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NEWS RELEASE

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Grammy-nominated Quartet San Francisco premieres *Tango Argentino* works with Marin Symphony, October 5 & 7

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Season-opening concerts include new orchestral arrangements of tango classics by Piazzolla, Rodríguez and Bardi

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SAN RAFAEL, CA—The Marin Symphony's 2008-09 season will open Sunday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 7 in a steamy, grand flourish as three-time Grammy-nominated Quartet San Francisco joins Alasdair Neale and the Marin Symphony for a world premiere performance of Argentinian tango orchestral arrangements. The works, consisting both of jazz-infused crossover compositions and new, 80-piece orchestrations of tango favorites by Piazzolla, Rodríguez and Bardi, are composed and arranged by Quartet San Francisco's lead violinist Jeremy Cohen. Also on the concert program are Ravel's *Boléro* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*, Opus 34. Concerts are at 7:30pm at Marin Center, San Rafael.

Non-traditional in their delivery, Quartet San Francisco redefines the sound of chamber music. Grammy nominees for their last two releases (*Látigo*, 2006 and *Whirled Chamber Music*, 2007) and International Tango competition winners (New York, 2004), Quartet San Francisco expresses itself in its agility and standout virtuosic playing. Quartet San Francisco is Jeremy Cohen and Kayo Miki, violinists; Keith Lawrence, violist; and Joel Cohen, cellist. As crossover specialists, they excel in multiple styles—from jazz to tango, pop to funk, blues to bluegrass, gypsy swing to big band and beyond.

The new works by Jeremy Cohen on the opening concert program are *Encuentro Pasional (Passionate Encounter)*, *Guamba*, a samba inspired by Cohen's recent visit to Guam, and *Al Colón*, named after an enthusiastic audience cheer colloquially used in Buenos Aires that Quartet San Francisco heard while performing there. Fans of *tango Argentino* will recognize Bardi's *Gallo Ciego*, Rodríguez's *La Cumparsita*

and Piazzolla's *Melodia en La menor* and *Libertango* while they thrill to Cohen's new, expanded orchestral arrangements.

"I've had the opportunity to hear Jeremy's work in numerous settings – at Sun Valley and with San Francisco Symphony," says Marin Symphony's Music Director Alasdair Neale. "He's a tremendous artist. I'm delighted to be premiering more of his very inspired and hugely engaging works."

Marin Symphony's Executive Director Noralee Monestere concurs. "Quartet San Francisco is one of the hottest chamber groups around. We've got them in a hot program with cameo performances by two extremely hot tango dancers." She smiles, "People coming to the concerts might want to wear layers."

Years of solid, pedagogical training have given the members of Quartet San Francisco their remarkable musical acumens. Classically-trained, Jeremy Cohen was a student of Itzhak Perlman and Anne Crowden. His eclectic style reflects his respect for a wide range of violinists from Perlman and Fritz Kreisler to Joe Venuti and Eddie South. Born and raised in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Kayo Miki began studies as a child after catching the "music bug" from her mother who was concertmaster of the local symphony orchestra. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Keith Lawrence began playing viola at age 11. His study of viola continued at the Creative and Performing Arts Middle and High Schools in Pittsburgh, the Interlochen Arts Academy, and The Winchester Thurston School. Joel Cohen (no relation to Jeremy) had his early musical training in the San Francisco Bay area with Irene Sharp and Margaret Rowell. After receiving his B.Mus. from the University of Western Ontario, further studies took him to Holland until his return to the San Francisco Bay area.

Performing with Quartet San Francisco are Sandor & Parissa, internationally acclaimed tango dancers and choreographers. Sandor was a principal dancer in the Broadway/London hit show *Forever Tango*, nominated for the Tony Award "Best Choreography". He is also the creator, director, and principal dance couple with Parissa in *Magique Tango Vivo!* which has toured to outstanding reviews. Parissa has worked with Antonio Banderas as his ballroom and tango coach to prepare him for the movie *Take the Lead*. Sandor & Parissa have choreographed for Olympic and world champion ice dancers; they have also performed in countless television, film, and theatrical productions around the world.

The Latin-infused, *tango Argentino* program opens a season highlighting many great musical moments of dance in general, including jazz, tango and ballet. "The Wind Beneath the Wings," the Marin Symphony's 08|09 season program, includes in each concert set at least one work drawn from the symphonic dance repertoire. Featured this season are a cameo dance performance by Smuin Ballet to Prokofiev's *Romeo*

and Juliet; a performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*; excerpts from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and a pre-concert conversation with San Francisco Ballet's principal dancer Katita Waldo about her performances of *Symphony in C*, set by Balanchine to Bizet's Symphony No. 1 which the Marin Symphony will perform in March, 2009.

The October 5 & 7 concerts are made possible by Bon Air Center, Bank of America, and Marin Magazine. The guest artist appearances are made possible by Frank and Lois Noonan.

Pre- and post-concert on Sunday, October 5, the Marin Symphony will host its annual season-opening black-tie gala in the white tent behind Marin Center. This year's event is "A celebration of *Tango Argentino*," featuring cocktails (including "The Argentine," the signature drink of Argentina), appetizers and a lavish, seated, gourmet Argentinian meal beginning at 5pm. Champagne, desserts and milonga (tango dancing) follow the concert. Gala tickets are \$150 per person and are sold separately from concert tickets. Tables are available at a premium. Gala sponsors: KDFC 102.1; Marin Magazine; Jacuzzi Family Vineyards.

Concert program

Sunday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:30pm

The Marin Symphony

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Quartet San Francisco

Jeremy Cohen, violin

Kayo Miki, violin

Keith Lawrence, viola

Joel Cohen, cello

Rimsky-Korsakov	<i>Capriccio espagnol</i> , Opus 34
Ravel	<i>Boléro</i>
Bardi/arr. Cohen	<i>Gallo Ciego</i>
Rodríguez/arr. Cohen	<i>La Cumparsita</i>
Cohen	<i>Al Colón</i>
Piazzolla/arr. Cohen	<i>Melodía en La menor</i> and <i>Libertango</i>
Cohen	<i>Encuentro Pasional</i>
Cohen	<i>Guamba</i>

IF YOU GO

Concert details

Who: Alasdair Neale, conductor; Quartet San Francisco, soloists; Sandor & Parissa, tango dancers

What: Quartet San Francisco and the Marin Symphony perform a world premiere of Argentinian tangos, including original works and new arrangements of favorites by Piazzolla, Rodriguez and Bardi.

When: Sunday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:30pm

Where: Marin Center, San Rafael

Tickets: Best seats available by subscription at 415.479.8100. Single tickets \$27/\$50/\$65 (students half price) at 415.499.6800.

For more information: Call 415.479.8100 or click www.marinsymphony.org

Gala details

When: Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 5pm and post-concert

Where: In the white tent behind Marin Center

What: A Celebration of *Tango Argentino* - pre-concert dinner and post-concert dessert and milonga (tango dancing)

Attire: Black-tie or tango attire

Tickets: \$150 per person; tables for 10 at \$2,000. Tickets at 415.479.8100.

For more information: Call 415.479.8100 or click www.marinsymphony.org

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Photos:

- (1) Marin Symphony Music Director Alasdair Neale © 2008 James Hall
- (2) Quartet San Francisco members (from left to right): Keith Lawrence (viola), Jeremy Cohen (composer/arranger and violin); Kayo Miki (violin) and Joel Cohen (cello). © 2007 Noah Clayton
- (3) Tango dancers and choreographers Sandor & Parissa. © 2006 William Cole

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