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Contact: Jim Sector
(518) 465-4755
jjims@albanysymphony.com

Albany Symphony Announces Cancellation of 2010-2011 Berkshire Concerts Orchestra Plans to Reinvest Funds in Preparation for Carnegie Hall Debut

(ALBANY, NY) - The Albany Symphony has announced that it will discontinue its Berkshire Concert Series, including the two performances scheduled for the upcoming 2010-2011 season. Despite experimentation with venue location, programming, concert start time, and other factors, audience support was inconsistent over the past six years, and sponsorship dollars hard to secure, prompting this difficult decision. "It is clear that as an organization we must constantly self-evaluate and be agile enough to adapt to changing circumstances, in order to identify and take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to us." said Executive Director Brian Ritter. "We thank the generous residents of the Berkshires for their ongoing support."

This change will allow the Albany Symphony to invest differently in its artistic product by concentrating funds on some of its new and most exciting projects; chief among these is the orchestra's upcoming appearance at New York's Carnegie Hall, part of the inaugural Spring for Music Festival in May 2011. This concert, which will be broadcast nationally, is the orchestra's debut performance at the storied concert hall where it is being recognized for its innovative programming and steadfast commitment to new music and living composers. "While it is difficult to discontinue the Albany Symphony's Berkshire performances, we also embrace the opportunity to divert critical focus and funding to the most important projects that the Albany Symphony is undertaking this season." Ritter stated. "By investing in our artistic product in new ways, we will be able to best represent both ourselves and the greater Capital Region on the national stage at Carnegie Hall."

The 2010-2011 season marks the 80th Anniversary for the Albany Symphony. The orchestra will open the new season on September 11, 2010 with one of the world's greatest living pianists and audience-favorite Yefim Bronfman, at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. For more information on the Albany Symphony's 80th Anniversary-Carnegie Hall season, please visit www.albanysymphony.com or call (518) 465-4755.

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About the ASO

The Albany Symphony is one of this region's most revered music and cultural institutions, having won numerous national awards for its adventurous concert programming, recording projects, composer residencies, and innovative educational efforts involving area schools throughout the region. As the only professional symphony orchestra based within the Capital Region, the Albany Symphony enriches a broad and diverse regional community, engaging over 150,000 people each year across an extended geographical area. After reviewing the Albany Symphony's recent 2009 recording of music by resident composer George Tsontakis, American Record Guide proclaimed: "The Albany Symphony is now one of the country's great orchestras."

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