

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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FROM FRANCE TO ARGENTINA: EMF'S YOUNG ARTISTS ORCHESTRA'S VARIED OPENING CONCERT TO INCLUDE WORKS BY BERLIOZ, FOOTE, COPLAND AND GINASTERA

*Greensboro, NC- On Friday July 3, 2009*, EMF's Young Artists Orchestras will present the opening concert of its traditional series. Conducted by **Maestro Gerard Schwarz** and **José-Luis Novo** respectively, it will feature both the Eastern Symphony Orchestra and the Guilford Symphony Orchestra. The program will include performances of outstanding orchestral works by international composers, such as: Berlioz's *Le carnaval romain* and Copland's *El Salón México*, amongst others. The concert will take place at **8pm** in **Dana Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410). Tickets may be purchased for \$25 for reserved seating and \$19 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](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

The Eastern Symphony Orchestra will begin the evening's performance with a rendition of *Le Carnaval romain* under the baton of Maestro Schwarz. An overture of great musical range, it is one of Hector Berlioz's most celebrated orchestral pieces. Giving way to the contrast between lyric expression, lively character and the potency of sound, the work creates a musical atmosphere thoroughly enjoyable by the listener. Following this orchestral classic will be Arthur Foote's *Francesca da Rimini*; Symphonic Prologue, op.24. An American composer, Foote brings European influence into his compositional style. The programmatic work, based on Dante's "Divine Comedy", depicts a story of love and passion with an exceptional use of orchestration.

The evening will continue as conductor José-Luis Novo leads the Guilford Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Aaron Copland's *El Salón México*. The piece derives from Mexican folk themes and is highly influenced by a visit made by the composer to the country in 1932. The program will conclude with Alberto Ginastera's *Estancia*: Four

Dances, op.8a. This suite in four movements incorporates cultural elements and portrays the ordinary life of ranch workers in Argentina, homeland of the composer.

### **More about 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.

### **More about José Luis Novo**

Praised by audiences and critics alike for his fresh interpretations and dramatic presentation style, pianist **José-Luis Novo** is currently music director and conductor of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (Md.) and the Binghamton Philharmonic (N.Y.). Prior to these appointments, Mr. Novo held the positions of assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; music director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Oxford Chamber Orchestra (Ohio), and the Miami University Symphony Orchestra; associate conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra; and assistant conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Spain and the Yale Symphony Orchestra.

Recent engagements include the Baltimore, Syracuse, Modesto, Tulsa, Ridgefield, Tallahassee, and Stamford symphonies, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, and the Abilene Philharmonic.

Previous guest conducting engagements have included appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony, the Cleveland Philharmonic, and the Echternach Festival Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He has guest conducted on tour in Luxembourg and Germany and with numerous Spanish orchestras, including performances at the National Auditorium and at the Royal Opera House in Madrid, and the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona. Mr. Novo holds music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Yale University, and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels.

Mr. Novo returns for his tenth year as resident conductor of EMF.

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://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 EMFkids 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 Gutiérrez, 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 27<sup>th</sup> (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale

through July 9<sup>th</sup>); single tickets on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://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](http://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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