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**CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY OPENS THIRD KNIGHTSOUNDS SEASON
WITH 'THE POWER OF THE SONG' AND KARAOKE CONTEST**
Maestro Warren-Green conducts

September 24, 2012 | CHARLOTTE, NC- The Charlotte Symphony opens its third season of its KnightSounds Series with a tribute to the art of song and its powerful influence on orchestral music and our everyday lives. The concert will take place on Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Knight Theater. The concert features soloists **Christina Pier**, soprano, **Susannah Biller**, soprano and **Daniel Stein**, tenor.

Part of the popular KnightSounds Series, which features classical music presented in unexpected ways, this concert will juxtapose works from disparate eras and enlighten audience members with insight into the meaning behind and the orchestral, societal, and political connections between songs. Notable works that will be performed include Golijov's "How Slow the Wind" from *Three Songs for Soprano*, written in 2001 and composed using poetry by Emily Dickinson, Gershwin's "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*, John Lennon's "Imagine" and Bernstein's "Glitter and be Gay" from *Candide*.

Launched in 2010 with the arrival of Music Director Christopher Warren-Green, the KnightSounds Series contemporizes the symphony concert and breaks down real and perceived barriers between audience and orchestra. The KnightSounds series attracts both first-time concertgoers and longtime patrons for its unique mix of classical repertoire, theatrical staging, a less formal atmosphere, and an opportunity for audience participation through activities.

Activities surrounding "The Power of the Song" include a karaoke contest qualifying round beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Knight Theater Lobby. Audience members are encouraged to karaoke with their significant other, in groups, or by themselves, with the chance of performing and competing after the concert for the grand prize—a KnightSounds Series subscription. All participants will be entered to win tickets and the top three performers will receive prizes.

Additionally, **CSO Pulse**, the Young Affiliates of the Charlotte Symphony, will host their first signature event of the season. Launched in 2011, Pulse is a group of young professionals who share a passion for music and a commitment to the mission of the Charlotte Symphony. Learn more about the group at www.csopulse.org.

The 2012-2013 KnightSounds season includes Ballroom! featuring **Metropolitan Ballroom** dancers (Jan. 25, 2013), “Pop-Up” Opera with the **Oratorio Singers of Charlotte** performing famous opera selections with VH1-style pop-ups of music trivia (Feb. 15, 2013), and American Music Masters and Pioneers, with works by Gershwin and Copland and featuring Principal Timpanist **Leonardo Soto** (Apr. 19, 2013.) All concerts are preceded by a reception with light hors d’oeuvres and followed by an audience activity. Post-concert activities include an informal dance party, a “pop-up” photo booth, and a DJ-led party celebrating the Charlotte Symphony’s participation in the Ulysses Festival 2013, “Art & Technology.”

KnightSounds tickets are \$39, include a drink, light hors d’oeuvre, and a post-concert audience activity, and are available through the Charlotte Symphony ticket office at 704-972-2000 or online at www.charlottesymphony.org. Subscriptions are available for \$135 for all four concerts.

About the Charlotte Symphony

Founded in 1932, the Charlotte Symphony aspires to serve the whole community through music that educates, entertains and enriches. As the largest arts organization in Charlotte, the symphony plays to 200,000 audience members each year in 90 concerts featuring classical music to pops. The symphony also reaches more than 12,000 students in 55 schools throughout the area in pursuit of its mission to provide musical education. As the largest employer of individual artists in Charlotte, the symphony generates an annual economic impact exceeding \$15 million. The symphony welcomes contributions; as with most performing arts organizations, ticket revenues cover only about one-third of expenses.

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