



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMSO to Present N-M-S-Opera Jan. 30 & 31

***Program to Feature NMSO Chorus in Selection of Verdi Opera Choruses and
NMSO Principal Bassoon Stefanie Przybylska in Concerto Performance***

(ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Jan. 22, 2010) – The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra's 2009/2010 Classics season continues Jan. 30 & 31, 2010 with two performances featuring the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra Chorus in a selection of Verdi opera choruses and NMSO Principal Bassoon Stefanie Przybylska in John Williams' *The Five Sacred Trees*. NMSO Music Director Guillermo Figueroa will conduct these performances.

Program: Mozart: Overture to *The Abduction from the Seraglio*
John Williams: *The Five Sacred Trees*
Verdi: Overture to *Luisa Miller*
Va pensiero (chorus) from *Nabucco*
Prelude to Act I of *La Traviata*
Chorus of the Gypsy women from *La Traviata*
Chorus of the Bullfighters from *La Traviata*
Anvil Chorus from *Il Trovatore*
Preludio to *Aida*
Hymn (*Glory to Egypt*) - Ballet - *Triumphal March* from *Aida*

Who: New Mexico Symphony Orchestra
Guillermo Figueroa, conductor
Stefanie Przybylska, bassoon
NMSO Chorus

When & Where: Saturday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m., Legacy Church in Albuquerque
Sunday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque

Tickets & Info: Tickets from \$10-\$60 at NMSO.org, 505-881-8999 or the NMSO Box Office (4407 Menaul NE, just east of Washington, in Albuquerque)

Student discounts of 20%—for those up to 12th grade or any age with valid student ID

Student Rush—will be sold at \$8 each, limited to two tickets per student with valid ID and available beginning 90 minutes prior to concert at the venue box office.

About Stefanie Przybylska

Stefanie Przybylska has played principal bassoon with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra since the 1998/1999 season and has appeared as a featured soloist on the orchestra's Mozart Festival. In addition to her position with the NMSO, she has a private teaching studio and plays principal bassoon with the Santa Fe Symphony. She has performed locally on the Placitas Artists Series and with organizations such as the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Opera. As a soloist she has recently appeared with the San Juan Symphony and the Albuquerque Concert Band. A native New Yorker, Stefanie graduated from the Juilliard School where she studied with Stephen Maxym. She was selected to participate at the Marlboro Music Festival where she performed chamber music with members of the Juilliard, Guarneri and Emerson string quartets, as well as with Rudolf Serkin, Peter Serkin and Harold Wright. She can be heard on Marlboro Festival recordings which are available on the Sony label. Before moving to New Mexico, Stefanie lived in Chicago, where she performed frequently with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra both locally and abroad. Recently she helped start the Bosque Bassoon Band, a group which performs chamber music for multiple bassoons in informal and educational settings.

About the NMSO Chorus

The 2009/2010 season marks the 37th anniversary of this highly select, all-volunteer chorus that comprises approximately 90 singers. Under Roger Melone's direction since 1983, the chorus has gained a national reputation. In 1999, the chorus received the Albuquerque Arts Alliance Bravo Award for Excellence in Musical Performance for its 1998 performances of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. In 2006, Christopher Seaman, music director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, invited the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra Chorus to perform Mozart's Requiem with his orchestra at the 2006 Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival. Accolades from the audience, conductor, and orchestra were overwhelming, leading to return engagements in 2007 and 2008, to perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and *Carmina Burana* with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

About the Music

John Williams, the composer of movie music and Orchestra Pops conductor, wrote *The Five Sacred Trees* for Judith LeClair, the principal bassoon of the New York Philharmonic in 1995. This Celtic-influenced work for solo bassoon and orchestra consists of five movements, each representing a tree from ancient Celtic mythology.

The Verdi opera choruses selected for these performances highlight the versatile NMSO Chorus. Included are the well-known and raucous *Anvil Chorus* from *Il Trovatore* and the beautiful *Va, pensiero* from *Nabucco*, sung by thousands of Italians gathered along the route of Verdi's funeral cortege as a final tribute to the beloved composer.

Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony

Upcoming concerts include Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony on Feb. 5 and 6 at Legacy Church on Albuquerque's west side. More information about these concerts and the Legacy Church venue is available at NMSO.org.

About the NMSO

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. The NMSO is under the baton of Music Director Guillermo Figueroa and Resident Conductor and Chorus Director Roger Melone. For more information about the NMSO, visit nmso.org.

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