



CONTACT: Suzanne Crawford
415.479.8100
suzanne@marinsymphony.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Top Prize-Winning cellist David Requiro solos with Marin Symphony, January 18 & 20

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Smuin Ballet duo joins for cameo dance performance of "balcony scene" from Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*

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SAN RAFAEL, CA—Coming off a recent first prize win of the 2008 Naumburg International Cello Competition (one of the world's most prestigious competitions for young, emerging artists), Oakland native David Requiro will join Alasdair Neale and the Marin Symphony in performances on January 18 & 20, 2009 at Marin Center.

No stranger to competition wins, Mr. Requiro has in fact won every major American International cello competition: the Irving M. Klein, the Washington International Strings and the National Symphony Orchestra Young Soloists' competitions. This pattern of ongoing victory establishes what Maestro Alasdair Neale already knew when he invited Mr. Requiro to solo with the Marin Symphony orchestra this season: that Mr. Requiro is one of today's most promising, gifted young cellists.

The Oakland Tribune notes, "Most musical performers play upon an instrument. But, there are some rare ones who merge into a symbiotic relationship with their instruments that make us think of them as one. And, that is Requiro. Look for him to be a musical leader of the future."

Marin Symphony music director Neale and Mr. Requiro first collaborated musically through the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra where Mr. Neale was music director and Mr. Requiro was a cellist, serving as principal for two of his three years there. During their coincident tenures, Mr. Requiro also accompanied the maestro and orchestra on a tour to Russia, Lithuania and Ireland. "(The Maestro) had an unbelievably strong connection with the orchestra," Mr. Requiro remarks. "I have never seen anything like it since."

Thus the Marin Symphony performances in January mark a reunion of sorts for the maestro and cellist. For the solo work, Mr. Neale and Mr. Requiro have chosen to perform Variations on a Rococo Theme, Opus 33, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. "The Rococo Variations have a charming aspect—an elegant, but ornate style," begins Mr. Requiro. "Yet underneath, you also hear another aspect that's rich, Romantic and Russian. Both are apparent. The variations cover a wide variety of styles, and there is also a lot of humor in the lighter variations. It's a very engaging work."

Mr. Requiro is currently pursuing his Master of Music degree at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Richard Aaron. He received his Bachelor of Music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music. At six years of age, he took up the cello originally to round out his family's piano trio. "My brother is a violinist and my mom plays piano," he explains. "It was never forced on me to play cello, but my mom highly suggested it, which was definitely OK with me—I liked it a lot!" He has studied with Dina Weinschelbaum, Milly Rosner, Bonnie Hampton and Mark Churchill; he has also studied closely with Michel Strauss.

"Balcony scene" pas de deux by Smuin Ballet dancers Thayer and Yarbrough-Stewart

Also on the January 18 and January 20 concert program are works thematically linked to the Marin Symphony's 08|09 season theme, "The Wind Beneath the Wings," highlighting symphonic dance repertoire.

The concerts will open with the suite from Béla Bartók's pantomime ballet *The Miraculous Mandarin*, based on a dark story of seduction by Melchior Lengyel. The concerts will conclude with seven orchestral excerpts from Serge Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, Suite No. 1, Opus 64a, during which dancers Aaron Thayer and Erin Yarbrough-Stewart, both principals with Smuin Ballet, will join the Marin Symphony onstage for a cameo "balcony scene" performance.

Ms. Yarbrough-Stewart received her training in Fresno and was a dancer with Oakland Ballet for five years, where she performed many leading roles including *Cinderella* and the Sugarplum Fairy from *The Nutcracker*. In 2003, she received the Isadora Duncan Award for her rendition of *Giselle* with Oakland Ballet. Ms. Yarbrough-Stewart joined Smuin Ballet in 2003 after having danced most recently with Diablo Ballet.

Mr. Thayer grew up in Reston, Virginia training with Cynthia Donavin at the Classical Ballet Academy. After attending summer programs in Princeton, Chataqua and San Francisco, he graduated high school early to attend San Francisco Ballet School for two years. Some of his favorite roles include the lead pas de deux from Kirk Peterson's *Amazed in Burning Dreams*, *I Won't Dance* from Michael Smuin's *Fly Me to the Moon* and the balcony pas de deux from Smuin's *Romeo & Juliet*. Mr. Thayer joined Smuin Ballet in 2005.

Michael Smuin, founder of Smuin Ballet, was a legend. His career ranged from captivating performances to thrilling choreography, from classically brilliant pieces to theatrically enthralling productions. During his career, Mr. Smuin was a Principal Dancer and Choreographer for American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet and later focused on more theatrical dance with numerous Broadway performances, an international tour with Paula Tracy and many television and film appearances. Mr. Smuin returned to San Francisco in 1973 as Co-Director of San Francisco Ballet serving until 1985. At SFB Mr. Smuin was instrumental in raising the company's profile in the international arts community with his staging of a performance at the White House and his contributions to Dance in America programs for PBS; he also served as co-chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts dance panel between 1979 and 1981. Later Mr. Smuin directed American Ballet Theatre's 50th Anniversary Gala and choreographed the 1997 film release of *Return of the Jedi, Special Edition* before founding Smuin Ballet in 1994 to realize his vision of creating ballet works that are accessible to all.

Sunday, January 18 and Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor
David Requiro, cello

Bartók	Suite from <i>The Miraculous Mandarin</i>
Tchaikovsky	Variations on a Rococo Theme, Opus 33
Prokofiev	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Suite No. 1, Opus 64a
	Folk Dance
	Scene
	Madrigal
	Minuet
	Masks
	Romeo and Juliet
	Death of Tybalt

Cameo dance performance by Erin Yarbrough-Stewart and Aaron Thayer

MARIN CENTER, SAN RAFAEL

Tickets \$27 / \$50 / \$65 (students half price) at 415.499.6800 and online at www.marinsymphony.org

Concerts are made possible by KDFC 102.1FM, Brayton Purcell and Westamerica Bank. Mr. Requiro's guest appearance is made possible by Hoytt Enterprises.

Complimentary pre-concert reception for Singles

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 (6:00-7:30pm) in the Toyon Room, Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

Co-hosted by Marin Symphony Singles and the Society of Single Professionals

Free to ticket holders with advance registration at www.marinsymphony.org/singles.htm

Jpgs:

(1) Cellist David Requiro Photo by Brian Hatton

(2) Smuin Ballet dancers Erin Yarbrough-Stewart and Aaron Thayer performing the *Romeo and Juliet*
pas de deux

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