



O' Passionate Voice

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

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ASO Concludes '08-'09 Season with "O' Passionate Voice"

Who: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra & Maestro **Kim Allen Kluge**
What: **Wagner** *Tannhäuser Overture*
Rodgers *Overture to South Pacific*
Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 5*
When: Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 8:00pm
Where: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center
NOVA Community College, Alexandria Campus
3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311
Price: \$20-\$80. Call **703-548-0885** or visit **www.alexsym.org** for tickets

Alexandria, VA, March 31, 2009 – On Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 8:00pm, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) concludes its '08-'09 season with "O' Passionate Voice" at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center (NOVA Community College, Alexandria). The culmination of a season centered on the vocality of music, the program includes Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser Overture*, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* and Richard Rodgers' *Overture to South Pacific*. Tickets are \$20-\$80 and can be purchased online (www.alexsym.org) or via telephone (703-548-0885).

"O' Passionate Voice" begins with the sweeping overture to **Wagner's celebrated opera, *Tannhäuser***. "From the opening notes of the French horn through the final exalted climax," writes ASO concert lecturer Colleen Fay, "the overture perfectly embodies the sense of myth, inner conflict, and...the redemptive power of love."

Moving from 13th century knights to World War II soldiers, the ASO celebrates one of America's most beloved musical theater composers: **Richard Rodgers**. The *Overture to South Pacific* sets the scene for the 1950 Pulitzer Prize winning musical exploring the intersection of love, war, and race.

The program concludes with **Tchaikovsky's powerful *Symphony No. 5***. Written in 1888, its theme was based on a passage in Russian composer Mikhail Glinka's *A Life for the Tzar* containing the phrase "turn not into sorrow." Indeed, "whether consciously or not," writes Fay, "Tchaikovsky takes the idea to create an optimistic work based not on unrealizable dreams, but on well-grounded hope for a better future."

Though the '08-'09 season has come to an end, the ASO looks forward to two favorite summer performances. On **June 7**, the Symphony embarks on an adventure in music with its highly anticipated annual **Children's Arts Festival**. In addition to art activities and an instrument petting zoo, the event includes an ASO performance of the music from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Lord of the Rings*, and the Looney Tunes classic, *What's Opera Doc?* On **July 11**, the ASO presents its annual **Pops concert** at Oronoco Bay Park as part of the USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration.

Founded in 1954, the ASO is Northern Virginia's premiere fully professional orchestra. It exists to provide quality, affordable and accessible music in the greater Metropolitan area of Northern Virginia through its highly respected, innovative, professional performances and programming. To foster a life-long appreciation of symphonic music, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is dedicated to strengthening arts education in schools.

Members of the press, please contact Merrie Leininger for press tickets and photos.

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