

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

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For Immediate Release

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Harrisburg Symphony Presents 'Essential Mozart & Beethoven' on Feb. 17, 18

Acclaimed German pianist Markus Groh performs Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto

Concert is Part of Education Weekend Sponsored by M&T Bank

Don't miss a beat as the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Stuart Malina conducting, performs music by Mozart and Beethoven on Feb. 17 and 18. The Masterworks concert features renowned German pianist Markus Groh performing Beethoven's majestic "Emperor" Concerto.

"Essential Mozart and Beethoven" is part of Education Weekend, sponsored by M&T Bank to promote classical music to children throughout the region. The weekend activities include performances at local schools by Harrisburg Symphony musicians on Friday, a symphony rehearsal open to the public on Saturday morning, the Masterworks concerts on Saturday and Sunday, and a free family concert by the Harrisburg Youth Symphony on Tuesday, Feb. 20. More details below.

The Masterworks concert will begin with Mozart's familiar and ever delightful string serenade "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik."

Maestro Malina then will conduct Mozart's exuberant "Linz" Symphony (Symphony No. 36 in C major).

The final work, Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 5," also known as the "Emperor" Concerto, will feature world-renowned pianist Markus Groh. More information about Groh is below.

Performances will be held Saturday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. at the Forum, located at 5th and Walnut streets in downtown Harrisburg. A pre-concert lecture will be given one hour prior to both the Saturday and Sunday concerts by Dr. Truman Bullard, Professor of Music Emeritus at Dickinson College.

Masterworks tickets are available from just \$10 to \$49. Tickets and program notes are available online at HarrisburgSymphony.org, or by calling (717) 545-5527.

Coming in March, the Harrisburg Symphony performs works by Britten, Saint-Saëns, and Sibelius, and featuring French keyboard master Pascal Rogé March 10 and 11. Then on March 24 and 25, the Capital BlueCross Pops series presents "Bravo Broadway!" featuring vocalists Doug LaBrecque and Christiane Noll.

EDUCATION WEEKEND

Education Weekend kicks off with performances of Harrisburg Symphony musicians at four area schools. The schools include Camp Hill Middle School, Downey School in Harrisburg, Red Lion Junior High, and West Creek Hills Elementary in Camp Hill.

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"It's so exhilarating to see the pure excitement children have in classical music when given the opportunity to see a live performance by Harrisburg Symphony musicians," said Kevin C. Curtis, vice president for the M&T Investment Group. "M&T Bank's Education Weekend sponsorship provides those opportunities and the bank is happy to partner with the symphony to help bring classical music to children and families in our community."

Media inquiries about specific details and times of school performances can be directed to Kent Wissinger at the Harrisburg Symphony at (717) 545-5527.

There is also an open rehearsal by Maestro Malina and the Harrisburg Symphony on Saturday morning at 11 a.m. at the Forum. This is a free event and open to the general public.

In addition to the weekend Masterworks concerts, a free family concert will be given on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Forum.

The free concert is presented by the Harrisburg Youth Symphony and the Junior Youth String Orchestra. This child-friendly concert features lively classical music and hands-on activities for kids before the concert and at intermission.

The concert is a circus theme event featuring excerpts from Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals" and hands-on "Symphony Circus" activities before the concert, including an instrument petting zoo starting at 6:30 p.m.

This concert is absolutely free and no ticket is required. Seating is on a first-come basis.

MARKUS GROH

Since winning the 1st Prize at Brussels' prestigious Queen Elizabeth Competition in 1995, Markus Groh has confirmed his position in the top echelon of the new generation of pianists.

Markus Groh has performed with numerous major orchestras such as the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin, the Stuttgart Radio Orchestra, MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, Bamberg Symphony, Orchestra of the German Opera Berlin, Netherlands Philharmonic, Residence Orchestra (The Hague), Vienna Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Colorado Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the National Orchestra of Belgium, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders, Liège Philharmonic, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, and the Prague Symphonic Orchestra.

Invited by the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Kent Nagano, Groh made his highly acclaimed London debut in May 2001, playing the "4th Piano Concerto" by Beethoven.

He has performed with professional orchestras across North America including the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., the San Francisco Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of Québec, and many others.

In terms of chamber music, Markus Groh has played with ensembles such as the Vogler Quartet, the Petersen Quartet and musicians like Boris Pergamenschikow, Leonidas Kavakos, Akiko Suwanai, Christian Tetzlaff, Tabea Zimmermann, Radovan Vlatkovic, Peter Schreier, Wolfgang Holzmair, Claudio Bohórquez, Viviane Hagner, Alban Gerhardt, and Julia Fischer.

Groh has performed solo recitals in London (Wigmore Hall), Zurich (Tonhalle), Berlin (Konzerthaus), Hamburg (Musikhalle), Leipzig (Gewandhaus), Munich (Herkulesaal) and Amsterdam, Paris, Athens, Tokyo, Mexico City, Toronto, Washington, and New York.

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Markus Groh is artistic director of the Bebersee Festival, a chamber music festival near Berlin, which he founded in 1999.

Also in 1999, Markus Groh was appointed Professor for Piano at the Conservatory for Music and Theatre of Hannover.

Markus Groh was born in 1970 in South Germany (Waiblingen/Baden-Württemberg), and studied with Professor Konrad Richter at the Stuttgart Conservatory, Professor Hans Leygraf at the Berlin Academy of the Arts and at the Salzburg Mozarteum. During the course of his studies, he won numerous prizes at national and international competitions.

Markus Groh divides his time between Berlin and New York.

More information about Groh can be found on his Web site at MarkusGroh.com.

STUART MALINA

Maestro Stuart Malina is one of America's most versatile and accomplished conductors. In a wide variety of concerts, from masterworks and grand opera to pops, Malina's ease on the podium, engaging personality, and insightful interpretations have thrilled audiences and helped to break down the barriers between performer and listener wherever he has worked. Malina has been music director and conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra since June 2000.

Malina made his Carnegie Hall debut in February 2007 by conducting the New York Pops in an all-Gershwin tribute including "Rhapsody in Blue," which he conducted from the keyboard.

Malina won a Tony Award for orchestration with Billy Joel for the musical "Movin' Out," which Malina helped create with director and choreographer Twyla Tharp. He is the music supervisor for both the National Tour and the London/European Tour of the show.

An accomplished concert pianist, Maestro Malina has impressive credits as a soloist having performed in numerous concerts in the United States, the Netherlands, and with the acclaimed Piccolo Spoleto Contemporary Music Festival.

Additional information about Malina is available on his Web site at StuartMalina.com.

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Editor's Note: High-resolution images of Markus Groh and Stuart Malina are available via e-mail by contacting Kent Wissinger at (717) 545-5527 or kent@harrisburgsymphony.org.