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Contact:

Silvia Longa, Dir. Of Communications
(772) 460-0850
marketing@acomusic.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Third Series Concert of 2009 Works by Mozart, Ravel & Kurt Weill Featured

February 14, 2009, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, announced its Third Series Concerts of the 2009 Season to be held on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edwards Upper School in Vero Beach and on Friday, March 6th, 2009, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart. The concert will feature pianist Stewart Goodyear making his ACO and Treasure Coast debut.

The program will include two standards of the orchestral repertoire and audience favorites- Mozart's Symphony #35, the "Haffner" Symphony, and Maurice Ravel's Concerto in G for Piano and Orchestra featuring Stewart Goodyear as soloist. The final work on the program is a special treat for audiences, Kurt Weill's Second Symphony.

"Our Second Series Concerts featured works that were mostly unknown to our audiences," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "Our Series III Concerts feature two 'standards' of the orchestral repertoire, Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony and Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, both pieces that are extremely well-known. The final work is a really incredible find by Maestro Robertson- Kurt Weill's Second Symphony, the same composer better known for his work in the theater and on Broadway. It is a very accessible piece, yet at the same time very complex musically. Anyone who loves the 'Threepenny Opera' and Weill's Broadway music such as 'September Song' will love this symphony."

Mozart's Symphony #35, nicknamed the "Haffner" Symphony, has been a "crowd pleaser" since its debut in 1783 at the Burgtheater in Vienna. The symphony we know today started its musical life as a serenade, the 18th Century equivalent of light background music written to be played "live" at an outdoor party or event. It was requested by Mozart's Father for the celebration of the elevation of a family friend, one Sigmund Haffner, to the nobility, and was written in 10 days! Less than a year later Mozart "borrowed" the serenade for use as the basis of a symphony to be performed at a concert of his music in Vienna. Amazed at the quality of the work written in haste, Mozart made minor changes to the music, dropped several movements, and the "Haffner" Symphony was born! A symphony that is truly proof yet again that "necessity is the Mother of invention!"

Maurice Ravel is considered one of the titans of 20th Century French Music. Unfortunately, the story of his Piano Concerto in G is intertwined with the tragedy of the onset of the brain disease that ultimately took his life. Being both a virtuoso pianist and composer, Ravel began work on the Concerto in 1929, fully intending to use the work as a virtuosic vehicle for his own pianistic prowess. However, with the onset of a rare brain disease that left him lucid yet increasingly unable to write, speak, play an instrument or compose, by the time of the concerto's debut in 1932 Ravel turned over the solo piano part to his musical confidant, Marguerite Long, and conducted the orchestra instead. Influenced by jazz and full of rhythmic verve and vitality, the Concerto was an immediate success and has remained in the piano repertoire ever since. Our soloist in the Ravel Concerto is one of the young up and coming stars of the keyboard world, pianist Stewart Goodyear.

Known for imagination, a graceful, elegant style and exquisite technique, 26-year old Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished young artist whose career is on the rise. A native of Toronto, Canada, Goodyear holds degrees from the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music.

Recent highlights of Mr. Goodyear's recent schedule include debuts with the Atlanta Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. In recent seasons Mr. Goodyear has performed with many of the major orchestras in United States, including the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony. In addition, Mr. Goodyear has appeared at festivals such as Caramoor, Santa Fe and Ravinia.

In addition to his talents as a performer, Mr. Goodyear is a composer and frequently performs his own works, including his solo piano work Variations on "Eleanor Rigby," which was given its premiere at Lincoln Center in August 2000.

The final work on the program, Kurt Weill's Second Symphony, is in all likelihood a composition that has not been heard by the majority of concertgoers. It is one of those unjustly unknown works that for some reason never enter into the standard repertoire and are just waiting for a hearing by audiences!

Written by Weill in 1933 in Paris after Weill was forced to flee his native Germany- his theatre works such as *The Three Penny Opera* and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany* were anathema to the Nazis- it was a huge success with audiences but not so with the critics, who said, in essence, that Weill was better suited to sticking to writing for the theater. The criticism stung, and Weill never again wrote a piece for the concert stage, a great loss to the musical world. Combining the classical influence of composers such as Mozart and Haydn with music for the theatre, it is a work that manages to be both serious and accessible at the same with an immediate appeal to audiences.

"Maestro Robertson has explained Weill's Second Symphony as being a cross between Haydn and Broadway," states Kopp. "It is a work with great appeal to audiences, yet at the same time it has an incredible intensity, reflecting the uncertainty of the 1930's and the artistic ferment of Weimar Germany. All I can say is that it is a piece that needs to be heard by lovers of Kurt Weill, classical music and Broadway as well."

Incredible soloist, a trademark ACO program of classics and unknown gems and the Treasure Coast's own world-class orchestra- it all adds up to a concert experience not to be missed!

The ACO Series III Concerts will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts, 1895 St. Edward's Drive, Vero Beach, and Friday, March 6th, 2009, 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Lyric Theatre, 59 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart. Tickets are \$40 for the Vero Beach performance and the 4:00 pm Stuart performance; \$45 for the 8:00 pm Stuart performance. Tickets for the Vero Beach performance are available through the ACO Box Office by calling toll-free (866) 310-7521 or visiting the orchestra's website at www.acomusic.org. Tickets for the Stuart performances are available by visiting the Lyric Box Office at 59 SW Flagler Avenue in downtown Stuart or calling (772) 286-7827.

For more information concerning the ACO's Series III Concerts, electronic copies of artist photos, artist biographies or an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson, Soloist Stewart Goodyear or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact Director of Communications Silvia Longa at (772) 460-0850. Additional information on soloist Stewart Goodyear can be found on-line at <http://www.cami.com/?webid=188>. 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.