



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN
music director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEETHOVEN'S NINTH MAY 10, 11, & 12
MOMS GET FREE ADMISSION AT SUNDAY MOTHER'S-DAY MATINEE



April 30, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony will perform the monumental Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," as their Classics season finale. Although Beethoven was mostly deaf by the time he completed his Ninth Symphony in 1824, the work is almost unanimously regarded by experts as his finest. Moreover, it is considered by many as one of the greatest pieces of music ever written.

Serving as a 'gateway' experience to classical music for many, and a spiritual, musical renewal for repeat listeners, Charlotte Symphony Music Director Christopher Warren-Green said of Beethoven No. 9, "How can one describe God? This music transcends both the miseries and joys of this life in a way that captures the heart of the human experience."

The Charlotte Symphony and the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte will share the live Beethoven No. 9 experience with audiences at the Belk Theater at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 12 as a special Mother's Day Matinee. In honor of Mother's Day, the Symphony is offering free admission to all moms with the purchase of another ticket by a companion at the Sunday matinee.

The honoring of mothers will be part of Saturday's program, too, when the Principal Viola Chair of the Orchestra will be named during a short ceremony preceding the concert in memory of Zoe Buntin Merrill, the mother of Ali Kavadlo; Kavadlo retired in 2011 as principal violist for the Orchestra after 36 seasons.

The joyous No. 9 was in part inspired by Friedrich Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy," and its words were modified by Beethoven to serve as the choral lyrics. The work is also known as Beethoven's "Choral" Symphony because it was the first major composition to incorporate vocals on the same level as the instrumentation. The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte and guest soloists Katie Von Kooten (soprano), Stacey Rishoi (mezzo-soprano), Christopher Pfund (tenor), and Dashon Burton (bass baritone) will sing the "Ode to Joy" lyrics, performing alongside the Orchestra and Warren-Green.

Tickets to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony start at \$27.50 and can be purchased at charlottesymphony.org or by calling 704-972-2000. To make sure that Mom gets in free at Sunday's Mother's Day Matinee, enter promo code MOM online, call 704-972-200. Walk-ups are also available the day of the concert.

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