

For Immediate Release

February 10, 2010

**KDFC radio host Hoyt Smith joins the Marin Symphony to narrate
Copland's *Lincoln Portrait***

**Alasdair Neale and Marin Symphony also present Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a
Faun* and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony.**

Lincoln Portrait, **Aaron Copland's** noble orchestral classic written in tribute to **Abraham Lincoln**, is to be a feature of Marin Symphony programming in concerts at Marin Center, San Rafael on Sunday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 2.

Copland, known as the dean of American composers, was commissioned in 1942 to write a musical portrait of an "eminent American" as part of a World War II patriotic war effort. He chose Abraham Lincoln and included not only musical quotes of popular folk songs, but also narration including quotes from many of Lincoln's speeches and letters. Copland decided to include spoken words because, as he put it, "no composer could possibly hope to match in purely musical terms the stature of so eminent a figure."

Marin's own featured KDFC radio personality, **Hoyt Smith**, will join the Marin Symphony to narrate this popular work.

Opening this Marin Symphony performance is **Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun***. The *Prelude*, with its subdued passion and shimmering beauty, can be called the first genuine orchestral example of impressionism. This piece is programmed in honor of renowned playwright-director **Jane Anderson** as part of the Marin Symphony's 2009-10 "Season of the Scribe", exploring the relation between classical music and prominent local writers. Ms. Anderson will join Maestro Neale pre-concert at 6:30pm to discuss Debussy's *Prelude*. Her plays include *Looking for Normal* and *Defying Gravity* with the most recent, *The Quality of Life*, produced at A.C.T. under her direction. She has received nominations for six Emmys and three Golden Globes.

The program concludes with the explosive passions of **Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony**. When Tchaikovsky began work on his Fifth Symphony in 1888, it had been over ten years since the completion of his Fourth. While the Fourth had emerged out of personal crisis (Tchaikovsky's disastrous sham marriage and his subsequent mental collapse), the Fifth came at a time of professional challenge for the composer. Seemingly at the height of his career, Tchaikovsky had fears that his creative inspiration was drying up. While initial performances received some negative reviews, which caused Tchaikovsky to declare the work a failure, his Fifth Symphony was enthusiastically received by audiences and is now one of the most popular works in the symphonic repertoire.

Concert Sponsors

The concerts are made possible by Westamerica Bank and Brayton Purcell, LLP.

Tickets

Tickets are \$29, \$54 and \$70 (students half price) and are available at the Marin Center Box Office at 415.499.6800, or at www.marinsymphony.org. The Box Office is open Monday-Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday 11am-3pm. Tickets may also be purchased at the door one hour before each performance (based on availability).

About Marin Symphony

Each year the Marin Symphony Orchestra presents five pairs of classical concerts in the Marin Veteran's Memorial Auditorium from October through May. Established in 1954, the organization supports a variety of youth programs which includes the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Crescendo Workshops and the Symphony@Schools programs. To learn more visit www.marinsymphony.org or call 415.479.8100.

Photos of Hoyt Smith and Jane Anderson available upon request

Calendar Item

Sunday, February 28 & Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:30pm

Alasdair Neale, conductor

Hoyt Smith, narrator

A dramatic evening featuring Lincoln's words and Copland's music.

Aaron Copland *Lincoln Portrait*

Claude Debussy *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*

Peter Ilytich Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64*

Venue: Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael

Tickets: \$29/\$54/\$70 (students half price) at the Marin Center Box Office, 415.499.6800, or visit www.marinsymphony.org.

Pre-Concert Talk: Alasdair Neale is joined by Jane Anderson, 6:30pm. Free with purchase of concert ticket.

For PSAs

KDFC radio host Hoyt Smith joins Alasdair Neale and the Marin Symphony to narrate Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Throw in the explosive passions of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and the dreamy languor of Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and it all adds up to a program you won't want to miss! Playwright-director Jane Anderson joins in conversation, pre-concert (6:30-7pm). Tickets \$29/\$54/\$70 (students half price) at 415.499.6800, or visit www.marinsymphony.org.