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MATT CATINGUB JOINS NMSO AS NEW PRINCIPAL POPS CONDUCTOR

(ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., June 1, 2009) – The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra announced the selection of Grammy Award-winning conductor, composer and arranger Matt Catingub as the Albuquerque-based symphony's new principal pops conductor at the Symphony Under the Stars concert at the Rio Grande Zoo on May 30.

Catingub appeared with the NMSO at the Very Merry Pops holiday performances last December, and was selected from among a field of well-qualified contenders in a national search by the NMSO. He has been the conductor for the Honolulu Symphony Pops since 1998, conducting, performing and producing 90 percent of the arrangements and orchestrations played by the orchestra. He is a musician of many talents: saxophonist, woodwind artist, conductor, pianist, vocalist, performer, director, composer and arranger. His music was heard in the Oscar-winning film *A Beautiful Mind*, and more recently, he wrote the music for George Clooney's *Goodnight, and Good Luck*. That soundtrack went on to win a Grammy in 2005.

The NMSO has been staging pops concerts since 1935. Its pops series is currently the only one of its kind in New Mexico with programs featuring the best of Broadway, movie music, jazz, rock and more. Catingub will appear as conductor with the NMSO next season for a holiday program in December and a Frank Sinatra tribute concert in March. He will also have a major role in planning the pops programming for the 2010-2011 season.

Catingub replaces Michael Krajewski, who served as principal pops conductor from 2000 to 2008.

The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra is the official orchestra of the State of New Mexico, serving over 130,000 people each year through its Classics, Pops and Symphony Under the Stars series, as well as many free NMSO Family Concerts. The NMSO is the largest non-governmental provider of music education in New

Mexico and has also been recognized by the Mellon Foundation for its innovative community engagement efforts. In its 76th season, the NMSO is under the baton of Guillermo Figueroa, the symphony's tenth music director, and Resident Conductor and Chorus Director Roger Melone. For more information about the NMSO, visit nmso.org.

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