

The COLUMBIA
Orchestra
Your Community's Music

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Orchestra Features “Higdon & Tchaikovsky” in Season Opener

The Columbia Orchestra opens its 34th season on Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 7:30 PM at the Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, in Columbia, Maryland. The 2011–2012 season includes four Classical Concerts (October 15, December 3, February 4, June 2), Symphonic Pops (March 17), Young People’s Concerts (February 25), and three Chamber Music Concerts (October 29, March 31, May 12).

Music Director Jason Love will open the program with Aaron Copland’s *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Copland, often noted as “the dean of American music,” composed his famous fanfare for brass and percussion in 1941. It remains one of the most recognizable orchestral works in the repertoire.

Christopher Rose will join the orchestra for Jennifer Higdon’s *Percussion Concerto*, described by *News and Observer* as “full of joyous music making, a wondrous world of sounds and colors, trilling in its epic sections and mesmerizing in intimate moments.” Higdon, one of the most popular living composers, received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for her Violin Concerto. Christopher Rose is currently assistant principal percussionist with The United States Marine Band (“The President’s Own”) and principal percussionist with the Harrisburg Symphony. He has also performed with the Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Galveston, Annapolis, and National symphony orchestras, and with the New York City Opera Orchestra.

Love has chosen Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 5 in e minor* as the major work for the evening. Recognized as one of Tchaikovsky’s most powerful statements, the Fifth Symphony was premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1888. Its familiar themes and melodic melodies exploit the diverse tone colors of the orchestra as Tchaikovsky weaves his majestic tapestry.

Prior to the concert, Howard Community College faculty member Bill Scanlan Murphy leads a fascinating pre-concert exploration of the evening’s program. The “Prelude” discussion begins at 6:30 P.M. and allows the audience to gain insight into the composers’ lives and their musical contributions.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors over 60, and \$10 for full-time students. Subscriptions for all four Classical Concerts plus the Symphonic Pops offer a 20% discount and early access to seating (Adults \$80, Seniors \$64, Students \$40). Group rates for 10 or more individuals are available on request.

Tickets are available online at www.columbiaorchestra.org or may be purchased at Music & Arts in Ellicott City, Arundel Mills, and Laurel, or the Columbia Association on Wincopin Circle. Tickets may also be purchased at the door with cash, check, or credit card. For further information, group rates, or directions, call (410) 465-8777 or visit the orchestra’s website.

Photographs, biographies, and program notes are available at www.columbiaorchestra.org/press_room.

Media inquiries regarding photographs and interviews should be directed to Executive Director Tedd Griepentrog at (410) 507-1284 or by E-mail to ExecDir@columbiaorchestra.org.

The Columbia Orchestra is funded in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Howard County Arts Council, the Columbia Foundation, and The Rouse Company Foundation.

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