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SYMPHONY'S GIFT TO CHARLOTTE IS A MUSICAL HOLIDAY SEASON
AERIALISTS TAKE TREASURED TUNES TO NEW HEIGHTS AT SPX MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS (DEC 5-8)
WHILE HANDEL'S MESSIAH (DEC 18) HONORS TIMELESS TRADITION

October 24, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – A hectic holiday calendar can make it hard to slow the pace and enjoy the spirit of the season, but the Charlotte Symphony will do their best to drown out the bah-humbugs, making the most of this wonderful time of year with music!

The Symphony will ring in the festivities December 5-8 at Belk Theater with *SPX Magic of Christmas*.

Conductor Albert-George Schram, a long-loved audience favorite, will return to the podium to lead the orchestra, Oratorio Singers of Charlotte and Charlotte Children's Choir at the annual, family-friendly program, generously sponsored this year by SPX Corporation. Together they will fill the hall with classics of the Christmas canon—religious and secular, instrumental and vocal, popular and classic—from “Jingle Bells” to Strauss' Overture to *Die Fledermaus* and everything in between.



Charlotte Symphony's Magic of Christmas



Caroline Calouche, by Michael Church

Among this year's highlights are two local performing groups, both new to the Symphony's holiday program. Loch Norman Pipe Band will play an authentic “Highland Cathedral,” while Caroline Calouche & Co. will thrill on aerial silks and trapeze choreographed to “Silent Night” and “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

Solo talent from the orchestra will also be featured, but not in the most expected ways: while Principal Tubist Aubrey Foard will deliver a special rendition of “Wassail, Wassail All Over the Tuba,” the CSO's Frank Portone (principal horn) and Emily Chatham (violin) will step away from their instruments. Portone will sing tenor to the variation of “God Bless Us Everyone” popularized by Andrea Bocelli in Disney's recent *A Christmas Carol*, and Chatham will narrate the ever-classic poem “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” to an orchestral arrangement.

Finally, as always, the audience won't leave *SPX Magic of Christmas* without a few favorite sing-alongs!

SPX Magic of Christmas show times (all five performances of this program are at Belk Theater):

7:30 pm Thurs, Dec 5

8:00 pm Fri, Dec 6

2:30 pm Sat, Dec 7

8:00 pm Sat, Dec 7

2:30 pm Sun, Dec 8

Later in December, Director of Choruses and Assistant Conductor Scott Allen Jarrett will lead the orchestra and the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte through a staple of seasonal repertoire, the time-honored Handel's *Messiah*.

For centuries, Handel's masterpiece has moved thousands of people all over the world with its joy, sorrow, exaltation and serenity, the thrill of the Hallelujah Chorus; audiences can experience the Charlotte Symphony's performance of *Messiah* at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 18 at Belk Theater.

This is the only known full performance of *Messiah* in Charlotte.

Tickets to the Charlotte Symphony's performances of *SPX Magic of Christmas* and Handel's *Messiah* can both be purchased at charlottesymphony.org or 704-972-2000.

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 our 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 programs in music education. We bring artistic excellence to Charlotte's parks and hospitals, schools and churches, stadiums and concert halls. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone of our cultural community, connecting people and adding value to our lives through music.

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