

North Carolina's
Musical Treasure™



www.EasternMusicFestival.org

Press Release

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**FINAL TWO EMF MASTER CLASSES TO FEATURE CELLIST XAVIER
PHILLIPS AND DOUBLE BASS PLAYER MAXIMILIAN DIMOFF**

Greensboro, NC- The fifth and final week of the Triad's Eastern Music Festival will include two exceptional master classes focusing on the cello and the double bass respectively. The first master class will take place on **Thursday, July 30, 2009** with **faculty member and outstanding double bass player Maximilian Dimoff**. The next afternoon, **Friday, July 31, 2009**, will highlight the return of famed **cellist Xavier Phillips** with a master class session that should not be missed! The general public is invited to eavesdrop on these one-on-one coaching sessions with EMF students. Master classes are an educationally enriching experience for all participants. All sessions will take place **at 4pm**; Thursday's will be held in the **Choir Room of Dana Auditorium** and Friday's in the **Sternberger Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC, 27410). Tickets may be purchased at the door only for \$15. These events are free for season ticket holders.

More about Xavier Phillips

Xavier Phillips was born in Paris in 1971. He began to study the cello at the age of six with Jacqueline Heuclin. At fifteen, he entered the CNSM of Paris in Philippe Muller's class, and at the end he obtained a first prize in 1989.

He won several international prizes: Second prize and Special prize at Musical Youths of Belgrade, Special prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Third prize and Special prize at the Rostropovich Competition in Paris, and First prize by unanimous decision at the 1st Competition of Helsinki.

His meeting with Mstislav Rostropovich, having noticed him at the time of his competition, marked the beginning of a long collaboration during which Xavier Phillips improved near the Master.

Soon he was invited to perform on the largest international scenes with prestigious orchestras: Orchestre National de France, Philharmonique de Radio France, Berliner Symphoniker, Houston Symphony, BBC Scottish Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Filarmonica della Scala, on the invitation of famous conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Christoph Eschenbach, James Conlon, Marek Janowski, Serge Baudo, Vladimir Fedosyev, Ion Marin, Kazushi Ono, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Eliahu Inbal, Georges Prêtre, and Vladimir Spivakov.

After his very brilliant debut with the Orchestre de Paris in September 2001, Mstislav Rostropovich recognizes in him an achieved soloist with growing maturity. Then he invited him to play, under his baton, Prokofiev's *Symphonia concertante* with the Washington National Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

Still under the baton of his mentor Mstislav Rostropovich, and less than one year later, Xavier Phillips made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a rococo theme*. Carried by this confidence and the huge success gained at the time of his concerts in the United States, he was invited by the Seattle Symphony Orchestra for several concerts under the conducting of Vassili Sinaïski.

In September 2006, he was the first soloist invited by the Orchestre de Paris for the reopening of the Salle Pleyel and was distinguished in his interpretation of Henri Dutilleux's *Tout un monde lointain* in the presence of the composer.

His eclectic and varied discography earned Phillips a "Choc" by the magazine *Le Monde de la Musique* for the following recordings: Kodaly (Harmonia Mundi/Lontano) with his brother Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabedian, *Works for Cello & Orchestra* (Lalo, Fauré, Caplet at EMI - Classics), *Sonatas of Schnittke, Shostakovitch and Prokofiev* with the pianist Hüseyin Sermet (Harmonia Mundi), as well as the Grand Prix du Disque for Alberic Magnard's chamber music (Auvidis Valois). *Armenia*, a CD devoted to Armenian music with Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabedian and Vahan Mardirossian at Warner Classics was published in 2007.

Xavier Phillips has appeared in the Schumann concerto with the Orchestre National de France under the conducting of Kurt Masur at the Theatre des Champs-Élysées in February 2007, and he will play with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in December 2007 and May 2008 under Marek Janowski, then in the Dvořák's concerto with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra under Günther Herbig.

Xavier Phillips plays on a Matteo Gofriller cello dated 1710, a loan from a sponsor, the coffee brand "Blue de Brazil".

More about Maximilian Dimoff

Maximilian Dimoff is the principal double bassist with the Cleveland Orchestra and head of the Double Bass Department at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall and the Blossom Music Center and on tour in Carnegie Hall and in Europe. Prior to his 1997 appointment with The

Cleveland Orchestra, Mr. Dimoff was appointed assistant principal bass with the San Antonio Symphony while still a student at Northwestern University. He was soon promoted to the principal position with that same orchestra. In 1993, Mr. Dimoff moved to his hometown to join the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. During that time, he was also a member of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra in Chicago. Mr. Dimoff is a coach and teacher with the New World Symphony in Miami, Fla. He has taught master classes at many major music schools, including The Juilliard School, The Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University, Carnegie Mellon, The University of North Texas, The University of Michigan, and The Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. Mr. Dimoff studied with Jeff Bradetich while attending Northwestern University. Other influential teachers include Ronald Simon of the Seattle Symphony, Gary Karr, Eugene Levinson of the New York Philharmonic, and Warren Benfield of the Chicago Symphony. Mr. Dimoff performs on a double bass made by the Italian maker Antonio Mariani dated 1651.

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.*

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

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, Awadagin Pratt, 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 in the Fall each autumn. Single tickets and FlexPasses are on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

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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