

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 19, 2012

**The Excitement is Growing for the Marin Symphony's concert,  
Youthful Brilliance, with Guest Artist Nathan Chan on  
Sunday 1/29 and Tuesday 1/31**

*Following on the heels of Marin School visits, Nathan Chan performs the Elgar Cello Concerto — and Maestro Alasdair Neale leads the orchestra presenting Lowell Liebermann's Symphony No. 3 and Dvořák's New World Symphony*

[Press Photos](#)

SAN RAFAEL, CA — The Marin Symphony's third program in its 59<sup>th</sup> Season of Fresh Local Music features guest artist Nathan Chan performing a dynamic Elgar Cello Concerto. Alasdair Neale continues his 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration as Music Director, conducting the Lowell Liebermann Symphony No. 3 and Dvořák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

Eighteen-year-old Nathan Chan is a Bay Area native whose youth belies an amazing maturity. Elgar's impassioned and valedictory Cello Concerto is the perfect vehicle for his exceptional talents. Nathan describes the connection he feels with an audience performing this work. "This piece has so many grand moments. There are huge mountains you have to crest. If you trek up that mountain, show every groove, climb every rock — it's much more interesting for the audience. The journey is deeper. They have more of an emotional connection to the music."

Nathan recalls how he and Maestro Neale connected, and what led to this concert. "I met Alasdair Neale through the San Francisco Youth Orchestra. This opportunity to play with the Marin Symphony came up because that year I was the SFYO concerto concert winner. I played Shostakovich No. 1 and Alasdair Neale was listening. He called me and invited me to play and said, "How does Elgar sound?" The Cello Concerto is grand and really demanding of the player. It's one of the top five concertos for cello."

Nathan's intuitive abilities emerged at age three. Now, at age 18, his experience includes conducting symphonies and performing as a cello soloist with orchestras, within string quartets, an appearance in a documentary on HBO, and collaboration with Roberta Flack on a Beatles recording project. Ms. Flack exclaims, "Nathan is perhaps one of the most inspiring human beings that I've come across in the last two decades. It never ceases to amaze me how blessed, generously gifted and humble he is. He is destined for big success."

A good example of Nathan Chan's generosity and spirit is the time he took away from his busy schedule as a freshman attending the Columbia University–Juilliard School Exchange in New York City. Nathan gave talks and performed parts of the Elgar Concerto and audience requests (like the theme from Mario kids had picked up from a YouTube video they'd seen), for dozens of music students at San Marin High School and Hamilton Middle School in Novato, last Thursday, 1/12. The enthusiasm spilled out of the hall into the grounds at Hamilton, where Nathan spent nearly an hour signing autographs and answering questions.

The Marin Symphony's first program in the New Year brings to its stage the classic charm and lyricism of Dvorák's beloved New World Symphony, plus Lowell Liebermann's radiant Symphony No. 3. The Liebermann piece is one of hundreds of compositions — from orchestral works to full-length operas. Many of his works are now standard repertoire and performed worldwide. Lowell Liebermann is one of America's most frequently performed and recorded living composers. Called by the New York Times "as much of a traditionalist as an innovator."

*Note: bios for Nathan Chan and Lowell Liebermann, with links to more info, are provided at the conclusion of this release for quick reference.*

#### PROGRAM

*Alasdair Neale, conductor*

*Nathan Chan, cello*

Liebermann Symphony No. 3

Elgar Cello Concerto

Dvorák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

#### DATES/LOCATION

Sunday, January 29, 2012, 3 pm

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 7:30 pm

Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA

#### TICKETS

Marin Center Box Office, 415.499.6800, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA

#### **Box Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 11am-5pm

Saturday 11am-3pm (September-May)

The Box Office also opens one hour prior to each performance

#### **Connect with the Marin Symphony**

Website: [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/marinsymphony](http://www.facebook.com/marinsymphony)

### ***About Marin Symphony***

The acclaimed Marin Symphony Orchestra, established in 1951, presents five pairs of classical concerts in the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium each year. Under the music direction of Alasdair Neale, more than 80 professional symphony musicians, 110 chorus members and world-class guest artists come together to bring live performances to the community. Over 100 musicians participate in the Symphony's youth programs, including the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Crescendo Workshops and the Symphony@Schools programs. Throughout the year, the Symphony produces multiple special events including Family, Holiday and Prelude Concerts. Discover more at [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org) or call 415.479.8100.

### ***About Nathan Chan***

Eighteen-year-old cellist Nathan Chan demonstrated his talent for music at an early age. Before he was two, he could mimic the styles of conductors he saw on music videos. As a toddler, his imitations were so intuitively musical that he caught the attention of San Francisco Opera Assistant Conductor Sara Jobin. Under her eye, he made his debut as a conductor at age three, leading the San Jose Chamber Orchestra in a set of Mozart variations. This was followed by a guest appearance with the Palo Alto Philharmonic a year later, conducting Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. At five, he began formal music lessons with cellist Irene Sharp.

Nathan Chan has performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic, the UK Northern Sinfonia, and the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. He has performed for the Vancouver Recital Society, the Great Eastern International Kids Festival "Prodigies of the World" concert in Singapore, and the Emmy-award winning national radio program "From The Top." Mr. Chan has performed benefit concerts for causes such as global warming, the American Alzheimer Association, Friends of Children with Special Needs (autism), and the Foundation for the Fine & Performing Arts. For his contributions to the community, he won the Peninsula Arts Council's Ray Lorenzato Diamond Arts Award in 2007.

In 2006, Nathan Chan appeared in *The Music in Me*, a documentary that aired on the HBO network and won the Peabody Award. This program led to a performance in Carnegie Hall and caught the attention of singer Roberta Flack, who invited Mr. Chan to collaborate on her project of Beatles songs for Sony Records. In 2008, he performed at the Museum of Music Making in San Diego at a gala honoring sitar legend Ravi Shankar. Mr. Chan was recently featured in *The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies*, a three-part British series documenting a global search for talented musicians under the age of fifteen.

In April 2009, Mr. Chan and three other performers gave the world premiere of the *Velesslavista Quadruple Concerto*, composed for the series by Alexander Prior. In 2009, he played a Fourth of July fireworks concert with the San Francisco Symphony at the Shoreline Amphitheatre and soloed with the Orchestra for their Concerts for Kids series. In

2010, Chan was the winner of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Chan has played concerts around the world including London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vancouver. Last year, he was the Debut Artist with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and also played with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, soloing and premiering a new work by Alexander Prior.

Besides the cello, Nathan Chan plays saxophone, piano, and electric cello. He enjoys table tennis, badminton, filmmaking, and social media. He is currently a freshman attending the Columbia University-Juilliard School Exchange. Chan now studies with Richard Aaron at Juilliard in New York City.

More info: <http://nathanchancello.com/>

### ***About Lowell Liebermann***

Lowell Liebermann is one of America's most frequently performed and recorded living composers. Having written over one hundred works in all genres, several of them have gone on to become standard repertoire for their instruments, including his Sonata for Flute and Piano, which has been recorded more than twenty times to date, and his Gargoyles for Piano, which has been recorded fifteen times.

Orchestras worldwide have performed Liebermann's works, including the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the Tokyo NHK Symphony, L'Orchestre National de France, and the symphonies of Dallas, Baltimore, Seattle, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Minnesota. Among the many artists who have performed Liebermann's works are Sir James Galway, Charles Dutoit, Garrick Ohlsson, Andreas Delfs, the Beaux Arts Trio, Raymond Leppard, Stephen Hough, Kurt Masur, Joshua Bell, the Orion Quartet, the Ying Quartet, Hans Vonk, Steven Isserlis, Andrew Litton, Susan Graham, Edo de Waart, David Zinman, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Paula Robison, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Stuart Bedford, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Lowell Liebermann was born in New York City in 1961. He began piano studies at the age of eight, and composition studies at fourteen. He made his performing debut two years later at Carnegie Recital Hall, playing his Piano Sonata, Op.1, which he composed when he was fifteen. He holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School of Music. Among his many awards is a Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters as well as awards from ASCAP and BMI. Theodore Presser Company is the exclusive publisher of his music. He currently resides in Weehawken, New Jersey with his partner, pianist and conductor William Hobbs, their Australian Shepherd named Daphne, and an American Eskimo named Phoebus.

More info: <http://www.lowellliebermann.com/biography/>

###