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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: April 2, 2009

Marin Symphony announces its 2009-10 season, "The Season of the Scribe"

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Interdisciplinary focus highlights influence of classical music on prominent local writers

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SAN RAFAEL, CA—The Marin Symphony Board of Directors announced today the program for 2009-10, the Marin Symphony Association's 57th subscription season. Titled "The Season of the Scribe," the program celebrates the role of classical music in the lives and inspirations of prominent local writers. In so doing, the program continues the thematic emphasis begun three seasons ago on the connection between classical music and other artistic disciplines.

In his selection of guest soloists for the season, Music Director Alasdair Neale once again draws on his affiliations with prestigious symphony organizations nationwide to attract to Marin important musical talent, both established and emerging. "I'm delighted by the range and extraordinary talent of the artists this season," Music Director Neale says enthusiastically. Marin Symphony audiences will be pleased to see a thrilling world premiere performed by a world-renowned soprano (Christine Brewer), the return of some of their favorite guest soloists (violinists Vadim Gluzman and Elizabeth Pitcairn), and the arrival center stage of two gifted, ascending artists: pianist Keisuke Nakagoshi and guest conductor Edward Abrams. Throughout the season, at free pre-concert talks, audiences will also hear intriguing stories of how the compositions on the evenings' concert programs have influenced the lives of noteworthy authors.

Each of the season's five concert sets showcases a composition in the classical music repertoire that has in some way influenced or inspired the life of a renowned writer. For instance, the season-opening concert set (October 4 & 6, 2009) features an all-Gershwin program including

Rhapsody in Blue which has been an all-time personal favorite of renowned author Tobias Wolff. Other Gershwin works on the program are: *Cuban Overture*, Suite from *Catfish Row* and *An American in Paris*.

Marin Symphony Board President John R. Pitcairn of Ross comments about the "Scribe" theme, "You can be intrigued by just about any art form and, if you follow the thread of inspiration and influence, it won't take you long to get to classical music. That's what we're trying to show our audiences--that artists of all types live and breathe classical music. So many people have the misperception that classical music is irrelevant today. On the contrary, it forms the bedrock of creative life—in all disciplines."

Marin Symphony Executive Director Noralee Monestere concurs by illuminating the Symphony's systematic reinforcement of this message. "Three seasons ago, we showed the close connection of classical music to film. Last season, we programmed symphonic dance music to show how classical music has been supporting many different types of dance all these years. Now we're playing the favorite classical works of terrific writers who write in all genres. It shows you that classical music is everywhere."

Marin audiences are taking note and responding enthusiastically. In a review of the 2008-09 season-opening concert, San Francisco Classical Voice hailed, "This type of creative programming with multiple media should be considered a model for symphony orchestras all over the country..."

Novelist Barbara Quick, who researched the life and times of Venetian composer Antonio Vivaldi while writing her best-selling book *Vivaldi's Virgins*, is the highlighted author on Set II (November 1 & 3, 2009). For this set, Maestro Neale has programmed two time-honored works from the 18th century: Vivaldi's own *The Four Seasons* (violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn solos) and Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G minor.

Other notable writers featured sequentially during the season are Roger Housden, author of best-selling poetry anthologies, whose passion for sacred choral music inspired the programming of Mozart's Requiem on Set III (to be sung by the Marin Symphony Chorus on January 31 and

February 2, 2010); and multiple award-winning playwright and director Jane Anderson who successfully traversed the tumultuous years of adolescence soothed by Debussy's Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun." Maestro Neale has programmed the Debussy work for the February 28 and March 2, 2010 concerts along with Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* (celebrity narrator to be announced) and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E minor. All of the above authors are residents of the Bay Area; two live in Marin.

The season will build to a riveting conclusion in Set V (April 11 & 13) when soprano Christine Brewer takes center stage to perform the world premiere of David Carlson's Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra, commissioned by Silicon Valley entrepreneur and philanthropist Kathryn Gould through her Magnum Opus project. Collaborators composer Carlson and poet/librettist Susan Kinsolving will both be in attendance at the concerts, joining the Maestro pre-concert and adding further educational dimension to the "scribe" theme. Ms. Brewer will also perform "Prelude and Liebestod" from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, paired on the program with another Wagner work, *Siegfried Idyll*. In the same set, Edward Abrams guest conducts Barber's Essay for Orchestra No. 2, Opus 17. Maestro Neale will conduct all other works on the 2009-10 season program.

The Marin Symphony has reduced its concert offerings in 2009-10 from six concert sets to five to exercise fiscal prudence in these uncertain economic times. The concert set reduction is just one of many cost-savings measures taken by the Board in their conscientious stewardship of the organization. "I promise our audience that the high quality of our music will never be compromised," Maestro Neale emphasizes.

Tickets to the Marin Symphony's 2009-10 season are available now only by subscription. Subscriptions offer the best seats at the best prices. Subscriptions for Sunday or Tuesday evening performances are available in FULL (5-concert), FLEX (4-concert) and INTRO (3-concert) series. (INTRO series are available to new subscribers only.) Subscriptions are priced at \$85-\$336. Five-concert (full series) subscribers save 20% versus single ticket prices with their exclusive, free companion ticket, good for any one concert during the season. Furthermore, only five-concert subscribers will retain the right of first refusal for their seats the following season (in 2010-2011). For more details, call 415.479.8100 or click www.marinsymphony.org

Single tickets at \$70 / \$54 / \$29 will go on sale Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the Marin Center Box Office and via Ticketmaster (handling fee applies). Call 415.499.6800 or click www.marinsymphony.org

Download the 2009-10 season brochure at

<http://www.marinsymphony.org/images/200910Brochure.pdf>

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Chapter One

Playing the Grooves off Gershwin

October 4 & 6, 2009 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano

Gershwin *Cuban Overture*

Gershwin Suite from *Catfish Row*

Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*

Gershwin *An American in Paris*

"...on a very American note, I love Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*."

--Tobias Wolff

Tobias Wolff, author of *Our Story Begins* and many other books, joins Alasdair Neale pre-concert.

Concerts made possible by Bon Air Center, 102.1FM KDFC and Marin Magazine. Guest soloist sponsored by Frank and Lois Noonan.

Chapter Two

18th Century Splendor and Elegance

November 1 & 3, 2009 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin

Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

Mozart Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

"There's an inevitability and truth to a beautiful sentence or brilliant musical phrase."

--Barbara Quick

Barbara Quick, author of *Vivaldi's Virgins* and other books, joins Alasdair Neale pre-concert.

Concerts made possible by Montecito Plaza Shopping Center and Kaiser Permanente.

Chapter Three

The Bridge Between Here and Beyond

January 31 & February 2, 2010 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Vadim Gluzman, violin

Marin Symphony Chorus

Mozart Requiem, K. 626

Brahms Concerto for Violin in D Major, Opus 77

"Great poetry, like great music, calls into question no less than everything."

--Roger Housden

Roger Housden, author of *For Lovers of God Everywhere: Poems of the Christian Mystics* and numerous other poetry anthologies, joins Alasdair Neale pre-concert.

Concerts made possible by Bank of Marin and the Marin Independent Journal. Guest soloist sponsored by Hoytt Enterprises.

Chapter Four

Four Score and Seven Years Ago

February 28 & March 2, 2010 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Celebrity Narrator, TBA

Debussy Prélude à "L'après-midi d'un faune" (Afternoon of a Faun)

Copland *Lincoln Portrait*

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Opus 64

"When I was a moody, heartsick adolescent, I fell in love with Debussy's 'Afternoon of a Faun...' When I listen to the 'Faun' now, I still feel the swoon."

--Jane Anderson

Jane Anderson, multiple award-winning playwright and director for stage and screen, joins Alasdair Neale pre-concert.

Concerts made possible by Westamerica Bank and Brayton Purcell, LLP.

Chapter Five

Magnum Opus and Magnificent Epics

April 11 & 13, 2010 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Edward Abrams, guest conductor

Christine Brewer, soprano

Barber Essay for Orchestra No. 2, Opus 17

Carlson *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra* (Magnum Opus premiere)

Wagner *Siegfried Idyll*

Wagner "Prelude and Liebestod" from *Tristan and Isolde*

"Years ago, David Carlson invited me to collaborate on a cantata for The Glimmerglass Opera. The joys and challenges of that collaboration have expanded with this new song cycle for Christine Brewer."

--Susan Kinsolving

David Carlson and Susan Kinsolving join Alasdair Neale pre-concert to discuss the creation of the Magnum Opus work.

Concerts made possible by LVP Marin Realtors and Peter Levi Plumbing.

All concerts at 7:30pm at Marin Center, San Rafael Free pre-concert talks from 6:30-7pm All guest artists and programs subject to change. No babes in arms.

FEATURED SOLOISTS

Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano (October 4 & 6, 2009)

A native of Japan, Keisuke Nakagoshi began his piano studies at age ten with Kaori Fujiwara. At age 18, he came to the U.S. and studied piano with Linda Carroll and composition with Jerry Mueller. Mr. Nakagoshi went on to study composition with David Conte at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and, in 2003, earned his Bachelor of Music in Composition. In 2005, he was selected to represent the school for The Conservatory Project, a program featuring young artists at the Kennedy Center. Mr. Nakagoshi studied piano with Paul Hersh at the Conservatory, and earned his M.M. in chamber music in 2006. He won the Concerto Competition and performed Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Alasdair Neale.

Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin (November 1 & 3, 2009)

Since her notable debut with the New York String Orchestra at Lincoln Center, violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn has earned a celebrated reputation as one of America's most beloved rising soloists. The signature artist performs in partnership with one of the world's most legendary instruments, the *Red Mendelssohn* Stradivarius of 1720, said to have inspired the Academy award-winning film *The Red Violin*. Born into a musical family in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Ms. Pitcairn began studying the violin at age three and performed her first concerto with orchestra at age 14. Under the direction of Maestro Luis Blava, Ms. Pitcairn performed with Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Youth Orchestra in San Juan and Ponce. She then studied in Los Angeles with pre-eminent violin professor Robert Lipsett at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. After winning a major competition, she appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Academy of Music. She has performed with Mehli Mehta and has worked with renowned conductors Zubin Mehta, Michael Tilson Thomas, Boris Brott, Navroj Mehta and Andre-Raphael Smith.

Vadim Gluzman, violin (January 31 & February 2, 2010)

Israeli violinist Vadim Gluzman, in technique and sensibility, harkens back to the Golden Age of violinists of the 19th and 20th centuries, while possessing the passion and energy of the 21st century. Lauded by both critics and audiences as a performer of great depth, virtuosity and technical brilliance, he has appeared throughout the world as a soloist, appearing with many of the world's finest orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, the Munich, Dresden and Czech philharmonic orchestras, the Stuttgart Radio Orchestra, NHK and KBS orchestras, and many others. Early in his career Gluzman enjoyed the encouragement and support of Isaac Stern, and in 1994 he received the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Career Award. Gluzman plays

the extraordinary 1690 ex-Leopold Auer Stradivarius, on extended loan to him through the generosity of the Stradivari Society of Chicago.

Born in 1973 in the Ukraine, Vadim Gluzman began studying the violin at the age of seven. Before moving to Israel in 1990, he studied under Zakhar Bron and later under Yair Kless in Tel Aviv. He also studied in the United States under Arkady Fomin and at The Juilliard School under the late Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki.

Christine Brewer, soprano (April 11 & 13, 2010)

Grammy Award-winning American soprano Christine Brewer's appearances in opera, concert and recital are marked with her own unique timbre, at once warm and brilliant, combined with a vibrant personality and emotional honesty reminiscent of the great sopranos of the past. Her range, golden tone, boundless power, and control make her a favorite of the stage as well as a sought-after recording artist.

Highlights of Christine Brewer's 2008-09 season are numerous and include her return to the Metropolitan Opera as Brünnhilde in the last showing of Otto Schenk's landmark *Ring* production, heard around the world as part of the MET radio broadcasts; Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Esa-Pekka Salonen, the New York Philharmonic and Lorin Maazel, and the Staatskapelle Berlin and Pierre Boulez at Carnegie Hall; Verdi's Requiem with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and David Robertson as well as with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis, with whom she also collaborates as soloist in Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Donald Runnicles; concerts with the BBC Philharmonic at home in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and on tour to Spain with Wagner's *Wesendonck-Lieder*; and performances of Britten's *War Requiem* in Dresden and at Royal Albert Hall. Typical of this versatile artist, she sings and records Strauss opera scenes with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Runnicles, performs Handel with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Wagner with the Malaysia Philharmonic, and closes the season in the title role of Gluck's masterpiece, *Alceste*, at Santa Fe Opera.

Christine Brewer has appeared with many of the world's great conductors: Kurt Masur, Robert Shaw, Pierre Boulez, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Michael Tilson Thomas, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Sir Simon Rattle, Christoph von Dohnányi, Antonio Pappano, Sir Charles Mackerras, James Conlon, Sir Neville Marriner, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Colin Davis, Donald Runnicles, Valery Gergiev, and Christoph Eschenbach. She has performed her broad repertoire encompassing the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Verdi, Strauss, Mahler, Janáček, and Britten regularly with many of the world's leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic; Cleveland Orchestra; Philadelphia Orchestra; National Symphony Orchestra; Los Angeles Philharmonic; and the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and Atlanta. In Europe she counts the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields as regular partners.

Edward Abrams, guest conductor (April 11 & 13, 2010 – Barber only)

Edward "Teddy" Abrams performs as a conductor, clarinetist, and pianist in addition to composing. He is currently the Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony for the 2008-09 season. In this position, Mr. Abrams serves as the Assistant Conductor of the New World Symphony and leads many performances this year including subscription concerts (sharing the podium with visiting guest conductors), Kids Concerts, and several other full and chamber orchestra events. Mr. Abrams has studied conducting with Michael Tilson Thomas and was a student of Otto-Werner Mueller at the Curtis Institute of Music. He also studied with David Zinman at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen during the summers of 2006 through 2008. In October 2008, Mr. Abrams will conduct a special concert at the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall with musicians from conservatories across the country and guest artists Time for Three. Mr. Abrams graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2005 with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. He has conducted the New World Symphony in performances in Miami Beach, Washington D.C., and Carnegie Hall, and has also conducted the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony Parnassus of San Francisco.

FEATURED WRITERS (Pre-concert)

Tobias Wolff (October 4 & 6, 2009)

Tobias Wolff's books include the memoirs *This Boy's Life* and *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War*; the short novel *The Barracks Thief*; the novel *Old School*, and four collections of short stories, *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs*, *Back in the World*, *The Night in Question*, and, most recently, *Our Story Begins: New and Selected Stories*. He has also edited several anthologies, among them *Best American Short Stories 1994*, *A Doctor's Visit: The Short Stories of Anton Chekhov*, and *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*. His work is translated widely and has received numerous awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award, The Los Angeles Times Book Prize, both the PEN/Malamud and the Rea Award for Excellence in the Short Story, and the Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is the Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professor of English at Stanford.

Pre-concert, Mr. Wolff joins Alasdair Neale to discuss the influence of classical music in his life.

Barbara Quick (November 1 & 3, 2009)

Barbara Quick is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), where she majored in English and French. Her first book, *Northern Edge: A Novel*, was published by Donald I. Fine in 1990 and brought out in paperback by HarperCollinsWest in 1995. The story was based on two field seasons Barbara spent with a group of bird biologists in arctic Alaska. *Northern Edge* was in the maiden group of books awarded the *Discover: Great New Writers* prize. The novel has been optioned for a film.

To research and write *Vivaldi's Virgins*, Barbara learned Italian and took three separate trips to Venice. Translation rights have been sold by HarperCollins in 13 languages. Barbara is writing an adaptation of *Vivaldi's Virgins* for the musical stage with composer Gunnar Madsen and project support from TheatreWorks.

Barbara was in Italy again in spring 2007 to do research for a young adult novel set in 14th century Bologna. Based on the inspiring story of the medical prodigy Alessandra Giliani, *A Golden Web* will be published in fall 2009 by HarperCollins' Children's Books.

Barbara's reviews, essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Newsweek*, *Ms.*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Ms. Quick lives in Cotati.

Pre-concert, Ms. Quick reads from her novel *Vivaldi's Virgins* as she and the Maestro discuss the music, magic, intrigue and splendor of eighteenth century Venice.

Roger Housden (January 31 & February 2, 2010)

Roger Housden grew up in the cleft of a Cotswold valley on the edge of Bath, England. From an early age, living in the shadow of an ancient stone circle, he felt us to be creatures with one foot in this world and one in another, less visible one. To weave these two realms – this gritty world of action and the world of silence, imagination, and being – into one cloth, rich with meaning, is what he feels we are here for. Poetry, art, and travel have given him a language for this experience of a life deeply felt, and also an entry directly into it.

His first book was published in 1990, and as of the fall of 2009, he will have published eighteen books. Titles include: *Chasing Rumi: A Fable About Finding the Heart's True Desire*; *Ten Poems to Change Your Life*; *Risking Everything: 110 Poems of Love and Revelation*; and *How Rembrandt Reveals Your Beautiful, Imperfect Self*. His most recent work, *For Lovers of God Everywhere: The Poems of the Christian Mystics*,

will be released by Hay House in November, 2009. One of his works, *Seven Sins For a Life Worth Living*, is an unusual reflection on the nature of pleasure, including the pleasure of doing nothing – “the creative pause” – and the pleasure of not being perfect. Maria Sharapova, the tennis star, has called it “one of the most inspirational books I have ever read.” Mr. Housden’s work has been featured many times in The Oprah Magazine, in *The New York Times*, and in the *Los Angeles Times*. He lives in Marin County.

Pre-concert, Mr. Housden and Maestro Neale explore the capacities of both music and poetry to catalyze change, inspire insight, cultivate wisdom and render peace.

Jane Anderson (February 28 & March 2, 2010)

Jane Anderson is a multiple award-winning writer and director who has created some of the most thought-provoking theater, film and television in the last two decades.

Her plays have been produced Off-Broadway and in theaters around the country, including Actors Theater of Louisville, Williamstown, The McCarter Theater, Long Wharf and The Pasadena Playhouse. Her published plays are *Looking for Normal*, *The Baby Dance*, *Defying Gravity*, *Food & Shelter*, *Smart Choices for the New Century*, *Lynette at 3am* and *The Last Time We Saw Her*. Her most recent play, *The Quality of Life*, premiered at the Geffen Playhouse and produced at A.C.T., directed by Ms. Anderson.

For film and television, Ms. Anderson wrote and directed *The Prizewinner of Defiance*, *Ohio* and *Normal for HBO* which garnered six Emmy nominations (including best writing, directing and best made-for-TV film), three Golden Globe nominations, and Director’s Guild and Writer’s Guild nominations for best directing and writing. She wrote HBO’s ground-breaking *The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom* for which she received an Emmy, a Penn Award and Writers Guild Award for best teleplay. Her other television films include *When Billie Beat Bobbie* and *The Baby Dance* for which she received a Peabody Award, a Golden Globe nomination and three Emmy nominations for best writing and made-for-TV film. She wrote and directed the first segment of *If These Walks Could Talk II* which starred Vanessa Redgrave and earned Ms. Anderson an Emmy nomination for best writing. Her other screenwriting credits include *How to Make an American Quilt* and *It Could Happen to You*.

Ms. Anderson resides in West Marin and in Los Angeles with her spouse Tess Ayers and their son, Raphael.

Pre-concert, Ms. Anderson and Maestro Neale team up to discuss Debussy’s Prelude to “The Afternoon of a Faun” and the influence of the work on her life.

Susan Kinsolving (April 11 & 13)

Susan Kinsolving's books of poems are *The White Eyelash*, *Dailies & Rushes*, a finalist for The National Book Critics Circle Award, *Among Flowers*, and forthcoming *My Glass Eye*. Her books have been critically acclaimed by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Poetry*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Vanity Fair*, *Kirkus*, among others.

Susan has taught poetry at The Bennington Writing Seminars, University of Connecticut, Southampton College, Chautauqua Institute, Willard-Cybulski Mens' Prison, and California Institute of the Arts. As a librettist, her works have been performed by the Glimmerglass Opera and The Baroque Choral Guild in The Netherlands, Italy, New York, and California. She has been a guest lecturer and reader throughout the world. She has received poetry fellowships from New York, Illinois, France, Italy, Scotland, and Switzerland.

Pre-concert, Ms. Kinsolving and composer David Carlson join Alasdair Neale to discuss the creation of *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra*, a Magnum Opus commissioning which will receive its world premiere performances on April 11 & 13. Ms. Kinsolving is librettist of the work.

Jpg: Marin Symphony Music Director Alasdair Neale
Photo by James Hall

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