

the colorado symphony



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GILBERT VARGA LEADS COLORADO SYMPHONY IN SCHUBERT'S "UNFINISHED" SYMPHONY

Virtuoso pianist Joseph Moog makes North American debut with Liszt's First Piano Concerto

Artists: Colorado Symphony Orchestra
Gilbert Varga, *conductor*
Joseph Moog, *piano*

Program: HAYDN: Symphony No. 26 in D minor, "Lamentatione"
LISZT: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major
SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 8 in B minor, D. 759, "Unfinished"
STRAUSS: *Tod und Verklärung* ("Death and Transfiguration"), Op. 24

Performances: Friday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. – On Friday evening, come early and enjoy a Prelude to the performance with Jim Palermo.
Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. – On Saturday evening, come early and enjoy a Prelude to the performance with Gilbert Varga and Anthony Pierce or stay after for a Talkback session with Gilbert Varga.
*Tickets on sale now. Tickets currently start from \$19.

DENVER – February 24, 2011 – World-renowned conductor Gilbert Varga leads the Colorado Symphony in an evening of thrilling "firsts" and mysterious masterpieces on Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12 as German pianist Joseph Moog makes his North American debut with Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1. At the age of 23, Moog has already established a career as a sought-after concert pianist across Europe. For his first concert in North America, he will perform the Liszt concerto in honor of the composer's 200th birthday.

This exciting concert features Schubert's great Symphony No. 8 in B minor – or "Unfinished" Symphony. The mystery surrounding the composition of the "Unfinished" Symphony is one of the most intriguing puzzles in the entire realm of music. The work was left incomplete not because Schubert's death intervened, as happened with Mozart's *Requiem*, Bartók's *Viola Concerto* or Puccini's *Turandot*. Indeed, the Eighth Symphony occupied Schubert fully six years before his death in 1828 at the age of only 31. It did not see the light of day until 43 years later, when it received its premiere in 1865 in Vienna.

It is unknown why Schubert abandoned his B minor Symphony of 1822 after completing only two movements. The explanation currently given the greatest credence is that he thought he could not match the wonderful inspiration in what was to follow, so he set aside the Symphony and never returned to complete it. Today, it is an audience favorite for its beautiful themes, rich orchestration and sincerity of emotional expression.

Also on the weekend's program is *Tod und Verklärung* ("Death and Transfiguration"), which Strauss completed just in time for his 26th birthday in 1889. Strauss described the literary inspiration for his *Death and Transfiguration* of 1894: "A sick man lies in his bed breathing irregularly in his sleep. There appears to him the goal of his life's journey — the ideal he attempted to embody in his art, but which he was unable to perfect because such perfection could be achieved by no man. The fatal hour arrives. The soul leaves his body, to discover in the eternal cosmos the magnificent realization of the ideal which could not be fulfilled here below."

About Gilbert Varga

Gilbert Varga, son of the celebrated Hungarian violinist Tibor Varga, studied under three very different and distinctive maestros: Franco Ferrara, Sergiu Celibidache and Charles Bruck. Renowned for his commanding and elegant baton technique, Varga has held positions with and guest conducted many of the major orchestras throughout the world.

In Europe, Varga's recent and upcoming engagements include Berlin Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Spanish National, and Orchestre National de Belgique. In the UK, he returned to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in 2009/10 and in 2010/11, he makes his debut with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

In North America, Varga made his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2002 and has since developed a long-standing relationship with the orchestra that sees him returning there every season. In 2005, he made a highly successful debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and he works regularly with orchestras such as Atlanta, Milwaukee and Indianapolis, among others. In 2009/10, he made his debut with the Seattle Symphony and in 2010, he made his debut with the Baltimore Symphony. Further afield, Varga has recently made his debuts with the Taipei Symphony, Malaysian Philharmonic and NCPA Orchestra (Beijing), and in 2011 he conducts the Adelaide Symphony in Australia.

Varga's discography includes recordings with ASV, Discover Records, Tring (The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Collection) and Koch International (Munich Chamber Orchestra and Bamberg Symphony). Varga's most recent recording is with DSO Berlin and Anna Vinnitskaya for Naïve Records, *Anna Vinnitskaya Plays Prokofiev, Ravel Piano Concertos*, was released in 2010.

About Joseph Moog

At the age of 23, Joseph Moog is heralded as one of the most distinguished young pianists of his generation. Moog is celebrated by the media and audiences alike for his mature artistic personality, virtuosity and diversified concert programming. A highlight of this season promises to be his April 2011 benefit concert, hosted by the President of Germany at the Rheingoldhalle in Mainz, Germany.

Moog has performed as a soloist with orchestras across Europe, including the Munich Radio Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic, Warsaw Symphony Orchestra, Polish Chamber Orchestra and the Georgian Chamber Orchestra. In addition, he has worked with renowned conductors such as Christoph Poppen, Shao-Chia Lue, Ari Rasilainen, Philippe Entremont, Howard Griffiths and Karl-Heinz Steffens.

Internationally, Moog has performed at the Konzerthaus in Vienna and Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg, as well as the concert halls of Paris, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel and Brazil. His 2008 performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto in Beijing's New Grand National Theatre was recorded and broadcast across China by Chinese National Television (CCTV). Moog's recordings include *Divergences*, which features works by Joseph Jongen, Max Reger and Alexander Scriabin.

Moog is the prizewinner of numerous competitions, including the 2008 Foerderpreis des Landes Rheinland Pfalz für Nachwuchskuenstler award (Rhineland Palatinate Award for Young Artists) and the Prix Marguerite Duetschler at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad in 2006. As the recipient of the Orpheum Foundation Zurich Scholarship, Moog performed with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio, conducted by Howard Griffiths, as a part of the International Orpheum Music Festival for the Promotion of Young Soloists in Basel. Moog was also given special recognition when he won the Music Prize of the Verband der Deutschen Konzertdirektionen in 2006, which had never before been awarded to an interpreter of classical music.

Tickets: Remaining tickets currently start at \$19. 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 region's only full-time professional orchestra, the Colorado Symphony embraces a tradition of musical excellence by presenting a wide variety of symphonic performances. Established in 1989 as the successor to the Denver Symphony, the Colorado Symphony is Colorado's only resident orchestra composed of professional musicians employed to play symphonic music on a full-time basis. From classical repertoire to innovative new forms, the Symphony performs in Boettcher Concert Hall and throughout the Front Range presenting outstanding education and outreach programs, and free summer parks concerts in addition to season-long Masterworks, Pops, Holiday, Family and *Inside the Score* series. Presenting music that is timeless and performing in ways that are forever new—the Colorado Symphony exists to bring music to life. Full of energetic new programs, exciting guest artists and a brand new roster of guest conductors from around the globe, the 2010/11 season offers something for everyone. For more information about the Colorado Symphony, visit www.coloradosymphony.org.

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