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# NEWS RELEASE

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**The Marin Symphony announces 2007-08 season, the "Season of the Silver Screen"**

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Innovative programming includes collaborations with Mill Valley Film Festival and Rafael Theater

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SAN RAFAEL, CA—In an inventive departure from its tradition of programming purely abstract classical concert music, The Marin Symphony Association announced its 55<sup>th</sup> subscription season today, dubbing the 2007-08 season the "Season of the Silver Screen."

As the name suggests, the season contains numerous concert programs where the relationship between symphonic music and the cinematographic arts are explored. The 2007-08 season will open on October 7 and 9, 2007 with an exciting, collaborative screening of Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 black-and-white, silent film classic, *The Battleship "Potemkin,"* with Music Director Alasdair Neale conducting a live, symphonic score by Dmitri Shostakovich. Presented in cooperation with the California Film Institute, these two performances will be part of both the Marin Symphony's standard subscription series and of the Mill Valley Film Festival.

"The trend in the performing arts today is to mix media," explains Marin Symphony Executive Director Noralee Monestere. "We're seeing music and videos, music and literature, music and visual art, and so on. Marin is such a haven for film lovers, we decided to start mixing and matching by creating a season celebrating music and film. We're really excited."

Mark Fishkin, Founder and Executive Director of the California Film Institute which produces the annual Mill Valley Film Festival, also sees the Marin Symphony/MVFF link as a natural and notable one. "The Mill Valley Film Festival is turning 30 this year," Mr. Fishkin explains, "And the Marin Symphony is celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup>. We are excited about the program, as Eisenstein's 'Potemkin' is a seminal work. Eisenstein changed the way filmmakers thought about and pursued their craft. A

collaborative screening of 'Potemkin' presented an ideal way for two of Marin's most significant cultural institutions to come together to celebrate their anniversaries."

Other programs in the 2007/08 season exalting the relationship between music and film are the season's Program Two, scheduled for November 4 and 6, and Program Four, scheduled for February 24 and 26. The November program will feature a performance of Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin by soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn, who performs on the legendary 1720 "Red" Mendelssohn Stradivarius that helped inspire the 1999 Academy Award-winning film, "The Red Violin." In the February program, called "Screen Gems," Maestro Neale will conduct classical music compositions that became well-known themes from notable films, such as Richard Strauss's "Sunrise" from *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (2001: a Space Odyssey); Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings (Platoon); Erik Satie's *Deux Preludes postumes et une Gnoisenne* (Chocolat); John Williams's Theme from "Schindler's List" (Schindler's List); Gustav Holst's Mars, Venus, Mercury and Jupiter from *The Planets* (The Right Stuff); and more.

Do all the concerts in the 2007-08 season have a cinematographic link? "Not all," responds the Marin Symphony's music director Alasdair Neale. "We're still, first and foremost, a high quality, symphonic orchestra resting on our reputation for delivering fine classical music concerts. This season will be fun for both film lovers and classical music lovers because even though many of the works we're performing were adapted to film, they stand by their own right in the classical music repertoire. They originated there."

Maestro Neale is very excited by the line-up of guest soloists slated for the 2007-08 season, which includes Russian-born Israeli violinist Vadim Gluzman performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in a program of music by Russian composers (January); the return of a former Marin Symphony audience favorite, solo cellist Hai-Ye Ni (March/April); and a Marin Symphony Chorus performance of Carl Orff's riveting and renowned *Carmina Burana* (April).

### "Up Close and Personal" Events

Known throughout the Bay Area for providing audience members with a high degree of educational and social access to the Maestro, musicians, visiting composers and guest artists, the Marin Symphony will continue, and expand upon, its "up close and personal" programs next season. As

with previous seasons, the Maestro will conduct free, educational talks before each concert, beginning at 6:30pm in the concert hall. In conjunction with the Marin Symphony, the Four Points by Sheraton San Rafael will continue to host the lively Tuesday Night Wrap Parties after Tuesday concerts where audience members, the Maestro and musicians mingle, unwind and share stories upon the completion of the night's invigorating performances (no host bar).

New this season and highlighting the concert appearance of violin soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn (who owns and performs on "The Red Violin") will be a screening of the film by the same name in conversation with Ms. Pitcairn. Co-produced by the Marin Symphony and the California Film Institute, this screening will be at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center at 7pm on Thursday, November 1, 2007. "Our audiences love hearing the real-life stories behind films," says Richard Peterson, Director of Programming for the Smith Rafael Film Center. "Ms. Pitcairn's appearance in Marin is a great opportunity to hear more about her as an artist and as the owner of a remarkable instrument." Tickets to the screening and conversation are \$23 for Marin Symphony season subscribers and California Film Institute members and \$25 for non-subscribers/non-members.

Another "up close and personal" event scheduled for 2007-08 is a fun and educational pre-concert gourmet chocolate tasting with Leslie Harlib, food columnist from the *Marin Independent Journal*. "Artisan chocolate is as complex in flavor and character as good wine, but it's non-alcoholic and people of all ages can savor it," Ms. Harlib comments. "It has almost as many notes as a fine musical composition!" Ms. Harlib's chocolate tasting will be held in the concert hall on Tuesday, February 26 in conjunction with the "Screen Gems" program during which a portion of the score to the movie "Chocolat" will be performed.

### Specialty Concerts

The Marin Symphony season regularly includes Holiday Concerts and a Family Concert, designed for festive and all-family appeal. This season's Holiday Concerts performed by the Marin Symphony Chamber Chorus and Orchestra and directed by Stephen McKersie will be held at the Church of Saint Raphael in San Rafael on Saturday, December 1 at 7:30pm and on Sunday, December 2 at 4pm. Tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door). The Marin Symphony Family Concert, performed by the Marin Symphony orchestra, conducted by George Thomson and narrated by Classical 102.1 KDFC morning show host Hoyt Smith, will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2007 at 3pm at Marin Center. The charming one-hour program is followed by an instrument petting zoo. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 18 years. (Tickets to the specialty concerts and "The Red

Violin" screening are purchased separately and are not included in Marin Symphony season subscriptions.)

### Season Subscription Information

Subscriptions to the 2007-08 season offer subscribers the advantages of discounted ticket prices, guaranteed seating for sell-out concerts, easy ticket exchange and preferred, assigned seats for the entire season. Three-, five- and six-concert subscriptions at \$75-\$365 are available beginning today through the Marin Symphony office at 415.479.8100 and at [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org) (Three-concert subscriptions are available to new subscribers only.) Single tickets go on sale beginning Tuesday, September 4, 2007. All concerts will be held in the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, Marin Center, San Rafael. Concerts start at 7:30pm.

## **The Marin Symphony**

### **2007-08 season program**

#### Program 1 – October 7 & 9, 2007, 7:30pm

Shostakovich/Eisenstein      The Battleship "Potemkin"

Sponsored by Bank of America, Bon Air Center, Marin Magazine and Frank and Lois Noonan

#### Program 2 – November 4 & 6, 2007, 7:30pm

Beethoven                      Overture to *Leonore* No. 3

Mendelssohn                  Violin Concerto

Brahms                         Symphony No. 2

Sponsored by Westamerica Bank and Brayton Purcell

#### Program 3 – January 20 & 22, 2008, 7:30pm

Stravinsky                      Divertimento from *The Fairy's Kiss*

Stravinsky                      Symphony in Three Movements

Tchaikovsky                  Violin Concerto

Sponsored by Taddei, Ludwig & Associates, Hoytt Enterprises, Four Points by Sheraton San Rafael and the Marin Independent Journal

#### Program 4 – February 24 & 26, 2008, 7:30pm

Strauss                         "Sunrise" from *Also Sprach Zarathustra*  
(2001: A Space Odyssey)

Mozart                         Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*  
(Trading Places)

Barber                         Adagio for Strings

Beethoven	(Platoon) First Movement from Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67 (Immortal Beloved)
Satie	<i>Deux Preludes posthumes et une Gnossienne</i> (Chocolat)
Williams	Theme from "Schindler's List" (Schindler's List)
Dukas	<i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> (Fantasia)
Holst	Mars, Venus, Mercury and Jupiter from <i>The Planets</i> (The Right Stuff)

Sponsored by Montecito Plaza Shopping Center, Peter Levi Plumbing and Wells Fargo

Program 5 – March 30 & April 1, 2008, 7:30pm

Jalbert	<i>Fire and Ice (A Magnum Opus Commission)</i>
Haydn	Cello Concerto No. 1
Dvořák	Symphony No. 7

Sponsored by Marin Music Chest, Bank of Marin and Jackson's Hardware

Program 6 – April 27 & 29, 2008, 7:30pm

McPhee	<i>Tabuh-Tabuhan</i>
Orff	<i>Carmina Burana</i>

Sponsored by LVP Marin Reators, US Bank and Flegels Fine Furniture & Interior Design

Jpg: Maestro Alasdair Neale. Photo by Terrence McCarthy