



## **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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### ***ASO welcomes Midori to its Music of Dreams 2011-2012 Season; Violinist and Orchestra to team up with Alexandria and Arlington schools for lauded residency program***

***Season also includes works by Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Holst,  
and world premiere by David Balakrishnan***

***Featured artists: David Balakrishnan & Mark Summer of the Turtle Island String  
Quartet, Thomas Mastroianni, Richard Stoltzman, and Carlos Rodríguez***

Alexandria, VA – The **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra** and Music Director **Kim Allen Kluge** present ***Music of Dreams*** as the theme for its 68<sup>th</sup> season. One of the many highlights in 2011-2012 is the return of **Midori**, who most recently performed with the ASO in 2006 and for years has been regarded as one of the finest violinists of her generation. In addition to performing **Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto** on March 31 and April 1, she will also spend the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School and Arlington County Schools as part her Orchestra Residencies Program.

The ASO was one of two orchestras personally selected by Midori and her staff for her residency in the 2011-2012 season. This program allows the violinist to highlight the importance of music in the community by working individually with local orchestras and music education programs through master classes, workshops, and administrative guidance. More information about Midori's work in Alexandria and Arlington, as well as the Orchestra Residences Program in general, can be found at [www.GoToMidori.com/orp](http://www.GoToMidori.com/orp).

The 2011-2012 ASO season will begin on October 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> with the world premiere of **David Balakrishnan's Force of Nature**, performed on cello by the composer's fellow **Turtle Island String Quartet** member **Mark Summer**. Balakrishnan will perform violin on another of his original compositions, ***Little Mouse Jumps***. Other performers sure to make ***Music of Dreams*** a memorable season include **Thomas Mastroianni performing Liszt's transcription of Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy** in November; **Richard Stoltzman on Mozart's Clarinet Concerto** in February; and **Carlos Rodríguez** rounding out the season in May with a performance of **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2**. Additionally, the orchestra will be performing **Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique; Symphony No. 3, "Organ"** by **Saint-Saëns; Mozart's Requiem; Stravinsky's Firebird Suite;** and ***The Planets*** by **Holst** throughout the year.

The ASO will also bring back several of its annual events in 2011-2012: the Holiday Jazz concert at Arlington's Artisphere plus the Children's Holiday Concert in Old Town, Alexandria (both in December), and the Children's Arts Festival in spring of 2012. Details forthcoming as these events draw nearer. As in past seasons, the Symphony **will continue with its highly popular offer of \$5 youth tickets to all concerts**. Families interested in introducing their children to classical music are encouraged to take advantage of this incredible offer, particularly for Sunday matinee performances.

Additionally, music historian **Colleen Fay** will continue with her informative and fascinating free preconcert chats, held one hour prior to each classical subscription concert in Rachel M. Schelsinger Concert Hall.

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## The ASO 2011-2012 Season:

### Opening Weekend 2011

**Saturday, October 8, 2011, 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 9, 2011, 3 p.m.**

Kim Allen Kluge, conductor

David Balakrishnan, violin and Mark Summer, cello, members of the Turtle Island String Quartet

BALAKRISHNAN: *Little Mouse Jumps*

David Balakrishnan, violin

BALAKRISHNAN: *Force of Nature\**

Mark Summer, cello

BERLIOZ: *Symphonie Fantastique*

\*world premiere

For its season opening concert, the **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra** welcomes two members of the renowned and innovative Turtle Island String Quartet, **David Balakrishnan** on violin and **Mark Summer** on cello. Each will perform on two of Mr. Balakrishnan's original compositions, *Little Mouse Jumps* and the **world premiere** of *Force of Nature*. The concert will conclude with a performance of **Berlioz's** dramatic *Symphonie Fantastique*.

### ASO and Saint-Saëns's "Organ" Symphony

**Saturday, November 5, 2011, 8 p.m.**

Kim Allen Kluge, conductor

Thomas Mastroianni, piano

SCHUBERT/LISZT: *Wanderer Fantasy*

Thomas Mastroianni, piano

SAINT-SAËNS, *Symphony No. 3 in C minor, "Organ"*

**Camille Saint-Saëns** dedicated his **Symphony No. 3, "Organ"** to his friend Franz Liszt, who died shortly after its premiere in 1886. The ASO honors both composers in this performance with world-class pianist and Catholic University professor **Thomas Mastroianni** performing **Liszt's transcription of Franz Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasy***. The concert concludes with the aforementioned "Organ" symphony by Saint-Saëns, considered by many to be one of the greatest achievements of his career.

### ASO, Richard Stoltzman, and Mozart's Requiem

**Saturday, February 11, 2012, 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 12, 2012, 3 p.m.**

Kim Allen Kluge, conductor

Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Alexandria Choral Society

Metropolitan Chorus

MOZART: *Clarinet Concerto*

Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

MOZART: *Requiem*

**Richard Stoltzman** is undoubtedly one of the most famous solo clarinetists today, having released over 40 recordings in addition to collaborations with similarly famed artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, and Michael Tilson Thomas. For the ASO's February concerts he performs **Mozart's Clarinet Concerto**. The orchestra will continue its evening of **Mozart** with the composer's haunting, unfinished *Requiem*, completed after his death by Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

**Midori with the Alexandria Symphony**

**Saturday, March 31, 2012, 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 1, 2012, 3 p.m.**

Kim Allen Kluge, conductor

Midori, violin

MENDELSSOHN: *Concerto for Violin*

Midori, violin

STRAVINSKY: *Firebird Suite*

The ASO is pleased to be one of two recipients for **Midori's Orchestra Residencies** program in 2012. The celebrated violinist will spend the week leading up to her performance of **Mendelssohn's** ever-popular **Violin Concerto** doing outreach in the school district of Alexandria. The concerts on March 31 and April 1 will also feature a performance of Stravinsky's passionate Firebird Suite.

**Alexandria Symphony presents *The Planets***

**Saturday, May 19, 2012, 8 p.m.**

Kim Allen Kluge, conductor

Carlos Rodríguez, piano

RACHMANINOFF: *Piano Concerto No. 2*

Carlos Rodríguez, piano

HOLST: *The Planets*

ASO friend and consummate pianist **Carlos Rodríguez** will join the symphony once again on **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2**, a piece that has crossed over into pop culture through films such as *The Seven Year Itch* starring Marilyn Monroe and, more recently, Clint Eastwood's *Hereafter*. Audiences are also sure to recognize many movements in **Gustav Holst's *The Planets***, including the thunderous "Mars" and melodious "Jupiter."

All classical subscription concerts will take place at the **Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center**, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311. **Parking is free to all ASO patrons.**

Information and tickets available at [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call **(703) 548-0885**. Press tickets to all events available upon request.

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**KIM ALLEN KLUGE, OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Maestro Kim Allen Kluge, **2007 Wammie Conductor of the Year**, is the music director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. A valedictorian of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, he pursued doctorates in Piano and Conducting from the University of Maryland and received a Conducting diploma from the Academia Musicale Chigiana in Siena. He has studied with many of the great conductors, including Seiji Ozawa, Roger Norrington and Simon Rattle.

**MEET THE ASO**

Northern Virginia's premiere fully professional orchestra, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1954 and has established a reputation for thematic and inter-arts programming that features a mix of classical and contemporary music. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing quality, affordable and accessible music in the greater Metropolitan area of Northern Virginia through its highly respected, innovative, professional performances and programming. The ASO is also dedicated to reinforcing arts education in school curriculums and introducing younger audiences to classical music.

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