



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

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music director

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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY WELCOMES MUSIC LOVERS BACK TO CONCERT HALL FOR 82ND SEASON *OPENING WEEKEND SEPT 27 & 28*

August 27, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony will launch its 82nd season into the heavens with the opening-weekend classical program *The Planets*. Warren-Green and the Orchestra will present Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 and, the centerpiece, Holst's astrologically-inspired suite *The Planets* on September 27 and 28 at the Belk Theater.

"I can't wait to welcome the people of Charlotte back to the Symphony this fall—the orchestra will be primed, of course, but the real joy, the best music, will come from the live performances, because the music lives in the hearts of the audience. I think I speak for the musicians, too, when I say that we are keen to get back on stage again after a summer apart," said Charlotte Symphony Music Director Christopher Warren-Green.

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra is the first in a series of Britten compositions that the Symphony will perform this season to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the late English composer's birth year. Years ago Warren-Green was privileged to meet Benjamin Britten and, as a lifelong fan, he is "thrilled to be honoring him in this way." Britten's work is a fitting season opener: just as students return to the classroom, music lovers return to the concert hall, and *The Young Person's Guide* rises to the occasion by introducing newcomers to the instruments, families and sounds of the orchestra while providing an energizing welcome-back to seasoned symphony-goers.

Following the Britten piece, Czech piano soloist Lukas Vondracek will join the Orchestra for Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2. The young yet accomplished Vondracek has performed with many of the world's most renowned orchestra's, touring nearly 30 different countries and giving in excess of 1000 concerts. He will be the first to play the Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2 for Charlotte Symphony audiences. Although generally acclaimed in classical piano repertoire, the concerto, according to repertoire history records, has never been presented professionally in Charlotte.

Finally, English composer Gustav Holst's lifelong fascination with astrology will color the theater when the Orchestra performs *The Planets*. *The Planets* is a seven-movement suite, each movement named for a planet of the solar system. Holst described the composition as "a series of mood pictures," progressing from "Mars, the Bringer of War," followed by the response of "Venus, the Bringer of Peace," through to "Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age," and the tranquility of the women's voices, sung by the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte Women's Chorus, in "Neptune, the Mystic."

The Charlotte Symphony will perform this opening program of their 82nd season at 8 pm on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28 at the Belk Theater. For tickets go to charlottesymphony.org or call 704.972.2000.

About the Charlotte Symphony

The Charlotte Symphony (CSO) is a cornerstone of the cultural community, enhancing the quality of life in the Charlotte area through great symphonic music that educates, entertains and enriches the human spirit. Founded in 1932, the CSO has brought music to generations of concertgoers and schoolchildren for more than eight decades, boasting a longer legacy than any orchestra in the region. As one of the largest professional performing arts groups in the area, the CSO has grown into a premier musical institution that now delivers more than 70 concerts from Classics to Pops each season and directly reaches more than 130,000 people every year through its artistic and education programs.