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Beloved Marin Symphony Guest Artist Orion Weiss Performs in Season-Opening Concert on October 2nd and 4th: Totally Tchaikovsky

*The Symphony begins its celebration of Maestro Alasdair's 10th Anniversary
—\$10 Youth Pricing, Sunday 3pm and Tuesday 7:30pm concerts*

SAN RAFAEL, CA – The first Marin Symphony concert of its Fresh Local Music season features Orion Weiss performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Orion's relationship with the Symphony runs deep, beginning with Maestro Neale. "My first connection to Marin is with Alasdair Neale. He was one of the first conductors—the most important conductor in the early part of my career. I've worked with him the longest... At first he was just a conductor. Then he became a friend. We're in touch always. He's a friend for music and a musical friend at the same time. This will be the third time I've played in Marin."

This year marks Alasdair Neale's 10th Anniversary as Music Director of the Marin Symphony. Maestro Neale is thrilled to open the season with Orion Weiss. "One of the great privileges of a life in music is the friendships that it brings. One of my most cherished musical friendships is with Orion, who is one of the most generous people I know, on stage or off. Conducting him in a concerto is not so much a matter of accompanying him as it is collaborating with him, really making music together in the best sense of the word. We've played tons of times together, but this is our first Tchaikovsky Concerto. I can't wait."

Totally Tchaikovsky, the Marin Symphony's season-opening concert features Orion performing a concerto that in his words provides an "...endless stream of different characters with attitudes and personalities. You can imagine a person. We're trying to tell a story. Even if it's not a story with a plot, it's still a story that makes emotional sense." When asked why he and Maestro Neale chose Tchaikovsky, Orion reveals: "We talked. He was planning a big Russian bash for this concert. We discussed some other concertos but decided this one would be best."

Listening. Characters. Voices. Orion Weiss tells emotional stories through his musical interpretations. His expression derives from focus preparing for a concert and experimentation. Orion muses, "I listen to recordings. I play it on different pianos. I come back with different intentions and ideas. When I perform for people I listen in a new way. I transport myself into the ears of an audience member. I see what's working and what isn't, and I do instantaneous changes to make it work. When I'm playing with other musicians I'm reacting to what they're doing. Music is like a conversation."

The Marin Symphony's first concert presents four romantic Tchaikovsky classics: Capriccio Italien, Piano Concerto No. 1, Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture and 1812 Overture. The season-opening concert is made possible in part by Bon Air Shopping Center, Bank of America, Marin Magazine and KDFC. Guest artist Orion Weiss is sponsored by Frank and Lois Noonan. Performances take place on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 3pm and Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Marin Memorial Auditorium in San Rafael.

\$10 Youth Pricing: expanded to include both subscribers and single ticket holders

To help assure the Marin Symphony audience continues to grow and attracts young people to the magic of classical music, the Symphony is expanding its successful \$10 Youth Pricing offer to single ticket purchasers. The combination of new Sunday matinees at 3pm and the \$10 Youth Pricing opens up opportunities for anyone to help bring the symphony experience to a new generation. Subscribers and individual ticket holders alike can reserve an available seat next to theirs in any section for just \$10 per concert. \$10 Youth Pricing is available for youth 8-18 accompanied by an adult. This offer is currently available by calling Marin Symphony Patron Services: 415.479.8100.

Subscriptions and Tickets

A variety of subscription plans are available, including a 2 for 1 New Subscriber offer. For subscriptions, contact the Marin Symphony Office at 415.479.8100, or online via www.marinsymphony.org. Individual tickets go on sale to the public on Tuesday September 6, 2011 at the Marin Center Box Office at 415.499.6800 or through Ticketmaster.

October 2nd Opening Gala Celebration

This special event is an opportunity to kick off the new season of performances and celebrate Alasdair Neale's 10th Anniversary. Join Maestro Neale immediately following the all-Tchaikovsky season-opening concert. Savor fresh, farm-to-table local cuisine prepared by Stacy Scott Catering. Enjoy a live auction, desserts and dancing. Tickets are \$125 and proceeds benefit the Marin Symphony and its youth music programs. Contact the Marin Symphony at 415.479.8100 to reserve your space.

Three places where people can get more information and connect

1. Directly accessible on our home page: www.marinsymphony.org:

- View the **Marin Symphony 2011-2012 Brochure**.
- View and download the **2011-2012 Marin Symphony Schedule** for the latest details about programs, artists, specialty concerts, youth performances and special events.
- Subscribe to **SymphonE-News** to receive stories and updates automatically.

2. Be connected with Your **Marin Symphony on Facebook** to stay in close touch with the Marin Symphony community, Maestro Neale, artists, event announcements, special offers, and more: <http://www.facebook.com/marinsymphony>

3. Join the year-long Golden Gate Opus conversation. The Marin Symphony's special **Golden Gate Opus Facebook page**: a place where people can engage and be a part of creating this original work in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. <http://www.facebook.com/goldengateopus>

About Marin Symphony

The acclaimed Marin Symphony Orchestra, established in 1954, presents five pairs of classical concerts in the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium each year. Under the music direction of Alasdair Neale, more than 80 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 dozens of special events including Family, Holiday and Prelude Concerts. Discover more at www.marinsymphony.org or call 415.479.8100.

About Orion Weiss

Pianist Orion Weiss is one of the most sought-after soloists and collaborators in his generation of young American musicians. In 2004, he graduated from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Emanuel Ax. His deeply felt and exceptionally crafted performances go far beyond his technical mastery and have won him acclaim from audiences, critics and colleagues in a wide range of repertoire and formats. At age 27, he continues to demonstrate his gift for communication across boundaries of style and setting. Mr. Weiss has performed with the Marin Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, New World Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and in duo summer concerts with the New York Philharmonic at both Lincoln Center and the Bravo! Vail Valley Festival. He has also appeared with the symphony orchestras of Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Rochester, Memphis, Albany, Annapolis, Louisville, Vancouver, and Omaha, as well as the Minnesota Orchestra, Pacific Symphony and Oregon Symphony, among others. He toured the US with the Orchester der Klangverwaltung Munich and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Itzhak Perlman. Mr. Weiss's impressive list of awards includes the Juilliard William Petschek Award, Gilmore Young Artist Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Gina Bachauer Scholarship at the Juilliard School and the Mieczyslaw Munz Scholarship.

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