



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEATURING CSO PRINCIPAL TIMPANIST LEONARDO SOTO



CSO PRINCIPAL TIMPANIST LEONARDO SOTO, BY JOHN GRAHAM

APRIL 3, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony will present a modern American Symphony, feature a DJ composer, infuse electronics into orchestra, Raise the Roof with a timpani concerto, take a Short Ride in a Fast Machine, and celebrate American Music Masters and Pioneers at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2013 at the Knight Theater.

The concert is part of Charlotte’s 2013 Ulysses Festival, “Art & Technology.”

Under the baton of Charlotte Symphony guest conductor Jacomo Rafael Bairos, the Orchestra will perform seven American works from the 20th and, primarily, 21st centuries (five of the seven pieces were written by living composers after the year 2000). The Symphony will honor the post-mortem pioneers George Gershwin and Aaron Copland with Gershwin’s *American in Paris* and Copland’s *El Salon Mexico*.

Firmly committed to the performance and commissioning of contemporary American works, guest conductor Bairos regularly directs the music of three of the evening’s living composers: Adam Schoenberg, Mason Bates, and Paul Dooley.

The program will open with the rondo movement from Schoenberg’s 2011 *American Symphony*. Schoenberg explains that this composition was inspired by “the 2008 presidential election, when both

parties asked the people to embrace change and make a difference,” as well as Aaron Copland’s Symphony No. 3. Coincidentally, Schoenberg heard Copland’s third three nights after the election and was moved “...to write a modern American symphony that paid homage to our past and looked forward to a brighter future.”

As for Bates and Dooley, their two unique compositions, Warehouse Medicine and Point Blank, respectively, have something in common: both incorporate into the traditional orchestra the sounds of today’s technology with elements of electronica. Bates is the composer in residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Dooley is lecturer and doctoral candidate in composition at the University of Michigan, where he works closely with another of the program’s contemporary composers, Michael Daugherty.

A highlight of the evening, the Charlotte Symphony’s Principal Timpanist, Leonardo Soto, will perform Daugherty’s timpani concerto Raise the Roof. Soto is excited for the opportunity to feature the musicality of the timpani, saying, “Timpani can actually be a very melodic instrument and I think this will be a great chance to showcase the versatility of sounds it can create.” Another bonus of the experience for Soto is the opportunity to play the timpani in front of rather than behind the orchestra: “It’s much more comfortable to be so close to the audience...people always say that a timpanist is a ‘conductor from the rear’; well this time I get to be in the front!”

The Charlotte Symphony will take on a Short Ride in a Fast Machine, debuted in 1986 by American composer John Adams, before closing the program with Gershwin and Copland.

After the concert the Knight Lobby will transform into a KnightClub, featuring dancing with Charlotte DJ Andy Kastanas, to celebrate the final KnightSounds concert of the season and the Symphony's participation in the Ulysses Festival 2013, "Art & Technology!" The new 2013-14 KnightSounds Series will also be announced.

Tickets are general admission at \$39 and are available by calling the 704-972-2000 or visiting charlottesymphony.org.

“Tweet Seats” Available

To engage patrons and tie into the Ulysses Festival 2013 theme, “Art and Technology,” the Charlotte Symphony is offering concert-goers the opportunity to use their phones during the concert by live-tweeting from “Tweet Seats.” Tweet Seats will be in a special section at the back of the orchestra level so as not to disturb others. Tweeting participants will be required to turn off all sounds as well as to reduce screen brightness, and must promise to tweet about their experience during the 75 minute concert using the tags #ulyssesfest, #KnightSounds, or @cltsymphony.

Quantities of Tweet Seats are limited and offered at 20% off the regular \$39 general admission. In addition to admission, the price includes the pre-concert reception, a drink voucher, and the post-concert DJ dance party!

Tweet-Seat tickets are available [here](#) using promo code TWEET SEAT or by calling 704-972-2000 and requesting a Tweet Seat.

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