

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

January 19, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Series II Concerts Announced Orchestra Maintains Ticket Sales Growth Despite Economy

January 19, 2010, Fort Pierce, Florida--- The acclaimed Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Stewart Robertson Music Director, performs its second series concerts of the 20th Anniversary Season on February 3rd and 5th, 2010.

The concerts, February 3rd, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, and February 5th, 2010, 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart, features works by Richard Strauss, Juan Francisco Sans and Ludwig van Beethoven.

"The ACO is off to another great start during our 20th Anniversary Season," states Larry Kopp, ACO Executive Director. "Our Series I Concerts featured world-class performances of and a North American premiere. Looking at our ticket sales after our first series concerts, we are again enjoying a new record high number of subscribers to our orchestra series performances. What a perfect way to celebrate an anniversary season! And we are sure to keep the excitement and enthusiasm going with a great program on our second series concerts in 2010."

For the past three seasons the ACO has seen steady growth in the number of subscribers to the orchestra in both communities in which the orchestra performs, Vero Beach and Stuart. The total has risen from 694 to 978, an over 40% increase despite the worst economic conditions in a generation and a nationwide trend among performing arts organization of precipitous losses in subscribers. Initial results for 2010 are showing an increase in the number of single tickets sold as well.

The Atlantic Classical Orchestra

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“We were, frankly, very worried to see if we would be able to maintain our growth in subscribers in 2010,” states Kopp. “Our patrons are extremely loyal and generous and we have been gaining new ‘converts’ to the ACO cause every year. All of the thanks for our consistent growth must go to our patrons and the Treasure Coast community.”

The record large-sized audiences at ACO Orchestra Series performances will be treated on February 3rd and 5th to a program of two familiar composers and one that is not widely known in North America: Richard Strauss’ *Tanzsuite*; Venezuelan composer Juan Francisco Sans’ jazz-inflected piece for solo bass and orchestra, *De la Liberacion de las Formas*; and Beethoven’s immortal paean to nature, his Sixth Symphony, the “*Pastoral*.”

Richard Strauss is best known for his large-scale compositions for orchestra- the “tone poems” written in the late 19th Century which feature large, expanded orchestras. *Tanzsuite*, however, is the opposite of large. Written in 1923 for a chamber orchestra of 29 players, *Tanzsuite* is just what the title in German implies- a suite of dances originally composed for the ballet company of the Vienna State Opera. Arrangements of baroque dances by the French composer Couperin, they are by turns spry and sprightly, courtly and crisp, with typically Straussian orchestration that give them extra sparkle and sheen.

Composer Juan Francisco Sans is not well-known in North America, but in his native Venezuela he is a fixture in the contemporary musical scene as composer, performer, educator and historian. His *De la Liberacion de las Formas* is short work that features that most unlikely of solo instruments, the string double bass! Very jazzy and fun, the work requires a virtuoso to meet its musical and technical demands. Luckily the ACO has just such a musician, Principal Bassist, Luis Gomez.

ACO Principal Bassist Luis Gomez-Imbert enjoys a multi-faceted career as performer and pedagogue. Raised in the rich Venezuelan musical tradition, Luis has always been surrounded by different forms of music and musicians who have been a major influence in his development as a musical performer.

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His love affair with the double bass started as Luis searched for his true voice in the musical world. Soon after realizing that the double bass was going to be his musical voice, Luis began to showcase his instrument and new repertoire in venues across North, Central and South America. Several of these new works have been also premiered in Europe where Luis has been invited to play in different new music festivals in France, Austria, Italy and Spain. His recordings include CDs with the Lyric label and also with OO record label. One of these recordings was awarded the 1992 New Recording of the Year by the Contemporary Record Society. The review panel for this award included eminent musicians George Crumb, Milton Babbitt and Yo-Yo Ma among others.

As a pedagogue, Luis joined the music faculty of Florida International University in the fall of 1994 as Professor of Double Bass Studies and Director of the FIU New Music Ensemble.

Graduated Summa Cum Laude from Chicago's Northwestern University in 1988, under the guidance of Jeff Bradetich and Warren Benfield, Luis Gomez-Imbert performs regularly as a member of several professional musical organizations in the South Florida area and is active as a performer of chamber music that features the double bass in prominent musical roles.

The final work on the program, Ludwig van Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, the "*Pastoral*," is a standard work in the orchestral repertoire. A "standard" because of its greatness while simultaneously displaying an outer accessibility and popularity with concertgoers, this paean to nature has been a favorite in concert halls since its debut performance in 1808. With beautiful melodies, charming pictorial effects such as bird calls, flowing streams, thunderstorms and dancing peasants, Beethoven's Sixth Symphony is one of those rare pieces that are both audience "friendly" while at the same time being great music composed on the loftiest of themes. A perfect ending to a well-balanced concert, the symphony caps a performance that includes the new, the old, the familiar and the unfamiliar alike... a quintessential concert by the ACO under Music Director Stewart Robertson!

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“What a fantastic concert,” state Kopp. “It contains a little bit of everything, including an unfamiliar work by a very familiar composer, Richard Strauss’ *Tanzsuite*; an unfamiliar work by a little-known composer that is a perfect showcase for our virtuoso Principal Bassist, Luis Gomez; and finally, to cap it all off, Beethoven’s wonderful warhorse, his Sixth Symphony. It all adds up to a concert that music lovers won’t be able to resist and definitely will not want to miss!”

The ACO Series II Concerts will be held on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010, 8:00 pm, at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts, 1895 St. Edward’s Drive, Vero Beach, and Friday, February 5th, 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, Bassist Luis Gomez 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.