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**EMBARGOED UNTIL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018 AT 10 P.M.**

## **PRESERVING AND PIONEERING: CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2018-19 SEASON**

**CHARLOTTE, NC**—Preserving a rich Classical tradition while pioneering forward for the Charlotte community, the Charlotte Symphony’s 2018-19 season sparkles with musical storytelling, fresh holiday offerings, hometown highlights, diverse and illustrious guests, and a Charlotte anniversary celebration fit for a queen.

Superstar violinist Joshua Bell captivates with Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto to open the season with a gala performance in September at Belk Theater. This exciting opener also premieres a newly commissioned work in collaboration with the celebration of the Queen City’s 250th anniversary, which the Symphony will commemorate on three programs throughout the season.

The four most iconic notes ever written kick off the Classical series, with Music Director Christopher Warren-Green commanding Beethoven’s Fifth. Virtuoso pianist Garrick Ohlsson advances the October all-Beethoven program with the innovative and stunning Fourth Piano Concerto, a work that has been on Maestro Warren-Green’s bucket list for years.

“We are at the same time conservationists and pioneers,” says Maestro Warren-Green. “We must nod to the legacy of our tradition, of course, but we also must take risks – to show Charlotte what we can do, to push the envelope, and deliver the highest level of artistry for our whole community.”

Celebrating that community, Handel’s Water Music highlights an October concert fit for a royal celebration, honoring the city’s anniversary with coronation anthems and highlights from the Charlotte Symphony Chamber Singers.

New for the holiday season, Charlotte music lovers will have the opportunity to ring in the New Year with the Charlotte Symphony at an elegant New Year’s Eve Celebration at Knight Theater on December 31. Maestro Warren-Green will lead the orchestra in Strauss waltzes and Gershwin selections, all preceding a post-concert party with desserts, champagne, and dancing.

Also for the holidays, the hilarious, heartwarming classic, *Home Alone*, plays on a large screen in Belk Theater as the Charlotte Symphony performs John Williams’s treasured score.

Renowned conductor Roberto Abbado leads a lively nod to his home country of Italy in November. Anchored by Mendelssohn's most popular Italian Symphony, a bright Berlioz overture and contemporary composer Luciano Berio piece round out the experience. Noted Russian-Italian violinist Sergej Krylov will perform Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1.

A journey through the cosmos, Holst's *The Planets* will once again wow audiences, with a complementary Eric Whitacre selection, *Deep Field*, inspired by the Hubble spacecraft. Featuring the Charlotte Symphony Chorus, this experience introduces a modern-day digital element with audience participation.

Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero accents an evening of dances in the New Year, and the musical storytelling continues with Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* in February.

Maestro Warren-Green continues his Mahler journey with Charlotte audiences in March, presenting the composer's titanic First Symphony, a work whose poetry and imagery left a genre-changing legacy.

Dvorak's Violin Concerto spotlights 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient and Taiwanese-American violinist Paul Huang in a concert led by New Zealand conductor Gemma New in late March, and the Charlotte Symphony Chorus performs Mozart's *Requiem*, a masterpiece shrouded in mystery, in April.

Other Classical highlights include Russian-born conductor Andrey Boreyko conducting Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, with virtuosic pianist George Li on Rachmaninoff's rich and recognizable *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Included on that program, Ravel's seductive *Bolero* closes out the Classical series.

Throughout the series, Maestro Warren-Green highlights the Charlotte Symphony's hometown talent with solos from Principal Flutist Victor Wang on Grammy-winning composer Michael Daugherty's poignant *Trail of Tears*, commemorating Charlotte's anniversary, as well as Concertmaster Calin Lupanu's performance of a recently premiered piece by renowned bassist Edgar Meyer.

Guest conductors span genders, generations, and the globe, visiting from as far as Italy and New Zealand.

Pops performances range from Broadway classics to beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical hits. One of Broadway's best, vocalist Michael Cavanaugh, joins the CSO for a tribute to the music of Sir Elton John in September, and a favorite of Charlotte audiences, Pink Martini, will once again delight with their multicultural cross-genre flair in February.

Predictions of snow falling inside Knight Theater continue the awe surrounding the Magic of Christmas experience, offered for an extended two-weekend run in 2018.

Classical and Pops series subscriptions go on sale beginning Sunday, February 4 at 12 p.m. Current subscribers will be able to renew their seats through May 12. Individual concert tickets will go on sale in the summer. For more information, visit [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org).

### **About the Charlotte Symphony**

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony is a longstanding nonprofit organization committed to delivering exceptional musical experiences that connect and strengthen the Charlotte community. Led by internationally renowned Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the Symphony upholds the highest artistic integrity and takes bold steps to engage the community through music that enriches the human spirit. We employ professional full-time orchestra musicians, support two youth orchestras and a volunteer chorus, and offer significant educational programming aimed at improving underserved sections of our community. The Charlotte Symphony is integral to the Charlotte area, serving its community through music that connects and inspires. [charlottesymphony.org](http://charlottesymphony.org)

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