

the colorado symphony



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLORADO SYMPHONY PERFORMS BRAHMS DOUBLE CONCERTO

Conductor Claus Peter Flor leads Colorado Symphony in performance of Brahms' Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra featuring Yumi Hwang-Williams and Silver Ainomäe

Artists: Colorado Symphony Orchestra
Claus Peter Flor, *conductor*
Yumi Hwang-Williams, *violin*
Silver Ainomäe, *cello*

Program: Brahms Double With Yumi and Silver
MOZART: Serenade No. 6 in D major, K. 239, "Serenata Notturna"
BRAHMS: Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra in A minor, Op. 102, "Double Concerto"
FRANCK: Symphony in D minor

Performances: Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: Remaining tickets currently start at \$34.

DENVER – February 16, 2012 – The Colorado Symphony's outstanding 2011/12 Masterworks season continues with conductor Claus Peter Flor leading two highly-anticipated concerts of music by Mozart, Brahms and Franck on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26. The centerpiece of the concerts is Brahms' Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra in A minor – the Double Concerto – featuring two Colorado Symphony musicians in solo capacities: concertmaster Yumi Hwang-Williams and principal cello Silver Ainomäe. Tickets are on sale now and start at \$34.

The powerful and enchanting Double Concerto occupies a unique place in Brahms' oeuvre. Not only is it the only orchestral work in his "leaner, late style," it is a work of reconciliation that reunited the composer with his long-time friend, the great violinist Joseph Joachim. The Double Concerto, rich in harmony, elaborate in counterpoint and filled with melody, is a product of Brahms' fullest maturity, imbued with the burnished autumnal glow that marks the masterworks of his later years. Today, the Double Concerto is infrequently heard in concert halls due to the challenge of securing the services of two gifted soloists who can meet the demands of the work. Fortunately, for Denver concertgoers, two such soloists can be found close-to-home as members of the Colorado Symphony.

This multi-faceted concert program also features Mozart's Serenade No. 6 "Serenata Notturna" and Franck's Symphony in D minor. Celebrated for its "strong musical personality," Franck's Symphony in D minor received its premiere in 1889. It was composed during the last decade of his life – a decade that proved to be the most creatively intensive and productive for the Belgian-born composer who lived most of his life in Paris. With influences of Wagner and Liszt, the Symphony in D minor is brimming with the sounds of fin de siècle France, including an exquisite English horn solo. Today, it is a cherished staple of the orchestral repertoire.

About Claus Peter Flor

Respected by musicians the world over as a gifted conductor and for his instinctive musicianship, Claus Peter Flor serves as music director of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Flor continues to work internationally at a high level. Highlights of this season include his return to the Russian National Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Verdi di Milano, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra, among others. Next season, he returns to the Vienna Symphony for concerts at the Bregenz Festival in addition.

As an opera conductor, Flor continues his relationship with Theatre du Capitole Toulouse and in 2012 returns for a revival of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. 2010 saw Flor conduct the revival of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in Toulouse. In 2013, Flor will also return to Opera National de Paris for a new production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. In addition, Flor has a large discography, including an acclaimed series of Mendelssohn recordings with the Bamberg Symphony, which have recently been re-issued by Sony/BMG. Most recently, he made two recordings with the Malaysian Philharmonic for BIS label: Suk's *Asrael Symphony* and Dvorak's Symphonies No. 7 and 8.

Prior to his position as music director of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Flor held the position of principal guest conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi (2003 to 2008), at the personal invitation of their music director Riccardo Chailly, with a remit to develop the orchestra's work in the central European repertoire. From 1999 to 2008, he was also principal guest conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he served as principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra (1991 to 1994) and artistic advisor to the Zürich Tonhalle Orchestra (1991 to 1996).

Born in Leipzig in 1953, Flor began his musical career with violin tuition in Weimar and Leipzig, before focusing on conducting with Rolf Reuter and later on with both Rafael Kubelik and Kurt Sanderling. At the age of 31, he became general music director of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and began regular associations at this time with the other major German orchestras: the Leipzig Gewandhaus and Dresden Staatskapelle. In 1988, he made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic, where he has since returned twice.

About Yumi Hwang-Williams

Yumi Hwang-Williams made her debut at the age of fifteen as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, six years after having emigrated from South Korea. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, her exceptional musicianship has earned her a reputation as an artist who, in addition to her thoughtful and

stylish interpretations of the classics, is known for her commitment to exploring and performing the works of contemporary composers. Featured in a *Strings* magazine cover article in 2008, she was described as a 'Modern Prometheus' who has 'emerged as a fiery champion of contemporary classical music'. Her interpretations of works by Aaron Jay Kernis, Michael Daugherty and Christopher Rouse have earned unreserved approval from the composers as well as critical acclaim. She has performed Korean composer Isang Yun's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Basel Symphony Orchestra, Switzerland under the baton of Dennis Russell Davies who immediately invited her to play the concerto again with the Bruckner Orchester, in Linz, Austria in October 2009. She has also been the soloist in Thomas Adès' violin concerto, *Concentric Paths*, at the Cabrillo Festival in Santa Cruz with Marin Alsop on the podium.

Ms. Hwang-Williams has performed with the symphony orchestras of Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Santa Rosa with conductors Paavo Jarvi, Lawrence Leighton Smith and Jeffrey Kahane, and has made numerous solo appearances with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra (CSO) under the batons of Marin Alsop, Peter Oundjian, Douglas Boyd, Hans Graf and Christian Arming to name a few. In recent seasons she was soloist in Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, in the Sibelius violin concerto with the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra and in the Bernstein Serenade with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.

Yumi is an avid chamber musician and recitalist, having collaborated with such artists such as Gary Graffman, Ida Kavafian, Christopher O'Riley, John Kimura Parker, Robert Koenig, Dror Biran, and with Dennis Russell Davies, performing Lou Harrison's *Grand Duo* for violin and piano. She was a founding member of the piano trio *Tre Voce* which made its Weil Hall debut in 2006.

Yumi Hwang-Williams has served as Concertmaster of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra since 2000. She is also Concertmaster of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, has performed as Guest Concertmaster for the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Ottawa, at the invitation of Music Director Pinchas Zukerman, and has been Guest First Violinist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is a faculty member of the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver.

About Silver Ainomäe

Appointed principal cello of the Colorado Symphony in 2009, Silver Ainomäe performed throughout Europe before moving to Denver. Ainomäe, who began his cello studies in 1988 at Tallinn Music High School in Estonia, recently worked as a freelance musician throughout Europe including positions as guest-leader of the Helsinki Philharmonic in Finland and work with London's Philharmonia Orchestra.

In 1992, at the age of 8, he moved from Estonia to Finland, where he pursued his musical training at Turku Conservatory with Jukka Perksalo and at the Sibelius Academy with Hannu Kiiski and Arto Noras. In 2006/07 he continued his studies in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Razumovsky Academy with Oleg Kogan.

Awards that he has received at national and international competitions include second prize at the International Competition for Young Cellists, main prize and four special prizes at the contest festival "Con Brio 2000," first prize in the string category at the "Verdi Note" competition in Rome, fifth prize at Isang Yun International Music Competition in South Korea, third prize at Witold Lutosławski

International Cello Competition in Poland (2005) and sixth prize at Paulo International Competition in Finland (2007). Additionally he has given recitals and performed as a chamber musician on numerous occasions throughout Europe.

Tickets: Remaining tickets currently start at \$34. Tickets are on sale now at www.coloradosymphony.org, the Colorado Symphony Box Office: (303) 623-7876 or (877) 292-7979 or in-person in the lobby of Boettcher Concert Hall in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

About the Colorado Symphony

The state's only full-time professional orchestra, the Colorado Symphony embraces a tradition of musical excellence by presenting a diverse array of symphonic performances throughout the year. Originally established in 1989 as the successor to the Denver Symphony, the Colorado Symphony performs in Boettcher Concert Hall and throughout the Front Range, presenting outstanding education and outreach programs, as well as Masterworks, Pops, Holiday, Family, and the exciting new *Inside the Score* and *Symphony on the Rocks* series that have attracted a historic level of first-time concertgoers. By presenting music that is both timeless and inspiring, while taking risks with new musical collaborations and interactive concerts, the Colorado Symphony is attracting more diverse and younger audiences than ever before. The increasing popularity of Colorado Symphony concerts not only re-affirms the artistic excellence of the orchestra, but also reflects the Symphony's relevance to its Colorado community and deep-rooted enthusiasm for symphonic music felt by so many individuals across the region. For more information about the Colorado Symphony, visit www.coloradosymphony.org.

Media Contact:

Samantha Teter
Director of Marketing & Sales
303.308.2462
steter@coloradosymphony.org

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