

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release

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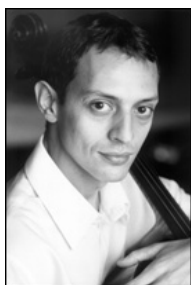
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 2008



## EMF SEASON FINALE WITH MAESTRO SCHWARZ AND XAVIER PHILLIPS!

*Greensboro, NC*- The 2008 Eastern Music Festival reaches its season crescendo with acclaimed cellist Xavier Phillips performing with the Eastern Festival Orchestra **Saturday, August 2, 2008**. Made possible through the generous support of Lincoln Financial Group, the program will be led by conductor and EMF music director **Gerard Schwarz** and will include works by Mozart, Haydn and Strauss. The concert begins at **8pm** in the **Dana Auditorium of Guilford College (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410)**. The performance will be preceded by a free lecture, *Musically Speaking*, at **7pm** in the **Moon Room of the Dana Auditorium**. Presented by conductor Peter Perret, this discussion explores the history of the evening's repertoire and composers. Concert tickets may be purchased for \$47 for reserved seating and \$37 for general admission at 866-579-TIXX, from the Festival Box Office at Triad Stage or online at [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org). Group and senior discounts are available only for advanced ticket purchases.

**Xavier Phillips** was born in Paris in 1971 and began studying the cello at the age of six with Jacqueline Heuclin. At 15 he entered the CNSM of Paris in Philippe Muller's class, and at the end he obtained a first prize in 1989. He won the second prize and special prize at Musical Youths of Belgrade, special prize at the Tchaikovski Competition in Moscow, third prize and special prize at the Rostropovitch Competition in Paris and first prize by unanimous decision at the 1st Competition of Helsinki. His meeting with Mstislav Rostropovitch marked the beginning of a long collaboration. Soon he was invited to perform with the Orchestre National de France, Philharmonique de Radio France, Berliner Symphoniker, Houston Symphony, BBC Scottish Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and Filarmonica della Scala by conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Christoph Eschenbach, James Conlon, Marek Janowski, Serge Baudo, Vladimir Fedosseyev, Ion Marin, Kazushi Ono, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Eliahu Inbal, Georges Prêtre and Vladimir Spivakov.

After his brilliant debut with the Orchestre de Paris in September 2001, Mstislav Rostropovitch 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, Xavier Phillips made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovski's *Variations on a rococo theme* and was invited to

perform with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra soon after. 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. Xavier Phillips appeared in the Schumann concerto with the Orchestre National de France under the conducting of Kurt Masur at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in February 2007. He played with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in December 2007 and May 2008 under Marek Janowski, then in the Dvořák concerto with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

His eclectic and varied discography earned Phillips a "Choc" by the magazine *Le Monde de la Musique* for Kodaly (Harmonia Mundi/Lontano 2006) with his brother Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabedian; *Works for Cello & Orchestra* (Lalo, Fauré, Caplet at EMI Classics); and *Sonatas of Schnittke, Shostakovich and Prokofiev* with the pianist Hüseyin Sermet (Harmonia Mundi). He obtained as well the Grand Prix du Disque for Alberic Magnard's chamber music (Auvidis Valois). His recording with the Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie including the Lalo concerto has been issued by EMI-Classics and immediately received the distinction of "Choc" by *Le Monde de la Musique*.

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

Currently in its 47<sup>th</sup> season (June 28 – August 2, 2008), the Eastern Music Festival draws outstanding faculty, distinguished guest artists and talented youth from all over the country and world. Recognized for its commitment to education, the Festival unites world renowned performing artists with pre-professional students to create an environment that fosters musical growth and provides a 5-week schedule of 100 high caliber concerts and music-related events. Led by Music Director, Gerard Schwarz, Guest Conductor Jorge Mester, and Resident Conductor José-Luis Novo, this summer will feature music luminaries such as Midori, Cecile Licad, Xavier Phillips, Elmar Oliveira, Ellis Marsalis and 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. The EMF*kids* concerts and camps introduce younger audiences to a high quality music experience.

The 2008 season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.easternmusicfestival.org](http://www.easternmusicfestival.org).

\*a service fee may apply

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

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.

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