

North Carolina's Musical Treasure™



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— Press Release —

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YOUNG ARTISTS PERFORM TWO PROGRAMS
INCLUDING FAVORITES BY MOZART,
RACHMANINOFF, BRITTEN & BRAHMS

Greensboro, NC- Another pair of exciting concerts is approaching, as the fourth week of EMF's Young Artists Orchestras series continues. Starting with an appealing program on **Thursday, July 23, 2009**, in which the Eastern Symphony Orchestra will perform renowned works by W.A. Mozart and Sergei Rachmaninoff, led by **conductor José-Luis Novo**. This concert will feature two wonderfully talented professional **pianists**: faculty member **James Giles**, and **J.Y. Song**. During the following evening, **Friday, July 24, 2009**, the Guilford Symphony Orchestra will interpret a variety of repertoire by Britten, W.A. Mozart and Brahms, under the baton of **Maestro Gerard Schwarz**. This performance will highlight astounding **horn player John Cerminaro** as a soloist. Both concerts will take place **at 8pm in Dana Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410). Tickets may be purchased for \$25 for reserved seating and \$19 for general admission by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org. Every Thursday and Friday this season is Family Night at EMF. Adults bringing children ages 18 and under are eligible for special prices – adults \$5; children \$1 (limit 2 children per adult). Additionally, student tickets are available for \$8 to those with valid student IDs.

The first of the previously mentioned concerts, scheduled on Thursday, will open with Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos No. 10 in E-flat major, K.365 (316a), showcasing pianists James Giles and J.Y. Song. An ingeniously elegant work, this concerto displays distinctive traits of the popular composer. Mozart maintains his use of the sonata form while bringing innovation through the inclusion of crystal melodies, charming themes and his own spin on harmony. Next in the program will be Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances for orchestra, op.45. This three movement work carries the romantic style that

conveys powerful and fiery moments of musical splendor. Aside from ever growing intensity, the composer manages to accomplish a level of sentimentalism over the nostalgic ambiance of its second movement.

Moreover, Friday night's performance will commence with Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, op.34 (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell). This work was inspired on a didactic film project aimed to familiarize pre-adolescent children with the instruments of the orchestra. It also serves as Britten's homage to his composer of predilection and source of musical insight: Henry Purcell. The evening will progress including Mozart's standard Horn Concerto No. 4 in E-flat major, K.495 with guest soloist John Cerminaro, and Brahms' highly admired Symphony No. 1 in C minor, op.68.

More about James Giles

James Giles regularly performs to acclaim in important musical centers in America, Europe, and Asia. The past few seasons have included a tour of China, performances in Italy and Bosnia, and a recital at Warsaw's Chopin Academy of Music. Last season, in addition to recitals in Chicago, Oklahoma, and Buffalo, he appeared with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia. During 2008-2009, he will return to China for recitals and teaching at the Shanghai Conservatory; perform at the Virginia Waring Competition's Gala Benefit honoring Byron Janis; and perform concertos by Michael Daugherty and Timothy Dunne in Chicago and Ithaca.

In an eclectic repertoire encompassing the solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, C. Curtis-Smith, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, Earl Wild, and James Wintle. Most of these new works are featured on Giles' new Albany Records release entitled *American Virtuoso*.

His Paris recital at the Salle Cortot in 2004 was hailed as "a true revelation, due equally to the pianist's artistry as to his choice of program." After a recital at the Sibelius Academy, the critic for Helsinki's main newspaper wrote that "Giles is a technically polished, elegant pianist." And a London critic called his 2003 Wigmore Hall recital "one of the most sheerly inspired piano recitals I can remember hearing for some time" and added that "with a riveting intelligence given to everything he played, it was the kind of recital you never really forget."

In the fall of 2005, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Giles joined three other pianists as a part of a "Pianists for New Orleans" tour. They raised over \$70,000 for the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, a non-profit group that supports classical music in the city.

He has performed with New York's Jupiter Symphony, the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra in Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine, and with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Alice Tully Hall. After his Tully Hall solo recital debut, critic Harris Goldsmith wrote: "Giles has a truly distinctive interpretive persona. This

was beautiful pianism – direct and unmannered.” Other tours have included concerts in Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Series, Salt Lake City’s Assembly Hall Concert Series, and in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Musikhalle in Hamburg, and the Purcell Room at London’s South Bank Centre. He has given live recitals over the public radio stations of New York, Boston, Chicago, and Indianapolis. His compact disc of works by Schumann and Prokofiev is available on England’s Master Musicians label. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the National and Chicago symphonies and with members of the Pacifica, Cassatt, Chicago, Ying, Chester, St. Lawrence, Essex, Lincoln, and Miami quartets, as well as singers Aprile Millo and Anthony Dean Griffey.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at The Juilliard School, Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin College.

The pianist received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Florence with the legendary pianist Lazar Berman. He was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the \$25,000 Christel Award from the American Pianists Association and now serves on the APA’s National Advisory Board. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Competition. As a student, he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at The Juilliard School and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding graduate at the Oberlin College Conservatory. He has written for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine and has presented lecture-recitals at the national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has served on the juries of several international piano competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition (screening jury), New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Oberlin International Piano Competition.

Dr. Giles is on the piano faculty at Northwestern University. He has served as conference artist for the music teachers associations of Oklahoma, Arizona, and Nevada and frequently gives master classes at colleges and universities nationwide. He has been a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy in Finland and at Indiana University, where he has twice taught the students of Menahem Pressler. He has served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and the Interlochen Arts Academy. He is the founder of the Las Vegas Piano Institute, an educational summer program for young pianists, and is the chair of the piano department at the Eastern Music Festival during the summers, now in his 14th year. More information may be found at jamesgiles.net.

More about J.Y. Song

Since her Lincoln Center recital debut in 1996 and her nomination as 1994 Pro Piano Artist of the Year, **J.Y. SONG** has established herself as a musician with broad and idiosyncratic musical tastes. Critic Harris Goldsmith has noted her "truly astounding technical and imaginative resources" and has described her performances as "tigerishly

intense" and "exquisite." She recently gave the Mexican premiere of the *Concerto for piano and orchestra* by Clara Schumann, on four days' notice.

J.Y. Song's recordings on the Pro Piano label have received rave reviews in international publications. Her recording of Debussy Etudes received a Diapason d'Or, and was designated a "Desert Island Selection" by Gramophone's International Piano Quarterly. *Billboard* described the same record as a "gem," and *In Tune* remarked "besides sheer technique, Song displays magnificent intellect in all her mood painting. Piano fans, ahoy!" J.Y. Song's 2000 release, "...and that is death," featuring piano music by Liszt and Busoni, was similarly lauded in the press, and *Fanfare* spoke of "the sheer thrill of her playing."

In addition to exploring traditional repertoire, J.Y. Song has been an enthusiastic supporter of new music, recording works by the Argentinean composer Ezequiel Viñao and the Taiwanese composer Jiang Wen Ye. Excerpts from this last CD were used by the celebrated film director Hou Hsiao-Hsien in his movie *Cafe Lumière*, which was shown at the 2004 Venice and New York Film Festivals, among others.

Numerous awards include Juilliard's highest award to a pianist, the Petschek Award, the first ever \$25,000 Christel Award in 1999, and the Pro Musicis International Award. The past season included recitals at Piano aux Jacobins in France, solo tours in Asia, and appearances in many venues in the United States, including the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Exploring new media of expression, J.Y. Song was featured in an innovative music video of her performance of Liszt's *Totentanz*.

Born in Taiwan and raised in Switzerland, J.Y. Song studied at the Conservatoire de Genève and the Conservatoire de Lausanne with Alexei Golovine and Jean-François Antonioli. She later attended Stanford University, graduating with distinction and honors with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Music. While conducting research on malaria and co-authoring a paper which appeared in *Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, J.Y. Song received numerous awards from Stanford, including the Robert Golden Medal and the prestigious Sudler Prize for outstanding achievement in the creative arts.

Currently on the piano faculty and the artistic advisor for chamber music at Mannes College of Music in New York, J.Y. Song holds a D.M.A. from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Jerome Lowenthal. She is currently the artistic director of the Classics Abroad Paris Piano Program, at the École Normale de Musique de Paris.

More about John Cerminaro

Widely acknowledged as one of the greatest horn players of our time, **John Cerminaro** is currently principal horn with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, a post he has held since 1995.

In an illustrious career spanning five decades, he has also held principal horn positions with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic (accepting an offer from the

eminent Italian conductor Carlo Maria Giulini), and the Aspen Festival Orchestra. Mr. Cerminaro has been a principal horn guest with many orchestras across the United States, including the Dallas Symphony (with whom he made his solo debut at the age of sixteen), Milwaukee Symphony, and Houston Symphony. He has performed in music festivals throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

During his years as principal horn in Los Angeles, Mr. Cerminaro recorded extensively for Crystal Records and appeared as soloist with André Previn at the Hollywood Bowl. As a member of the New York Philharmonic, he performed under the direction of Leonard Bernstein, with whom he received critical acclaim for his performances of the Strauss concerto at Carnegie Hall, the Mozart concertos with conductors Erich Leinsdorf and Pierre Boulez, and Schumann's *Konzertstück* with Zubin Mehta.

As a recording artist, Mr. Cerminaro can be heard on numerous recordings. His discography is varied and includes four solo recordings for Crystal Records, an acclaimed CD of the four Mozart horn concertos with conductor Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony (also Crystal Records) as well, and the John Williams score for NBC's "Nightly News." Many new compositions for solo horn were written for him including works by William Schuman, William Kraft, Rand Steiger, and Henri Lazarof (recently released with the Seattle Symphony on JVC). His latest recording, *John Cerminaro: A Life of Music Historic Live Performances* (NSS Music), showcases his innate musicality and supreme technical command.

An alumnus of the Aspen Music School since 1964 and permanent principal horn of the Aspen Festival Orchestra, Mr. Cerminaro's performances of the Strauss and Gliere concertos with that orchestra have become legendary. Of his 30th anniversary celebration concert with the Aspen Festival Orchestra, the Denver Post hailed, "John Cerminaro demonstrated the meaning of professional polish with a stunning performance of Mozart's *Horn Concerto No. 2*."

Mr. Cerminaro recently played that same concerto with Gerard Schwarz and the Mostly Mozart orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall in New York and Orchard Hall in Tokyo. Respected for his teaching methods as well as his performance skills, John Cerminaro has been a member of the faculty at The Juilliard School, the Aspen Music Festival, and the California Institute of the Arts and was a Landsdowne Lecturer at Victoria College. He is the author of a treatise for performers entitled "The Greater Glory." A recipient of the esteemed Naumburg Award, first prize in the Concert Artist's Guild Competition, and a Prague International Competition winner, Mr. Cerminaro received his musical education at The Juilliard School and the Aspen Music School.

More about Gerard Schwarz

Born to Viennese parents, EMF music director **Gerard Schwarz** has served as the Seattle Symphony Orchestra's music director since 1985. He is a recipient of the Ditson Conductor's award from Columbia University and was the first American to be named Conductor of the Year by *Musical America*. He holds numerous honorary doctorates, including ones from The Juilliard School, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle University,

University of Puget Sound, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Recent highlights for Maestro Schwarz include two consecutive Emmy Awards in 2007 and 2008 for televised performances with Seattle Symphony; leading Seattle Symphony in its recent Southern California Tour; and conducting Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the 600-member community orchestra and chorus for His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the recent visit to Seattle sponsored by Seeds of Compassion.

Maestro Schwarz has received 12 GRAMMY® nominations, six ASCAP awards, and numerous *Stereo Review* and Ovation awards. In June 2007, he received an Emmy for his performance with Seattle Symphony of Shostakovich's *Eighth Symphony*. Moreover, Maestro Schwarz won critical acclaim that season for his remarkable collaboration with Dale Chihuly to present Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*. His extensive discography of some 250 releases showcases his collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra; the Tokyo, Czech and Royal Liverpool philharmonics; the London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France and Berlin Radio Symphony; the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; and the New York Chamber and Seattle symphonies. Soon to be released are works by Mahler, Arthur Foote, Bright Sheng, and Samuel Jones, as well as Deems Taylor's *Peter Ibbetson* and the first complete recording of Kurt Weill's *Eternal Road*.

In addition to his leadership at Eastern Music Festival, Maestro Schwarz has also served as music director of New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and New York Chamber Symphony, as well as artistic advisor to Tokyo Bunkamura's Orchard Hall.

More about José Luis Novo

Praised by audiences and critics alike for his fresh interpretations and dramatic presentation style, pianist **José-Luis Novo** is currently music director and conductor of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (Md.) and the Binghamton Philharmonic (N.Y.). Prior to these appointments, Mr. Novo held the positions of assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; music director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Oxford Chamber Orchestra (Ohio), and the Miami University Symphony Orchestra; associate conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra; and assistant conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Spain and the Yale Symphony Orchestra.

Recent engagements include the Baltimore, Syracuse, Modesto, Tulsa, Ridgefield, Tallahassee, and Stamford symphonies, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, and the Abilene Philharmonic.

Previous guest conducting engagements have included appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony, the Cleveland Philharmonic, and the Echternach Festival Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He has guest conducted on tour in Luxembourg and Germany and with numerous Spanish orchestras, including performances at the National Auditorium and at the Royal Opera House in Madrid, and the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona. Mr. Novo holds music degrees from the

Cleveland Institute of Music, Yale University, and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels. Mr. Novo returns for his tenth year as resident conductor of EMF.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

More About Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Awadagin Pratt, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe in the Fall each autumn. Singles tickets and FlexPasses are on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized

teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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