



EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 AT 10 P.M.

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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 CLASSICS SERIES

FEBRUARY 5, 2016 | Charlotte, NC – The world premiere of a Charlotte-based composer’s percussion concerto, blockbuster masterworks, and several premieres highlight the Charlotte Symphony’s exciting 2016-2017 Classics series beginning in September.

The 85th Classics series blends timeless works—Brahms’s Symphony No. 1; Schubert’s Symphony No. 9, “Great C Major;” and Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 3, “Scottish” —with those by contemporary composers Thomas Adès’s and György Ligeti.

“This is one of the best seasons we’ve programmed,” says Music Director Christopher Warren-Green. “The season is full of recognizable blockbusting works with some surprises to push the Charlotte audience.”

The 10-concert Classics series begins the final weekend in September with an all-Tchaikovsky program, featuring American-Korean violinist Esther Yoo, internationally celebrated as the youngest prizewinner of the 2010 International Sibelius Violin Competition at the age of 16. She will play Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto. The powerful Symphony No. 4 rounds out this season opener.

October brings guest conductor Michael Christie to lead pianist Benedetto Lupo on the Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1 and *Totentanz*. Lupo, who won the bronze medal in the 1989 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will perform on Van Cliburn’s beloved Steinway D, the piano that traveled to the world’s great stages with the legendary pianist. The program also features Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2 and a Charlotte Symphony premiere of Ligeti’s Concert Romanesc.

January marks the world premiere of a percussion concerto by Winthrop University’s Leonard Mark Lewis. The Symphony’s own Leonardo Soto will be featured center stage playing a variety of percussion instruments for this program that concludes with Schubert’s Symphony No. 9, “Great C Major.”

The Charlotte Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Kenney Potter, takes on Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* at the beginning of March. Multiple Grammy-winning guest conductor Giancarlo Guerrero joins the Charlotte Symphony once again from his post as music director of the Nashville Symphony to lead this dramatic oratorio depicting the life of the Old Testament prophet.

Concertmaster Calin Lupanu and Principal Violist Benjamin Geller shine in February on a program that includes Vaughan Williams’s *The Lark Ascending*, Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante K. 364, and Brahms’s Symphony No. 1.

At the end of March, Maestro Warren-Green welcomes friend and world-renowned oboist Gordon Hunt for the Strauss Oboe Concerto. The program also features the Charlotte Symphony premiere of contemporary British composer Thomas Adès's work, *The Tempest Overture*, and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7.

"People don't only come to hear the symphony," says Maestro Warren-Green. "They come to see it, to see the spectacle of the large orchestra and to witness the drama of it."

Building on the success of the 2015-2016 season's Mahler Symphony No. 5 performance, the series concludes with the dramatic Mahler Symphony No. 2, the "Resurrection," featuring the 150-person chorus and nearly 100 orchestra musicians.

Seven- and 10-concert subscription packages start at \$217. Single tickets to the Classics series will go on sale in late summer.

For listening samples, high-resolution photography, including guest artists and conductors, and ticket information, visit charlottesymphony.org.

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932 and led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Charlotte Symphony is a non-profit organization that serves the community through music that educates, entertains, and enriches the human spirit. We are world-class musicians, music teachers, and music lovers. We put instruments in the hands of Charlotte's children and actively nurture the next generation with our programs in music education. We bring artistic excellence to Charlotte's parks and hospitals, schools and places of worship, stadiums and concert halls. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone of the cultural community, connecting people and adding value to their lives through music. charlottesymphony.org. Follow us on social media at [@cltsymphony](https://twitter.com/cltsymphony).

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