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RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA 2011-2012 SEASON

CLASSICAL, RUSH HOUR SERIES & OPEN REHEARSALS

CONDUCTOR **MICHAEL STERN**, PIANISTS **ILYA YAKUSHEV** & **ALON GOLDSTEIN**, CELLIST **ALBAN GERHARDT** AND SOPRANO **ELIZABETH WEIGLE** RETURN; PIANIST **JOYCE YANG**,
BARITONE **RANDALL SCARLATA** AND VIOLINISTS **ALEXANDER KERR** & **AUGUSTIN HADELICH**
DEBUT

SPECIALS: AN EVENING WITH **RENÉE FLEMING**, HANDEL'S *MESSIAH* & TRUMPETER **CHRIS BOTTI**
CLASSICAL SERIES OPENING NIGHT SEPT. 24/RUSH HOUR SERIES SEPT. 23
SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW; SINGLES ON SALE AUGUST 1
WPRO NEWS TALK 630 MEDIA SPONSOR FOR THE 2011-2012 SEASON

June 6, 2011 – EAST PROVIDENCE, RI – The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra announces their 2011-2012 Season.

The 8-Concert Classical Series is the core of the Philharmonic Orchestra season. Classical Series concerts take place on Saturday evenings at 8:00 at The Vets, Providence. **MUSIC DIRECTOR LARRY RACHLEFF**, beginning his 16th season with the Orchestra, will conduct seven concerts, with **GUEST CONDUCTOR MICHAEL STERN** taking the podium for the October 15 concert. Following each of his concerts, Mr. Rachleff, frequently accompanied by the guest soloist or a member of the Orchestra, holds casual post-concert conversations with members of the audience. **RESIDENT CONDUCTOR FRANCISCO NOYA** presents informal pre-concert talks from 7:00-7:25 before each concert; Philharmonic Music School students frequently perform in the mezzanine lobby from 7:15-7:45.

Classical Series subscriptions, NOW on sale, are priced at \$245, \$265, \$335, \$420, \$485 and \$510, depending on seat location. Both subscription and single ticket discounts are available in some seating sections for full-time students (with valid student ID) and groups of ten or more. In the event that a concert is not sold out, \$12 Student Rush Tickets are on sale at The Vets box office at 7:30pm concert night. Single ticket prices range from \$30 to \$100 (price includes a \$2 facility fee), again depending on seat location. Please call the Philharmonic box office at 401.248.7000 to order subscriptions now, and single tickets beginning August 1. **Single tickets to all concerts are also available 24/7 @ riphil.org beginning August 1.**

HEAR THE WORLD IN PROVIDENCE!

SEPTEMBER 24 — OPENING NIGHT MOSCOW— ILYA & THE TITAN

Saturday, September 24 at 8:00pm Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF** opens his **16th season** with a very special Opening Night concert. Pianist **ILYA YAKUSHEV** returns after his brilliant last minute fill-in performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 Opening Night last season, this time performing **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major, op.23. Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D major (Titan)** rounds out the Opening Night program.

Russian pianist **ILYA YAKUSHEV** continues to mesmerize audiences at major venues on three continents. He made his San Francisco Symphony debut in 2007, where his performances were hailed as some of the top classical music events of the year. Mr. Yakushev has also given recent performances with the Syracuse and Fairbanks Symphonies, the BBC Concert Orchestra

and Keith Lockhart in London. Recent recital venues include Chicago's Ravinia, New York's Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Bechstein Center in Berlin and Vienna's Musikverein.

Mr. Yakushev received his first award at age 12 as a prizewinner of the Young Artists Concerto Competition in his native St. Petersburg, and he was also the winner of the 2005 World Piano Competition. Mr. Yakushev also serves as Executive Director of the International Keyboard Institute and Festival at Mannes School of Music, a position he has held since 2002. For more information, please visit his website: ilyayakushev.com.

OCTOBER 15 —PARIS — A STERN RE-ENCOUNTER

Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 pm Guest Conductor MICHAEL STERN returns to lead the Orchestra in **Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique***, op. 14 and his **Overture to *Benvenuto Cellini***. Critically acclaimed young **Pianist JOYCE YANG** makes her Rhode Island Philharmonic debut performing **Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major**.

Conductor **MICHAEL STERN** is in his sixth season as Music Director of the Kansas City Symphony, hailed for its remarkable artistic growth and development since his tenure began. The Symphony and Mr. Stern have made three critically acclaimed recordings since 2007. Additionally, he is the founding artistic director and principal conductor of The IRIS Orchestra in Germantown, Tennessee. This unique group has been widely praised for its virtuosity and programming and has produced a string of recordings and commissioned new works by American composers.

Stern has led orchestras throughout Europe and Asia, including the London Symphony, the London, Royal Stockholm, Israel and Moscow philharmonics, the Orchestre de Paris, Tokyo's NHK and the Vienna Radio Symphony. He has conducted nearly every major orchestra in North America, including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Atlanta, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Montreal symphonies and the Cleveland Orchestra.

At the age of 24, Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient pianist **JOYCE YANG** is touted as "the most gifted young pianist of her generation," captivating audiences around the globe with her stunning virtuosity and heartfelt lyricism in her innovative solo recitals and notable collaborations with the world's top orchestras.

In June 2005, Ms. Yang came to international attention when she, the youngest contestant, became the Silver Medalist of the 12th Van Cliburn International Competition. Since then, she has performed at various high-profile venues and made her celebrated New York Philharmonic debut with Lorin Maazel at Avery Fisher Hall. Ms. Yang is also a frequent guest on American Public Media's radio program "Performance Today." Her debut disc includes live performances of works by Bach, Liszt and Scarlatti. A Steinway Artist, she currently resides in New York City. For more information, please visit her website: pianistjoyceyang.com.

NOVEMBER 19 —ROME — VIVA ITALIA!

On **Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 pm**, Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF** returns to the podium to present an all-orchestral program of Italian favorites: **Respighi's *Pines of Rome*** and **Rossini's Overture to *La gazza ladra***, **Dallapiccola's *Musica Notturmo*** and **Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A major**, op. 90 (Italian).

JANUARY 28 —OSLO+ — ICY-HOT ROMANTICS

Saturday, January 28 at 8:00 pm, Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF** and the Orchestra welcome back pianist **ALON GOLDSTEIN** for a performance of **Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor**, op.16. Mr. Rachleff has also selected **Bartok's Dance Suite** and **Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in G major**, op. 88 for this program.

Admired for his musical intelligence and dynamic personality, **ALON GOLDSTEIN** is one of the most sensitive artists of his generation. His artistic vision and innovative programming have made him a favorite with audiences and critics alike throughout the United States, Europe and Israel.

After making his orchestral debut at age 18 with the Israeli Philharmonic under Maestro Zubin Mehta, he made a triumphant return in April 2008 with Maestro Herbert Blomstedt. In

recent seasons, he has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Francisco, St. Louis, Houston, Vancouver, Kansas City and North Carolina Symphonies, the Rhode Island Philharmonic and on tour with orchestras in Paris, Russia, Romania and Bulgaria.

FEBRUARY 25 —NYC — AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

On Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 pm, Music Director LARRY RACHLEFF leads violinist ALEXANDER KERR and the Orchestra in the WORLD PREMIERE performance of James Stephenson's Fantasie for Violin. Included in this all-American program are works by America's most beloved composers: **Copland's *Appalachian Spring: Suite*, Bernstein's *Serenade* and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*.**

Raised in Alexandria, VA, violinist **ALEXANDER KERR** balances an orchestral career with solo and chamber engagements throughout Europe, North America and the Far East. In 1996 he was appointed concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He has also served as concertmaster of the Cincinnati and Charleston Symphonies and is currently Principal Guest Concertmaster of the Indianapolis Symphony.

Mr. Kerr has appeared as soloist with major orchestras throughout the United States and Europe and as a chamber musician at some of the world's premier music festivals. He has collaborated with a number of the world's top musicians, including Grammy winners Joshua Bell and Edgar Meyer. He recently toured Europe with acclaimed violinist Sarah Chang and members of the Berlin Philharmonic. Mr. Kerr is a faculty member of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival and School in Colorado.

MARCH 24 — BONN — WHO'S BETTER THAN BEETHOVEN?

On Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 pm, Music Director LARRY RACHLEFF and the Orchestra welcome rising star violinist AUGUSTIN HADELICH in his Rhode Island Philharmonic debut. He will perform **Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major, op. 61** on an all-Beethoven program that concludes with **Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, op. 55 (*Eroica*).**

With his poetic style and dazzling technique, **AUGUSTIN HADELICH** has established himself as a leader among the new generation of violinists. Winner of the 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant and gold medalist of the 2006 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, his versatility across the entire spectrum of the violin repertory is astounding.

He made three Carnegie Hall appearances in 2008 and recently debuted with the New York Philharmonic under Alan Gilbert at the Bravo! Vail Festival. Other orchestral engagements include the symphonies of Alabama, Colorado, Columbus, Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Houston, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Louisville, New Orleans and Syracuse. Mr. Hadelich has recorded two highly acclaimed CDs, and has appeared in recital at the Frick, the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center and the Louvre. He plays on the 1723 "Ex-Kiesewetter" Stradivarius violin, on loan from Clement and Karen Arrison through the generous efforts of the Stradivari Society. For more information, please visit his website: augustin-hadelich.com.

APRIL 14 — LENINGRAD — FROM RUSSIA WITH ALBAN

Provocative cellist **ALBAN GERHARDT** returns to our stage, joining Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF** and the Orchestra on **Saturday, April 14 at 8:00 pm** to perform **Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33.** Completing this powerhouse Russian program are **Stravinsky's *Fireworks*, op. 4** and **Shostakovich's monumental Symphony No. 7 in C major, op. 60 (Leningrad).**

Over the past decade, **ALBAN GERHARDT** has established himself among the great cellists of our time. His sound is unmistakable, and he distinguishes himself with his original interpretations. Mr. Gerhardt is committed to bringing the excitement of classical music to younger audiences in innovative ways.

After early successes at competitions and his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic under Semyon Bychkov, his career has led him to more than 180 orchestras worldwide, including most of the top American orchestras including the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, San Francisco Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic. This will be his third appearance with the

Rhode Island Philharmonic. His repertoire is extensive: he has played about 60 different cello concertos, among them some premieres. His CDs, which often include performances of rare concertos, consistently win critical acclaim. For more information, please visit his website: albangerhardt.com.

MAY 8 — HAMBURG — A SPIRITUAL MASTERPIECE

On **Saturday, May 8 at 8:00 pm**, Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF** and the Orchestra conclude the Classical season with **soprano ELIZABETH WEIGLE**, **baritone RANDALL SCARLATA** and the **PROVIDENCE SINGERS** in a performance of **Brahms' A German Requiem**, op. 45. The Orchestra Brass will also perform a Gabrieli Sacred Symphony.

Soprano **ELIZABETH WEIGLE** has received critical acclaim for a wide variety of repertoire, including a "fine-spun performance" of Handel's *Messiah* and a recently released recording of Lucas Foss' *The Prairie*. Of the latter performance, Opera News writes: "Of the soloists, soprano Elizabeth Weigle is the standout."

Her recent orchestra/oratorio performances include repertoire from Bach to Handel to Mahler to Honegger, with the symphonies of Colorado, Portland and Santa Fe, as well as the Rhode Island Philharmonic. While she is an enthusiastic advocate for music of her own time and frequently premieres works written for her, Ms. Weigle is also a collaborator with many of the finest period instrument orchestras throughout the United States. On the operatic stage, she received critical acclaim for her role as Pat Nixon in John Adams' *Nixon in China*, hailed by The Boston Herald as "a perfect Pat Nixon." For more information, please visit her website: elizabethweigle.com.

Hailed for his warm, expressive sound and consummate musicianship, **RANDALL SCARLATA** is firmly established as one of the most highly regarded baritones of his generation. He is equally comfortable in Bach and Handel oratorio, Mozart and Rossini operas, song cycles, works from Tin Pan Alley and the newest of new music. His performances throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and South America have garnered raves from audiences and critics alike. Mr. Scarlata has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras, the San Francisco, Pittsburgh, American, National and North Carolina symphonies, as well as the Early Music ensembles, Wiener Akademie and Musica Angelica. He has appeared at international music festivals including Ravinia, Marlboro, Edinburgh, Vienna, Salzburg, Aspen, Spoleto and on concert stages across five continents. For more information, please visit his website: randallscarlata.com.

This concert will be the ninth guest appearance by the **PROVIDENCE SINGERS** with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. The chorus and orchestra also join forces to present Handel's *Messiah* each December. Prior appearances include the Fauré *Requiem* in 2004, Orff's *Carmina burana* in 2005, the Poulenc *Gloria* in 2006, Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* in 2008, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* in 2009, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in 2010 and Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* in 2011.

The Providence Singers is noted for its "wonderful vocal blend, and an impeccable sense of voicing" (Providence Journal). An appearance with Dave Brubeck at the 2004 Newport Jazz Festival was hailed by Mr. Brubeck as "the best performance yet" of his cantata, *Gates of Justice*; at his request, the Singers premiered Mr. Brubeck's *The Commandments* and reprised *Gates* at Lincoln Center in 2005.

SPECIAL EVENTS CONCERTS

JANUARY 21 — AN EVENING WITH RENÉE FLEMING with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, **LARRY RACHLEFF**, conductor. On January 21, 2012 at 7:30pm the "People's Diva" **RENÉE FLEMING** joins **LARRY RACHLEFF** and the Philharmonic in a Gala Concert celebrating the Rededication of The Vets. One of the most beloved and celebrated musical ambassadors of our time, soprano Renée Fleming captivates audiences with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry and compelling stage presence. Named the number one female singer by *Salzburger Festspiele Magazin* in 2010, she continues to grace the world's greatest opera stages and

concert halls, now extending her reach to include other musical forms and media. Over the past few seasons, Ms. Fleming has hosted a wide variety of television and radio broadcasts, including the Metropolitan Opera's *Live in HD* series for movie theaters and television and *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS.

TICKETS are on sale NOW for this Gala Concert by phone: **401.421.ARTS**; in person at the **PPAC Box Office** or online at **thevetsri.com**. For more information about Ms. Fleming, please visit her website: reeneffleming.com.

DECEMBER 10 — MESSIAH

The Philharmonic Orchestra and **Providence Singers** present a performance of the holiday season tradition: **Handel's *Messiah***. This performance begins at 7:00pm at The Vets, Providence. The conductor and vocal soloists will be announced very soon.

Tickets to *Messiah* are on sale August 1.

MARCH 31 – CHRIS BOTTI

The Philharmonic Pops Orchestra and the Providence Performing Arts Center join forces for a POPS-PHIL-PPAC

Concert on Saturday, March 31 at 7:30pm at PPAC.

Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed CD *When I Fall In Love*, **CHRIS BOTTI** (pronounced boat-tee) has become the largest selling American jazz instrumental artist. His success has crossed over to audiences usually reserved for pop music and his ongoing association with PBS has led to four #1 Jazz Albums, as well as multiple Gold, Platinum & Grammy Awards. Over the past three decades, he has recorded and performed with the best in music including Frank Sinatra, Sting, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, John Mayer, Andrea Bocelli, Joshua Bell and Aerosmith's own Steven Tyler. Chris and his incredible band have performed with many of the finest symphonies, at some of the world's most prestigious venues, including performances at the World Series and Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony.

Tickets to this POPS-PHIL-PPAC go on sale soon.

THE RUSH HOUR SERIES

Now in its tenth season, this popular 4-Concert early Friday Evening Series is conducted by **Music Director LARRY RACHLEFF**. The concerts take place at The Vets in Providence, beginning at 6:30 and lasting approximately 75 minutes, with repertoire selected from the full-length Classical Series concerts the Orchestra will perform on the subsequent Saturdays. Informality is the key to this series. The concert ambiance is relaxed with Larry talking about the music as the concert progresses. At the end of each concert Larry comes back onstage for a question and answer session with audience members.

The 2011-2012 concerts take place on the following Fridays at 6:30pm:

SEPTEMBER 23

The opening concert of the series features pianist **ILYA YAKUSHEV** performing selected movements from **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1**. The Orchestra will also perform excerpts from **Mahler's Symphony No. 1**.

NOVEMBER 18

In this all-orchestral program celebrating Rome, the Orchestra will perform **Rossini's *La gazza ladra*: Overture** **Respighi's *Pines of Rome*** and excerpts from **Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (Italian)**

FEBRUARY 24

Violinist **ALEXANDER KERR** joins the Orchestra to perform excerpts from **Bernstein's Serenade**. The Orchestra will also perform excerpts from **Gershwin's *An American in Paris*** and **Copland's *Appalachian Spring: Suite***.

MARCH 23

For the final Rush Hour concert of the season violinist **AUGUSTIN HADELICH** joins the Orchestra in a performance of selected movements from **Beethoven's Violin Concerto**. The Orchestra also performs excerpts from **Beethoven's Eroica Symphony**.

Rush Hour Series 4-Concert Subscriptions, on sale now, are \$140 for Adults and \$80 for Students for Main Floor and Balcony seats or \$170 for Adults and \$100 for Students for Mezzanine seats.

Single ticket prices are \$38 for Adults and \$25 for Students for Main Floor and Balcony seats, and \$46 for Adults and \$28 for Students for Mezzanine seats. \$12 Student Rush Tickets are on sale at The Vets box office at 6:00 on concert nights. (Ticket prices include a \$2 facility fee.) NBC10 joins WPRO News Talk 630 as media sponsor for the series. **Tickets to individual Rush Hour concerts are on sale August 1.**

OPEN REHEARSALS

FOR THE FIFTH SEASON, the Philharmonic will make **selected Friday Night rehearsals throughout the season open to the public**. The rehearsals take place at The Vets, Providence and begin at 5:30 with a very short pre-rehearsal welcome and introduction by Resident Conductor **FRANCISCO NOYA**. Once the rehearsals begin, the conductor will be miked so that the audience can hear his remarks to members of the orchestra and his discussion with the guest soloist. Patrons may sit wherever they choose and are free to change seats at the rehearsal break. Audience members may stay for the full rehearsals which end at 8:00 or leave at the break, at approximately 6:45-7:00. We do not guarantee that all Saturday night Classical concert repertoire will be rehearsed at each Friday night Open Rehearsal.

Open Rehearsal tickets: \$12 for Adults and \$7 for Students (price includes \$2 facility fee). **Students of the Philharmonic Music School and one companion** may attend all Open Rehearsals at no charge by showing their 2011-2012 Music School I.D. card.

OCTOBER 14 – FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Guest Conductor **MICHAEL STERN**, the Orchestra and pianist **JOYCE YANG** rehearse **Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major**. The Orchestra will also put the finishing touches on **Berlioz's Benvenuto Cellini: Overture** and his **Symphonie Fantastique**.

JANUARY 27

Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF**, the Orchestra and pianist **ALON GOLDSTEIN** will rehearse **Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor**. The Orchestra will also rehearse **Bartok's Dance Suite** and **Dvorak's Symphony No. 8**.

April 13

Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF**, the Philharmonic and cellist **ALBAN GERHARDT** rehearse **Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme**. The Orchestra will also rehearse **Stravinsky's Fireworks** and **Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 (Leningrad)**.

MAY 4

Music Director **LARRY RACHLEFF**, the Philharmonic Orchestra, The Providence Singers, soprano **ELIZABETH WEIGLE** and baritone **RANDALL SCARLATA** rehearse **Brahms' A German Requiem**. The Orchestra Brass will also rehearse **Gabrieli's Sacred Symphony**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA'S 2011-2012 SEASON please call the Philharmonic office at 401.248.7000 for a season brochure and to be placed on our email and mailing lists, or visit the Philharmonic website – riphil.org.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Classical and Rush Hour Series are on sale now.

Tickets to individual concerts are on sale August 1st and may be purchased by calling the Philharmonic Box Office @ 401.248.7000 using MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover, in person during box office hours Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm (pre-concert Fridays until 4pm only)

or 24/7 @ the Philharmonic website: riphil.org. Tickets are also available @ 421.ARTS (2787), vmari.com and ArtTixRI.com. The Philharmonic Box Office and Administrative Offices are located at 667 Waterman Avenue, East Providence.

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