

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

January 15, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Chamber Series Opens January 30th & 31st

January 15, 2010, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, will open its 2010 Chamber Series with a pair of concerts in Vero Beach and Stuart.

The season-opening concerts, January 30th, 2010, 11:00 am, at the Blake Library in Stuart and January 31st, 2010, 4:00 pm, at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, features ACO Concertmaster Leonid "Lenny" Sigal and pianist Kimball Gallagher in an all-Russian program with works by Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky.

"We are proud to be able to present our Concertmaster Lenny Sigal in a program of Russian violin music," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "Lenny is a fantastic violinist and a native Russian, born and trained in his home country. He brings a special 'feel' and understanding to Russian music that makes this an extra special concert event for all music lovers."

The ACO presents its Chamber Series Concerts in conjunction with two other nonprofit organizations: in Stuart, the Blake Library as part of their Chautauqua South Series; and in Vero Beach, with the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Stuart Concerts are again going to be generously underwritten by the Friends of the Blake Library, allowing community members access to these world-class musical events without charge. In Vero Beach, this is the second year for the Chamber Series with ticket sales enjoying exceptional growth- to date, the ticket sales have increased by 50% over the inaugural season!

"We are ecstatic over the exceptional growth in ticket sales for our Chamber Music Series concerts in Vero Beach," states Kopp. "Given economic conditions, we weren't sure what to expect this season. We truly

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appreciate our patron's support of the ACO and our efforts to expand our concert offerings to Vero Beach audiences. And in Stuart last season we saw similar growth in our audiences- a 50% increase in size. We are extremely grateful for the Friend's of the Blake Library's support of our concerts and their assistance in providing this musical service to the Stuart community."

The programs on January 30th & 31st feature works by three giants of 19th and 20th Century Russian music- Prokofiev's Second Violin Sonata; Stravinsky's Divertimento after *The Fairy's Kiss*; and a pair of works by Tchaikovsky, the Serenade Melancolique and Valse-Scherzo.

Prokofiev's Second Violin Sonata is the composer's own arrangement of his Flute Sonata. It was written in 1942, but arranged for the violin in 1943 when Prokofiev was living in the city Perm in the Ural Mountains, a remote shelter for Soviet artists during the Second World War. Belying its wartime origins, the sonata is highly classical in design and very lyrical and elegant, but does include the requisite virtuosic displays for violin as well. A major, substantive work, it is at the same time a work of great beauty and a perfect showcase for a mature musician with impeccable skills.

Igor Stravinsky, one of the major composers of the 20th Century, looked back to the romantic 19th Century in his Divertimento after *The Fairy's Kiss*. Taken from Stravinsky's ballet composition of the same name, the music is based upon songs of Tchaikovsky and readily evokes the sweet melodies and lush harmonies of the earlier Russian master. An endearing and entertaining composition, it has been an audience and artist favorite since its debut in 1932.

And the final works on the program are by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky- his Serenade Melancolique and Valse-Scherzo. The Serenade Melancolique is just what the title implies- a serenade, melancholy in nature, with typical Tchaikovskian melodies and lush harmonies. And the title Valse-Scherzo, again, succinctly describes the lilting dances with sweet melodies for the violin which this gorgeous composition contains- truly, a listener's delight!

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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, 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.

Pianist Kimball Gallagher made his Carnegie Hall debut this past March to a sell-out crowd at Weill Recital Hall and was hailed as "a dynamo.....brilliant and polished enough to have gone straight to disc, unedited" in the NY Concert Review. He has performed in New York at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Kosciusko Foundation, the Faust Harrison Piano Showroom, Yamaha Piano Salon, Steinway Hall. Internationally, he has also been heard in Prague, Lisbon, and Poland. Mr. Gallagher is the recipient of top prizes at the Corpus Christi International Piano Competition and at the San Antonio Tuesday Musical Club competition, in addition to being a finalist in the Washington International Competition.

“What a musical treat we have in store for audiences with our first Chamber Series performances,” states Kopp. “A world-class Russian violinist, performing an all-Russian program in the unique Russian style, accompanied by a pianist of the same caliber. And of course, Maestro Robertson will be discussing the works to be performed in his own inimitable and informative way prior to the beginning of the recital. It all adds up to a musical experience not to be missed!”

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The ACO Chamber Series I Concerts will be held on Saturday, January 30th, 2010, 11:00 am, at the Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterrey Road, Stuart, and Sunday, January 31st, 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. Subscriptions to all three Chamber Series performances are still available from the ACO Box Office as well- cost is \$100 for non-Museum members and \$75 for Museum members.

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, violinist Lenny Sigal, pianist Kimball Gallagher or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact Director of Communications Silvia Longa 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.