

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

March 14, 2010

Contact:

Lawrence Kopp, Executive Director
(772) 460-0850
acomusic@bellsouth.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Series IV Concerts Announced

March 14, 2010, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, performs its fourth and final series concerts of the 20th Anniversary Season on March 25th and 26th, 2010.

The concerts, March 25th, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, and March 26th, 2010, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart, features works by Paul Dooley, Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert.

"We are concluding our 20th Anniversary Season with a series of concerts that feature both the old and the new," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "Paired with two of the great standards of the orchestral repertoire is a work by a young American composer. The old and the new, looking backwards and forwards- it is a perfect way to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our orchestra."

Audience will be treated on the March 25th and 26th concerts to a program consisting of contemporary American composer Paul Dooley's *Pomo Canyon Air*; composer Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto featuring the American debut of British pianist Tom Poster; and Schubert's great "*Unfinished*" symphony, heard in a four movement, completed version.

Young American composer Paul Dooley (born 1983) is a composer, pianist, and percussionist currently working on his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan. Paul grew up in the wine country just inland from the Pacific and began composing music at age 12. Paul has "*clearly learned how to deal with*

The Atlantic Classical Orchestra

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

the orchestra” (composer Steve Reich) and his music “*shimmered beautifully*” (Omaha World-Herald). His compositions take inspiration from dance, nature & travel. His *Pomo Canyon Air* (2005), an homage to the Sonoma Coast, has been performed by the Omaha Symphony, the Aspen Music Festival’s American Academy of Conducting Orchestra and read in rehearsal by the Detroit Symphony conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

The composer states about his composition that, “*Pomo Canyon Air is not an attempt to translate the visual into the aural, but is a piece composed through the memory of this place. I often find memories to be even more inspiring or emotional than the experience itself. Even though I visit Pomo Canyon almost every time I go home, I find that each time I return to school the memory of Pomo Canyon is stronger, and is a source of creativity. Pomo Canyon Air is about the feelings I associate with this beautiful area when I am unable to experience it firsthand.*”

Robert Schumann’s Piano Concerto is truly one of the great piano concerti and a landmark of the 19th Century concerto repertoire. Schumann wrote the first movement of his Piano Concerto in 1841 as a one-movement *Fantasy* for piano and orchestra soon after his marriage to Clara Wieck, one of the finest concert pianists of the day. Eventually adding two additional movements, an *Intermezzo* and *Finale*, the concerto debuted in 1846 with Schumann’s wife Clara as soloist. With considerable melodic charm, Schumann’s Piano Concerto has been a favorite of both audiences and pianists since its debut. The soloist in the ACO’s Series IV performances making his US debut is British pianist Tom Poster.

Tom Poster enjoys a busy and diverse career, appearing as concerto soloist, solo recitalist and chamber musician across an extensive repertoire in a range of major international venues. He has been described as “an unparalleled sound-magician” (General-Anzeiger), “a pianist of distinction” (The Times), and as possessing “great authority and astounding virtuosity” (Est Républicain). Since his London concerto debut at the age of 13, Tom has appeared in a wide-ranging concerto repertoire of 30 major works, with orchestras and conductors including the BBC Philharmonic/Yan Pascal Tortelier, BBC Scottish Symphony/James Loughran, China National Symphony/En Shao, Southbank Sinfonia/Vladimir Ashkenazy, St Petersburg State Capella

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

Philharmonic and European Union Chamber Orchestra. He has given solo recitals at concert halls and festivals throughout the UK, in Bonn, Hamburg, Leipzig, Lugano, Paris and the Channel Islands, and on several occasions at the Spoleto Festival, by personal invitation of the late Gian Carlo Menotti.

In 2007, Tom won First Prize in the Scottish International Piano Competition, where he also received the prize for the best performance of the specially commissioned work by Judith Weir. Earlier competition successes included winning the keyboard sections of the Royal Over-Seas League and BBC Young Musician of the Year Competitions in 2000. Tom has broadcast extensively on BBC Radio 3 and on international radio and TV stations, and has recorded works by Thomas Adès for EMI. As pianist of the Aronowitz Ensemble, BBC New Generation Artists 2006-2008, he has appeared at the Wigmore and Bridgewater Halls, the Aldeburgh, Bath and Cheltenham Festivals and the BBC Proms. The group was awarded the Borletti-Buitoni Trust's Special Ensemble Scholarship 2009 and releases its debut disc this season. Tom has also collaborated with Alison Balsom, Natalie Clein, Nicholas Daniel, Guy Johnston, Tasmin Little and Willard White, the Brodsky, Endellion, Medici, Sacconi and Skampa Quartets, and the Soloists of the Philharmonia. Forthcoming highlights include concerto tours with the Atlantic Classical Orchestra/Stewart Robertson in Florida and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Robin Ticciati, solo and chamber music recitals for BBC Radio 3, and two appearances at the BBC Proms 2009.

Schubert's "*Unfinished*" Symphony is one of the best-known and loved works in the orchestral repertoire. Schubert has often been described as the epitome of the unknown, "starving" artist, living a desperately poor life and living for his music alone. The myth of the starving, romantic artist is enhanced by Schubert's early death at the age of 31 and his living under the specter of syphilis, at that time a fatal disease with no cure. There is a grain of truth in much of the foregoing- Schubert was poor and generally unknown among the general concert going public during his lifetime and he did contract syphilis, although he did not die as a result of the disease. Schubert did, however, have a small but faithful group of family and friends who recognized his genius and did much to make his short, difficult life as pleasant as possible and allow him the opportunity to compose some of the greatest music ever written.

The Atlantic Classical Orchestra

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

The “*Unfinished*” Symphony dates from 1822, the year Schubert was diagnosed with syphilis. The two-movement fragment that is traditionally known as the “*Unfinished*” Symphony has a very somber, melancholy mood, giving credence to the theory that this work was the result of a major psychic trauma or even a premonition of an early death. The ACO is performing a four-movement “completion” of the “*Unfinished*” Symphony on their March performances, giving audiences an entirely new view of one of the standard and most often performed works for orchestra.

Schubert completed the first two movements of the symphony in 1822, which he then sent in 1823 to his friend Anselm Hüttenbrenner. These two movements were first performed in Vienna in 1865 in what is the now commonly known version of the symphony. What was later discovered by musicologists was that Schubert had completed a sketch of a third movement Scherzo to the same symphony, which was completed by British musicologist Brian Newbould in the 20th Century. Newbould, and other leading Schubert scholars, have through musical detective work suggested that what ended up being an *Entr'acte* to incidental music Schubert wrote for a performance of the play *Rosamunde* was actually the music Schubert intended as the finale for the “*Unfinished*” Symphony. At this point, of course, we can never know what Schubert’s intentions truly were, but adding the two movements to the symphony shows the work in an entirely new light. The ACO will be performing this “completed” four-movement version of the symphony to conclude what has been the finest year for the ACO yet, a truly wonderful way to celebrate 20 years of support to the Treasure Coast community.

“We are ending our 20th Anniversary Season with another musical find by Stewart Robertson that is quintessentially ACO, a well-known work by a well-known composer heard in a new and exciting way,” states Kopp. “This has truly been a remarkable season for the ACO. We had a record number of subscribers to our orchestra series concerts; attendance at our Chamber Series performances has increased by over 400% over the past two seasons; for the third season in a row we exceeded our Annual Fund Campaign goal; and we now have gifts and pledges close to \$800,000 towards our Challenge Gift Campaign. It has been an incredible season for the orchestra and a fantastic way to celebrate twenty years of service to our community.”

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

The ACO Series IV Concerts will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts, 1895 St. Edward's Drive, Vero Beach, and Friday, March 26, 2010, 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 2010 Orchestra Series, electronic copies of artist photos, artist biographies or an interview with Music Director Stewart Robertson, Composer Paul Dooley, Pianist Tom Poster or Executive Director Larry Kopp, please contact the ACO 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 info@acomusic.org. Press and advertising information can be obtained through the Symphony office as well.