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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 CLASSICS SERIES

FEBRUARY 20, 2015 | CHARLOTTE, NC – A rare performance of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto played on the basset clarinet, the Charlotte premiere of Larsson's *A Winter's Tale*, Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad*, Gershwin's Rhapsody No. 2, and Copland's *Our Town*, plus the powerful Mahler Symphony No. 5 and *Carmina Burana* highlight the Charlotte Symphony's 2015-2016 Classics season beginning in September.

Music Director Christopher Warren-Green announced the season following the Symphony's performance on Friday evening, February 20 in Belk Theater.

"Next season's Classics include several of my favorite works, some by composers whom we haven't featured in a while, such as Mahler and Shostakovich, plus several Charlotte premieres," says Maestro Warren-Green. "We will also bring to the city some stunning young artists. I'm thrilled to bring this caliber of music to the city."

The 2015-2016 Classics Series will open with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 the weekend of September 25-26, 2015. The Symphony last performed this piece in 2010, the year Maestro Warren-Green joined the CSO. Young Uzbekistani pianist Behzod Abduraimov, whom *The Telegraph* has called "a gift from God," will be the featured soloist, playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. The program also includes Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*.

The season will be filled with similar young talent, including pianist Lukáš Vondráček, who will join the Symphony again for Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1. The work will also feature the CSO's own John Parker on trumpet, and the program will include Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Haydn's Symphony No. 104, "London."

Several concerts will include pieces that have been on Maestro Warren-Green's "bucket list," including Vaughan Williams's Symphony No. 2, "A London Symphony," and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, the Symphony's official chorus, will perform the Fauré *Requiem* in November, with returning soprano Christina Pier and Douglas Williams, baritone. Maestro Warren-Green will conduct the concert that also will include Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad* and Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*.

Cicely Parnas joins the Symphony in the new year for the Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1 under the direction of renowned cellist-turned-conductor Han-Na Chang.

In February, the sixth concert of the series will feature Michael Collins performing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, which will be a true interpretation of the music from Mozart's era, played on a basset clarinet. This instrument is longer than the usual clarinet and can play lower notes. This will enable the player to hit the exact notes that Mozart originally intended.

February also brings an all-American concert, including popular Copland and Gershwin works, from "Rhapsody in Blue" to the full, five-movement *Rodeo*. Andrew Grams will conduct this performance, which will feature William Wolfram on piano.

In late April, Maestro Warren-Green will lead violinist Angelo Xiang Yu on Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. The concert will include Ravel's *Pavane for a Dead Princess*, and Symphony No. 2, "A London Symphony," by British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who studied under Ravel and Bruch.

The Oratorio Singers join the Orchestra again for the season finale, *Carmina Burana*. The all-volunteer chorus, prepared under new leadership next season, will collaborate with the Charlotte Children's Choir of Community School of the Arts and several powerful soloists for this commanding work.

The complete 2015-2016 Charlotte Symphony Classics Series is attached. All concerts take place at Belk Theater in Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

In addition to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday night concerts, the Symphony will expand its 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening performances to four Classics performances next season, Classics II, IV, VIII, and X.

The Classics Series is presented to the community by Wells Fargo Private Bank.

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 whole community through music that educates, entertains, and enriches the human spirit. We are world-class musicians, music teachers, and music lovers. We put violins in the hands of Charlotte's children and actively nurture the next generation with our music education programs. 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.
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