we hope as many families as possible will join us for this special and fun concert on December 12th!"

A specially designed program for youth and families, a performance of an all-time children's classic, and a world-class orchestra and soloists- all at no charge! The ACO's first ever Family Concert is a fun and educational event not to be missed!

The ACO Family Concert will be held on Friday, December 12th, 2008, 7:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts, 1895 St. Edward's Drive, Vero Beach. No admission will be charged, but a suggested donation is \$5.00/family to help defray expenses.

For more information concerning the ACO's Family Concert, 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 Dranoff Foundation's website is located at www.dranoff2piano.org; Susan and Sarah Wang's website is www.wangpianoduo.com. 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. Press and advertising information can be obtained through the Symphony office as well.