

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Series III Chamber Concerts Announced

February 24, 2010, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, conclude their acclaimed Chamber Series Concerts for the 2010 Season on March 6th and 7th with a pair of concerts in Vero Beach and Stuart.

The third and final series concerts of 2010, March 6th, 11:00 am, at the Blake Library in Stuart and March 7th, 4:00 pm, at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, features members of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra in a program of music by Scandinavian composers.

“Our final Chamber Series concerts for 2010 showcase the fantastic musicians of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra in an all-Scandinavian program,” states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. “Concertmaster Lenny Sigal returns to lead a quintet of ACO musicians in a program of music that, while not well-known, features beautiful melodies and lush harmonies that are very evocative of Scandinavia and its natural beauty. Gade, Leifs, Stenhammar and Sinding are not household names but the music is gorgeous and truly deserves to be heard much more often.”

The ACO’s Chamber Series has enjoyed an incredibly successful 2010, with the first two series concerts seeing audiences well exceeding those of last year. In Vero Beach at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, the audience has increased well over 50% in size from the inaugural season. And in Stuart, at the Blake Library as part of the Chautauqua South Series, the concert saw an overflow, standing-room only audience of well

The Atlantic Classical Orchestra

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over 350 at the first concert and full house for the second series concert. That is an over 400% increase in attendance in the past three seasons at the Blake Library performances!

“We have seen spectacular growth in attendance at our Chamber Series programs,” states Kopp. “It is very gratifying to see the community embrace this series. We felt there was a void in the concert life of the community in a lack of chamber music performances and our successes have confirmed that theory.”

The programs on March 6th and 7th feature selections from works by the 19th Century Danish composer Niels Gade; the Icelandic composer Jón Leifs, generally considered that country’s most important composer; Wilhelm Stenhammar, a late-19th Century Swedish composer and pianist of note; and Norwegian composer Christian Sinding.

Niels Gade, the oldest of our composers on the chamber series program who lived his entire life in the 19th Century (1817-1890), was a confidant and contemporary of the great German composers Felix Mendelssohn and Robert Schumann, and in fact was an assistant conductor under Mendelssohn of Leipzig’s famed Gewandhaus Orchestra. Gade’s Piano Trio in F (1863) is a typically 19th Century work of a romantic artist, showing the influence of German music of the time yet retaining a certain “Danish” element all of its own.

Jón Leifs (1899-1968) is considered the finest composer Iceland has ever produced. Like Gade, Leifs spent a considerable portion of his life in Germany (1916-44), eventually moving back to his homeland where he spent the remainder of his years. The strongest influence on Leifs’ compositions was not, surprisingly enough, German music- it was the music of his native island. The basis of his music was the Icelandic folk song and the inspiration coming from the rugged, beautiful Icelandic countryside. The String Quartet #2, “*Vita et Mors*,” has a tragic genesis- its inspiration was the death of the composer’s daughter Lif in a swimming accident off of the coast of Sweden.

Sweden’s Wilhelm Stenhammar (1871-1927) was, like many Scandinavian musicians, influenced by German music- he listed Richard Wagner and Anton Bruckner as to the two largest influences on his compositional

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style. A pianist and conductor, Stenhammar was a long-time conductor of the Gothenburg Symphony, Sweden's first professional orchestra, as well as being one of the finest concert pianists of his day. Stenhammar's String Quartets are considered his most important works. Written in a late-romantic style, they have been described as sounding Germanic with a dash of the great Finnish composer Sibelius thrown in for good measure.

Long-lived (1856–1941) Norwegian composer Christian Sinding was another Scandinavian artist who not only was greatly influenced by Germanic music and composers but spent a long period of time living in that country as well. Sinding also spent a season teaching at the nascent Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, during the early 1920's. His Piano Quintet in E Minor, premiered in 1885, was one of his early compositions and won him acclaim worldwide as, next to Grieg, the most important Norwegian composer of his time. His music was less "nationalistically" rooted than that of his better-known colleague, however, and much indebted to the music of Wagner and Liszt.

Performers on the March 6th and 7th concerts include ACO Concertmaster Leonid "Lenny" Sigal; ACO Principal 2nd Violinist Jerry Weiss; ACO Assistant Principal Cellist Jonah Kim; ACO Assistant Principal Violist Rebecca Diderrich; and pianist Tao Lin, chair of the Piano Department at Lynn University's Conservatory of Music.

ACO Concertmaster Leonid "Lenny" Sigal has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as recitalist, chamber musician and orchestra leader. Since early performances he was praised by audiences and critics for his virtuosity and musical sensitivity. Born in Moscow, he began violin studies at the age 5, and a year later was accepted to the renowned Gnessin School. He went on to attend and graduate with excellence from the Moscow Conservatory.

Winner of several violin competitions internationally, Lenny moved to the US in 1995 as a result of an invitation by Michael Tilson Thomas to accept a prestigious fellowship at the New World Symphony. While serving as concertmaster, he was also coached as conductor by Mr. Thomas. His solo experience includes recital and chamber music appearances in the US, Canada, Germany, UK, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Russia,

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Japan and South Korea. He has performed with some of the great musicians of the 20th Century, including Sir Georg Solti, Leonard Bernstein and Christoph Eshenbach. Among his festival appearances are Rencontres Musicales d'Evian, Schwetzingen Festival, as well as festivals in Prague, Tokyo and Seoul.

Born in Seoul, Korea, cellist Jonah Kim is one of the leading artists of his time. His command over his cello have been described by critics as "truly phenomenal... bold, melts into lithe finger work, glistening -- never over-played; lush without being maudlin, graceful without sentimentality".

Jonah moved to the United States to begin his musical studies at seven years of age. After a brief period of instruction from his father, who taught him based on a videotape of Pablo Casals playing the Bach Solo Cello Suites, Jonah was accepted to the Juilliard School with full scholarship. During his first year at Juilliard, world-renowned cellist Janos Starker invited him to perform at Indiana University and remarked, "Jonah is an exceptional talent. He is at the top of his generation". At only ten years of age, he was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music where he studied under Peter Wiley (Guarneri Quartet), solo cellist Lynn Harrell, and Orlando Cole (Curtis String Quartet), who wrote, "[Jonah] is one of the most accomplished cellists I have taught in my sixty five years on the Curtis faculty".

Jonah Kim made his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2002 with Maestro Wolfgang Sawallisch and has since appeared with orchestras such as the National Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Redlands Symphony, Palm Beach Symphony and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. As a recitalist, he has performed in major venues such as the Kennedy Center (Washington D.C.), Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), and the Kravis Center (West Palm Beach). He has also been broadcast on radio for WHYY, WITF, MPBN and WXEL, as well as on television for NBC and CBS.

Chinese-American pianist Tao Lin's appearances in Asia, North America and Europe have brought unanimous critical accolades and praise for his subtle, intimate pianism and brilliant technique. A versatile musician, he is equally at home as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician.

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Born into a musical family in Shanghai, he began piano lessons at the age of four, first with his mother and later his father, both on faculty at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. The following year saw his first public performance and at the age of eight, he gained entrance to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. As a teenager, he performed in the Chinese premiere of Bartok's Sonata for two Pianos and Percussion, a major musical event at the time. After moving to the United States, Mr. Lin continued his active concert activities.

As a soloist, he has performed with Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony, Miami Chamber Orchestra, Knoxville Civic Orchestra, University of Miami Symphony, Harid Philharmonia, and Lynn University Chamber Orchestra. A devoted chamber musician, Mr. Lin has concertized throughout the United States as a founding member (with Jacques Thibaud String Trio) of the Berlin Piano Quartet. He has also appeared in concerts with Miami, Bergonzi, Alcan, and Rosalyra String Quartets as well as with distinguished musicians such as Ida Haendel, Elmar Oliveira, Roberto Diaz, William De Rosa, Charles Castleman, Roberta Peters, Eugenia Zukerman, Shunske Sato, Philip Quint and members of Metropolitan Opera, Philadelphia, St. Louis, National, Minnesota, Pittsburg, Staatskapelle Berlin Orchestras.

"This concert is a fantastic way to end our Chamber Series concerts for 2010," states Kopp. "Some of the most gorgeous music you have never heard before in world-class performances by ACO musicians. What a perfect way to end a season of growth and exceptional performances on our chamber series."

The ACO Chamber Series III Concerts will be held on Saturday, March 6th, 2010, 11:00 am, at the Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterrey Road, Stuart, and Sunday, March 7th, 2010, 4:00 pm, Vero Beach Museum of Art, 3001 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. No tickets are required for the Stuart performance and admission is free of charge. Tickets for the Vero Beach performance are \$40 for non-Museum members and \$30 for members of the Museum and are available through the ACO Box Office by calling toll-free (866) 310-7521 or visiting the orchestra's website at www.acomusic.org.

For more information concerning the ACO's Chamber Music Series, electronic copies of artist photos, artist biographies or an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson, members of quintet or Executive Director

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Larry Kopp, please contact the ACO Business Office at (772) 460-0850. In-depth information on the orchestra is available on the orchestra's website, 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.