

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 29, 2009



SARAH CHANG TO PERFORM MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN
CONCERTO WITH EASTERN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
DURING EMF'S 2ND WEEK

Greensboro, NC- The 2009 Eastern Music Festival welcomes internationally renowned **violinist Sarah Chang**, who will join the Festival Orchestra led by **Maestro Gerard Schwarz**, in a performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, op.64. As part of the Lincoln Financial Festival Orchestra Series, the program will also include a rendition of Mahler's Symphony No. 7 in E minor. The concert will take place on **Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 8pm** in **Dana Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410). An additional performance is scheduled on **Sunday, July 12, 2009** at **Appalachian State University "An Appalachian Summer Festival"** in Boone, North Carolina. Concert tickets for the Greensboro performance may be purchased for \$55 for reserved seating and \$45 for general admission by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org. Pricing for the Boone performance varies with tickets available at 800.841.2787 or www.appsummer.org

An exceptionally gifted performer, Ms. Chang has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Having collaborated with most of the major orchestras in the world, her maturity and emotional range are captivating qualities that complement her technical audacity. In an evening of musical splendor, Ms. Chang will delight the audience with an interpretation of Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, op.64. This virtuosic work exemplifies the elegance of the Romantic period. The subject of unconventional compositional traits, the piece carries melodious phrases, poise and gallant style.

Following this charming introduction, the program will continue with Gustav Mahler's rarely performed Symphony No. 7 in E minor. Perhaps identified as his most eccentric symphonic work, the piece offers an insight into the composer's dazzling abilities. While an underdog amongst the rest of Mahler's symphonies, it allows the listener to explore the possibilities of orchestral colors, as well as the magnitude and power of sound.

A free pre-concert conversation with musicologist Dr. Greg Carroll, called Musically Speaking, explores the history of the evening's composers and repertoire in a casual, conversational atmosphere. Musically Speaking begins at 7pm in the Moon Room of Dana Auditorium and is free and open to the public. There is also a pre-concert prelude beginning at 7:15pm in front of Dana Auditorium to welcome concertgoers.

McMillion Capital Management is the proud sponsor of Sarah Chang for her Greensboro performance.

More about Sarah Chang

Violinist **Sarah Chang** is recognized over the world as one of classical music's most captivating and gifted performers. One of the most remarkable violinists of any generation, she has matured into a young artist whose musical insight, technical virtuosity, and emotional range continue to astonish.

Appearing in the music capitals of Asia, Europe, and the Americas, she has collaborated with most major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the NHK Symphony Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Symphony Orchestra, among others. The esteemed conductors with whom she has worked include Sir Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel, Charles Dutoit, Mariss Jansons, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Valery Gergiev, Bernard Haitink, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, André Previn, Michael Tilson Thomas, and David Zinman.

This season, Sarah Chang will return to the London Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony, the Bayerische Rundfunk Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Washington National Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, among others. Sarah Chang will also for the first time play/direct Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* on tour in the U.S. and in Asia with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, then in Europe and the U.K with the English Chamber Orchestra. These tours coincide with her most recent release for EMI Classics - Vivaldi *Four Seasons*/Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

In 2008 - 2009, Sarah Chang will also perform the world premiere of a new work by composer Christopher Theofanidis with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She will revisit the Philharmonia Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

In recital last season, Sarah Chang toured Europe and the U.S. (culminating in a performance at Carnegie Hall) with pianist Ashley Wass and included in her program a new sonata commissioned specially for her in memory of the late Isaac Stern by the American composer Richard Danielpour. In past seasons, her recitals have included performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Symphony Hall in Boston, the Barbican Centre in London, and the Philharmonie in Berlin, as well as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

As a chamber musician, Sarah Chang has collaborated with such artists as Pinchas Zukerman, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Yefim Bronfman, Martha Argerich, Leif Ove Andsnes, Stephen Kovacevich, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, Lars Vogt, and the late Isaac Stern. In 2005/06 Sarah Chang toured with members of the Berlin Philharmonic and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra with a Sextet programme in summer festivals leading to a concert at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Sarah Chang records exclusively for EMI Classics. Her widely lauded recordings include *Fire and Ice*, an album of popular shorter works for violin and orchestra, with Plácido Domingo conducting the Berlin Philharmonic; a disc of chamber music for strings (Dvořák's *Sextet* and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*) with current and former members of the Berlin Philharmonic; and the Dvořák *Violin Concerto* with the London Symphony and Sir Colin Davis, along with the Dvořák Piano Quintet (with Leif Ove Andsnes, Alex Kerr, Georg Faust, and Wolfram Christ). She has also recorded a CD of French sonatas by Ravel, Saint-Saëns, and Franck, in collaboration with pianist Lars Vogt. Last season Sarah Chang recorded Prokofiev's and Shostakovich's first violin concertos live with the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle and this season recorded Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, which was released worldwide.

Born in Philadelphia to Korean parents, Sarah Chang began her violin studies at age four and promptly enrolled in The Juilliard School of Music, where she studied with the late Dorothy DeLay. Within a year she had already performed with several orchestras in the Philadelphia area.

Her early auditions, at age eight, for Zubin Mehta and Riccardo Muti led to immediate engagements with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Sarah Chang has reached an even wider audience through numerous television and radio programs, concert broadcasts, and best-selling records for EMI Classics throughout Europe, North America, and the Far East. Along with Pete Sampras and Wynton Marsalis, she is a featured artist in Movado's global advertising campaign "The Art of Time." In 2006, Sarah Chang was named by *Newsweek* as one of the Twenty Top Women on Leadership, and in March this year, Sarah Chang was honored to be named as a Young Global Leader for 2008 by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for her professional achievements, commitment to society, and potential in shaping the future of the world.

In 2005, Yale University named a chair in Sprague Hall in honor of Sarah Chang. In June 2004, she was given the honor of running with the Olympic Torch in New York and became the youngest person ever to receive the Hollywood Bowl's Hall of Fame award. She is a past recipient of Gramophone's "Young Artist of the Year" award, Germany's "Echo" Schallplattenpreis, "Newcomer of the Year" honors at the International Classical Music Awards in London, and Korea's "Nan Pa" award. In July 2005 she was awarded the Internazionale Accademia Musicale Chigiana Prize, and in 1999 she received the Avery Fisher Prize, one of the most prestigious awards given to instrumentalists.

More about Maestro Gerard Schwarz

Born to Viennese parents, EMF music director **Gerard Schwarz** has served as the Seattle Symphony Orchestra's music director since 1985. He is a recipient of the Ditson Conductor's award from Columbia University and was the first American to be named Conductor of the Year by *Musical America*. He holds numerous honorary doctorates, including ones from The Juilliard School, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle University, University of Puget Sound, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Recent highlights for Maestro Schwarz include two consecutive Emmy Awards in 2007 and 2008 for televised performances with Seattle Symphony; leading Seattle Symphony in its recent Southern California Tour; and conducting Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the 600-member community orchestra and chorus for His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the recent visit to Seattle sponsored by Seeds of Compassion.

Maestro Schwarz has received 12 GRAMMY[®] nominations, six ASCAP awards, and numerous *Stereo Review* and Ovation awards. In June 2007, he received an Emmy for his performance with Seattle Symphony of Shostakovich's *Eighth Symphony*. Moreover, Maestro Schwarz won critical acclaim that season for his remarkable collaboration with Dale Chihuly to present Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*. His extensive discography of some 250 releases showcases his collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra; the Tokyo, Czech and Royal Liverpool philharmonics; the London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France and Berlin Radio Symphony; the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; and the New York Chamber and Seattle symphonies. Soon to be released are works by Mahler, Arthur Foote, Bright Sheng, and Samuel Jones, as well as Deems Taylor's *Peter Ibbetson* and the first complete recording of Kurt Weill's *Eternal Road*.

In addition to his leadership at Eastern Music Festival, Maestro Schwarz has also served as music director of New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and New York Chamber Symphony, as well as artistic advisor to Tokyu Bunkamura's Orchard Hall.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts

offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

More About Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Guti rrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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