

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Releases 2008-09 Annual Report Highlights Multiple Successes for the Organization

August 7, 2009, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The Atlantic Classical Orchestra released its Annual Report for the just completed 2008-09 Season, one that saw exceptional successes and growth for this Treasure Coast chamber orchestra.

“We are proud and happy to release such a positive report on the achievements and overall condition of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra to our patrons and community,” states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. “As a nonprofit organization, our mission is to serve our community through concerts of the highest caliber and education programs that touch the lives of as many residents as possible. It is extremely gratifying to take a look backwards and see just how successful we have been at accomplishing that mission during the past season.”

The core of the ACO’s artistic mission are the four orchestra series concerts that the ACO performs each season in Vero Beach and Stuart. By all accounts, the orchestra performed brilliantly in 08-09, earning glowing reviews from critics and concertgoers alike. The orchestra continues to improve artistically every season under the baton of Music Director Stuart Robertson, who programs music that is not only challenging to audiences but is challenging to the orchestra as well, stimulating constant progress and growth individually as well as collectively.

In 2008-09 the ACO expanded its successful Chamber Music Series to include a partnership with the Vero Beach Museum of Art besides performances at the Blake Library in Stuart as part of their Chautauqua South

Atlantic Classical Orchestra

Series. Overall, the Series was a huge success, with a 50% increase in attendance at the Blake Library, an exceptional number of first season of subscribers in Vero Beach, and overall a substantial profit for the series based on single ticket sales and subscriptions.

The ACO partnered with the Miami-based Dranoff Two Piano Foundation for an education initiative that brought members of the ACO and prizewinners from the Dranoff International Two Piano Competition into schools on both the Treasure Coast and in the Miami area. These programs gave children the opportunity to hear and interact with world-class musicians in an intimate, comfortable school setting and were extremely popular with students, teachers and administrators alike. The highlights of the initiative, however, were the two Family Concerts, one in Vero Beach and one in Miami at the University of Miami's Gussman Hall, that featured the full ACO and piano soloists in performances of Saint-Saëns classic, *The Carnival of the Animals*. Overall, these programs were a huge success, allowing the ACO to reach hundreds of students and family members as well as giving the ACO its first exposure in the Miami area.

Despite the difficult economic climate, the ACO did exceptionally well in both ticket sales and fundraising efforts in 08-09. The ACO saw an overall concert attendance increase in Vero Beach of 9%, with single ticket sales in Vero growing by a robust 39%. During the season the ACO not only exceeded their Annual Fund Campaign goal and overall goal for donated income, but qualified for the second annual \$200,000 installment as part of the \$1 Million Challenge Gift Campaign. Overall, the ACO had a substantial surplus for the season, a remarkable accomplishment in these difficult economic times and a real testament to the dedication to the ACO by patrons and the Treasure Coast community.

With growing artistic excellence, expanding programs, educational activities touching more lives than ever before, increasing ticket sales and financial stability, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra undoubtedly enjoyed a phenomenally successful 2008-09 Season. All of which, of course, better enables this venerable 19-year old ensemble to better serve both patrons and community.

Access to the ACO's 2008-09 Annual Report is available by visiting the ACO's website at www.acomuic.org.

"While we are extremely happy at the successes we enjoyed in 08-09, this no time to 'rest on our laurels,'" states Kopp. "We are looking to improve in every way in 2009-10, our 20th Anniversary Season."

For more information concerning the ACO, an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact Director of Communications Silvia Longa at (772) 460-0850. For additional information please visit the orchestra's website located at www.acomusic.org. 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.