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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2014-2015 CLASSICS SERIES
WARREN-GREEN UNVEILS THE 83RD SEASON, HIS FIFTH AS MUSIC DIRECTOR



CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN

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February 10, 2014 | CHARLOTTE, NC – Music Director Christopher Warren-Green has announced the [Charlotte Symphony's 2014-2015 Classics Series](#), laying out a season that will tell symphonic stories of adventure, celebrate the anniversaries of composers Richard Strauss and Jean Sibelius, generously showcase beloved pieces from the piano repertory and present the North Carolina premier of a Concerto for Pipa, a four-stringed Chinese instrument, to be played by reigning pipa virtuoso Wu Man.

Other 2014-2015 highlights include Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 "Eroica, Schubert's "Tragic" Symphony, *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms, Tchaikovsky's "Little Russian" Symphony No. 2, Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber and, finally, Dvorak's "From the New World," for which a Sunday Mother's Day Matinee has been added as a third performance to close the season.

A special sprinkling of music by Richard Strauss and Jean Sibelius throughout the season celebrates the 150th anniversaries of their 1864 and 1865 births, respectively.

In addition to *Finlandia* the Symphony will also present Sibelius' Symphony No. 5, but his Violin Concerto in D Minor is not to be overshadowed: the young and versatile Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto, considered the premier Sibelius interpreter by Warren-Green and other experts, will feature as soloist.

Ein Heldenleben (A Hero's Life) and *Don Quixote* add tales of adventure to the season, but Strauss isn't the only composer getting in on the hero theme. Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica," will be featured in January, as will Rossini's Overture to *William Tell*, and *Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland will

be part of an all-American Ulysses Festival program commemorating the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Lovers of piano music will not be disappointed: long-renowned Lebanese composer and pianist Abdel Rahman El Bacha will play "Emperor" (Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5) in October; the commanding young Lukas Vondracek will return to perform with the Charlotte Symphony for Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 in February; In April the most recent winner of the International Chopin Piano Competition, Yulianna Avdeeva, will delight with Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2; and finally, in May, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 will be presented by the dynamic Natasha Paremski.

Beyond the pianists, other 2014-2015-Season soloists include Gary Hoffman performing the Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor, cellist Julian Schwarz representing Strauss' *Don Quixote*, the Charlotte Symphony's talented concertmaster Calin Lupanu on the Barber Violin Concerto and, of course, Wu Man and Pekka Kuusisto.

The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte will feature in Brahms' *A German Requiem* in November and again in March for the all-American program of Copland, Barber and Bernstein.

Christopher Warren-Green will conduct eight of the ten programs scheduled for the 14-15 Classics Season. Rising female conductor Mei-Ann Chen will take the podium for October program featuring the Pipa Concert. Gerard Schwarz, former Music Director for Seattle Symphony as well as New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, will conduct the January *Don Quixote* program featuring his son, cellist Julian Schwarz.

The complete 2014-2015 Charlotte Symphony Classics Series is attached. All concerts take place at the Belk Theater in the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

In addition to the usual 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday night concerts, the Symphony has added 7:30 p.m. Thursday performances to its Classics III and Classics IX programs in hopes that music lovers who cannot make it to the Symphony on weekend nights will be able to join the audience.

Season subscriptions make for a substantial savings over single ticket prices and offer the best seats among other subscriber benefits. Renewing subscribers are given first priority; new subscribers can create and purchase their packages starting March 3. Single tickets will go on sale this summer.

For more information go to charlottesymphony.org or call the Charlotte Symphony ticket office at 704.972.2000.

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2014-2015 Charlotte Symphony Classics Series

83rd Season

Classics I

September 19 & 20, 2014
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Gary Hoffman, cello

SIBELIUS *Finlandia*
DVORAK Cello Concerto in B minor
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"

Classics II

October 10 & 11, 2014
Mei-Ann Chen, conducting
Wu Man, pipa

MOZART Overture to *The Magic Flute*
JIPING Concerto for Pipa and Orchestra
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 4 in C minor "Tragic"

Classics III

October 30, 31 & November 1, 2014
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Abdel Rahman El Bacha, piano

WAGNER Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor"
STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben* (A Hero's Life)

Classics IV

November 14 & 15, 2014
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Oratorio Singers of Charlotte

BRAHMS *A German Requiem*

Classics V

January 16 & 17, 2015
Gerard Schwarz, conducting
Julian Schwarz, cello

ROSSINI Overture to *William Tell*
LISZT *Les Preludes*
STRAUSS *Don Quixote*

Classics VI

February 20 & 21, 2015
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Lukas Vondracek, piano

MOZART Overture to *The Impresario*
STRAUSS *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*
BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2

Classics VII

March 13 & 14, 2015
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Pekka Kuusisto, violin

GLINKA Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto in D minor
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2 "Little Russian"

Classics VIII

March 27 & 28, 2015
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Calin Lupanu, violin
Oratorio Singers of Charlotte

COPLAND *Fanfare for the Common Man*
BARBER Adagio for Strings
BARBER Violin Concerto
COPLAND *Lincoln Portrait*
BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms*

Classics IX

April 23, 24 & 25, 2015
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Yulianna Avdeeva, piano

BIZET *Carmen* Suite No. 1
CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2
SIBELIUS Symphony No. 5

Classics X

May 8, 9 & 10, 2015
Christopher Warren-Green, conducting
Natasha Paremski, piano

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3
DVORAK Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"