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EMBARGOED UNTIL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 AT 10 P.M.

BEETHOVEN TO BEATBOX: CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 SEASON

February 8, 2017 | Charlotte, NC—From Beethoven to beatboxing and Stravinsky to steel pan, the Charlotte Symphony’s 2017-2018 season is marked by standards, surprises, and works that embody the revolutionary power of music.

Classical superstar Lang Lang, the prodigy who has played at the opening of the Beijing Olympics and at the White House and Buckingham Palace, brings Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5, “Emperor,” to Belk Theater for a one-night-only special gala performance in September.

Mainstays of the **Classical** season, which expands from 10 to 12 performances in both Belk and Knight theaters next season, include Beethoven’s colossal Ninth Symphony, a dramatic series opener conducted by Maestro Warren-Green, featuring the Charlotte Symphony Chorus. Vibrant violinist/conductor Aislinn Nosky play/conducts a celebration of strings with Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, plus works by Bach, Telemann, and Mendelssohn just after the New Year.

Across all seasons, the Charlotte Symphony debuts 10 works and welcomes 10 new guest artists and conductors.

In an exciting collaboration with four Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools and Charlotte Ballet, nearly 80 students and professionals take the stage to present two of Stravinsky’s striking compositions, *Apollon Musagète* and the revolt-inspiring *Rite of Spring* in April.

Other Classical performances include Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony, conducting Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo’s *Concierto de Aranjuez*, which blends classical guitar and orchestra to evoke beautiful images of nature. Guest conductor Bernard Labadie tackles two giants as he joins forces with pianist and Harvard music professor Robert Levin to bring Mozart’s Concerto for Piano, No. 23, to life alongside Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1.

Maestro Warren-Green welcomes 26-year-old American violinist Benjamin Beilman for Beethoven’s Violin Concerto on a program bookended by that composer’s Overture to *The Consecration of the House*, which the Charlotte Symphony performed 25 years ago at the opening of Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The Symphony also celebrates American composers with February performances of Gershwin's *An American in Paris* with Copland's *Old American Songs* and Grammy Award-winner and Charlotte Symphony Artist-in-Residence Mark O'Connor's *Americana Symphony*.

In March, acclaimed pianist Leon Fleisher joins Maestro Warren-Green for a moving performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, bookended by works by Sibelius and Prokofiev. Also that month the Symphony celebrates the centennial of Leonard Bernstein's birth with the music of *West Side Story*, plus his Symphony No. 1, "Jeremiah," featuring new music vocalist Kelley O'Connor.

Pops series highlights include the return of Cirque de la Symphonie, an aerial experience featuring popular film scores and the Music of John Williams. Other Pops programs include the Music of John Denver; Dancing Queen: The Music of ABBA; Disney's *Fantasia*, complete with scenes from both the 1940 and 2000 films, and Magic of Christmas, which this year features Mark O'Connor and his family band.

Edgier **altsounds** sees steel pan take center stage, as mold-breaking composer Andy Akiho performs a concerto for steelpan and orchestra inspired by Rome's Pantheon. Brooklyn-based PROJECT Trio breaks down traditional ideas of chamber music in a concert featuring *Scatter*, a concerto written by rising American composer Adam Schoenberg. And American composer John Corigliano's Grammy Award-winning *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan* features soprano Lindsay Kesselman and a partnership with School of Rock Charlotte.

Family-friendly **Lollipopops** delivers four exciting experiences next season: The Musical World of Harry Potter, Stone Soup, and borrows shorter matinee performances of *Fantasia* and Magic of Christmas from the Pops series.

Flexible season subscriptions are available, including Choose-Your-Own packages.

More information can be found at charlottesymphony.org or by calling the Charlotte Symphony ticket office at 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 the community through music that educates, entertains, and enriches the human spirit. We are 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 and outreach programs. The Charlotte Symphony is a cornerstone of the cultural community, unifying people and adding value to their lives through music.

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Charlotte Symphony 2017-2018 Season

GALA

Lang Lang plays Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Lang Lang, piano

Tuesday, September 12

SPECIAL

Messiah

Knight Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Charlotte Symphony Chorus

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

CLASSICAL SERIES

Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Friday, September 22

Saturday, September 23

Sunday, September 24

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Opus 125, "Choral"

Rodrigo Guitar Concerto

Knight Theater

Marcelo Lehninger, conductor

Pablo Sainz Villegas, guitar

Friday, October 6

Saturday, October 7

FRANK Three Latin American Dances

RODRIGO *Concierto de Aranjuez* for Guitar and Orchestra

GINASTERA Four Dances from Estancia, Opus 8a

Mozart & Beethoven

Belk Theater

Bernard Labadie, conductor

Robert Levin, piano

Friday, October 27

Saturday, October 28

MOZART Chaconne from *Idomeneo*: Ballet Music

MOZART Concerto for Piano, no. 23, K. 488, A major

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1 in C, Opus 21

Beethoven Violin Concerto

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Benjamin Beilman, violin

Friday, November 17

Saturday, November 18

BEETHOVEN Overture to *The Consecration of the House*, Opus 124

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto in D, Opus 61

BRAHMS Symphony No. 4, Opus 98, E minor

Vivaldi Four Seasons

Belk Theater

Aislinn Nosky, violin and conductor

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

BACH, J.S. Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, BWV 1041

TELEMANN Suite from *Don Quixote*

MENDELSSOHN Sinfonia No.1 in C major

VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*, Opus 8, Nos. 1-4

Magic Flute Overture

Knight Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Amanda Forsythe, soprano

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

MOZART Overture to *The Magic Flute*

HAYDN Symphony No. 65, Hob. I:65, A major

MOZART *Exsultate, jubilate*, K. 158a [165]

HAYDN Symphony No. 45, Hob. I:45, F-sharp minor, "Farewell"

An American in Paris

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Charlotte Symphony Chorus

Friday, February 2

Saturday, February 3

GERSHWIN *An American in Paris*

COPLAND *Old American Songs*

MARK O'CONNOR *Americana Symphony: Variations on Appalachia Waltz*

Fleisher Plays Ravel Left Hand

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Leon Fleisher, piano

Friday, March 9

Saturday, March 10

SIBELIUS *En Saga*, Opus 9

RAVEL Concerto for Piano, D major (Left Hand Alone)

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, Opus 100

West Side Story

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Kelley O'Connor, mezzo soprano

Friday, March 23

Saturday, March 24

BERNSTEIN Symphony No. 1, *Jeremiah*

BERNSTEIN Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*

BERNSTEIN Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Rite of Spring

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Charlotte Ballet

Friday, April 6, 2018

Saturday, April 7, 2018

STRAVINSKY *Apollon Musagète, Ballet in Two Scenes (1947 version)*

STRAVINSKY *Rite of Spring*

Brahms Piano Concerto No 1

Belk Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Kirill Gerstein, piano

Friday, April 27

Saturday, April 28

LIGETI Melodien

BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra

BRAHMS Concerto No. 1 in D Minor for Piano, Opus 15

Mozart's Jupiter

Knight Theater

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor

Calin Ovidiu Lupanu, violin

Aubrey Foard, tuba

Friday, May 11

Saturday, May 12

MOZART Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 173dB [183]

MOZART Concerto for Violin, no. 4, K. 281, D major

PETERING "Lament" from Concerto for Tuba

MOZART Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, "Jupiter"

POPS SERIES

Cirque Goes to the Cinema

Belk Theater

Friday, October 13

Saturday, October 14

Magic of Christmas featuring Mark O'Connor

Belk Theater

Albert-George Schram conductor

Mark O'Connor and the O'Connor Band

Charlotte Symphony Chorus

Charlotte Symphony Children's Chorus

Thursday, November 30

Friday, December 1

Saturday, December 2

Sunday, December 3

Music of John Williams

Belk Theater

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

Dancing Queen: The Music of ABBA

Knight Theater

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

Rocky Mountain High: John Denver

Belk Theater

Friday, March 2

Saturday, March 3

Disney's Fantasia

Belk Theater

Friday, May 4

Saturday, May 5

LOLLIPOPS SERIES

The Musical World of Harry Potter

Knight Theater

Christopher James Lees *conductor*

Saturday, September 30

Magic of Christmas featuring Mark O'Connor

Belk Theater

Saturday, December 2

Stone Soup

Knight Theater

Christopher James Lees *conductor*

Saturday, January 27

Disney's Fantasia

Belk Theater

Saturday, May 5

ALTSOUNDS SERIES

Concerto for Steelpan and Orchestra

Knight Theater

Christopher James Lees, conductor

Andy Akiho, steel pan

Friday, November 10

Steel pan takes center stage as mold-breaking composer and pannist Andy Akiho performs *Beneath Lighted Coffers*, a concerto for steelpan and orchestra inspired by Rome's Pantheon.

Beatbox Plus

Knight Theater

Christopher James Lees, conductor

Project Trio

Friday, February 16

Combining the virtuosity of world-class artists with the energy of rock stars, PROJECT Trio is breaking down traditional ideas of chamber music. Featured in this concert is *Scatter*, a concerto written for PROJECT Trio by rising American composer Adam Schoenberg.

Mr. Tambourine Man: Poems of Bob Dylan

Knight Theater

Christopher James Lees, conductor

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano

Friday, April 20

American composer John Corigliano's Grammy-award winning *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan* features soprano Lindsay Kesselman.