

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 28, 2011

Press Release



Contact: Jim Sector
Director of Marketing & Communications
Phone (518) 465-4755
Fax (518) 465-3711

Albany Symphony
19 Clinton Ave.
Albany, NY 12207

Italian Symphony headlines unique Albany Symphony performance

October concert a unique 'musical portrait' of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, performance also kicks off orchestra's new Saratoga Matinee Series

(ALBANY, NY) – On October 22 and 23, the Albany Symphony will present a unique musical look into the inspirations surrounding the career of Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Aaron Jay Kernis. The concert features works by some of his favorite composers including audience-favorites by Mendelssohn and Bach. **The performance is also the first in a series of three performances to be held at the Arthur Zankel Music Center in a redesigned Saratoga Series for the ASO at 3PM on Sunday afternoons.** The concert will be performed on Saturday, October 22 at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall at 7:30PM (for tickets, call 518.273.0038 or online at www.albanysymphony.com) and on Sunday, October 23 at the Arthur Zankel Music Center on the campus of Skidmore College at 3PM (for tickets, call 518.465.4755). **Single tickets start at just \$19.**

Aaron Jay Kernis, a leading American composer whose music has been played by most of the country's most prominent performing ensembles, serves as the Albany Symphony's "Mentor Composer" during the 2011-12 season. This concert features two recent Kernis works, his set of 5 orchestrations of Claude Debussy's impressionist Piano Etudes and his recent homage to Bach, the "Concerto with Echoes" - a piece that was performed at Carnegie Hall during this year's Spring for Music Festival by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra just prior to the Albany Symphony's "triumphant" debut. [Times Union] In addition, Kernis has invited his former student, Kathryn Salfelder, to join him on the program with a new concerto for Saxophone featuring the dazzling young Saxophone virtuoso, Timothy McAllister, whom the New York Daily News recently referred to as "one of America's bright young stars." Rounding out the program is one of Kernis' favorite works, a piece that exerted a powerful influence on his compositional development, Mendelssohn's popular "Italian" Symphony.

The Albany Symphony's 2011-2012 season features an exciting new experience for classical music lovers north of the twin bridges: a new Sunday Matinee Series held in Saratoga at the beautiful new Arthur Zankel Music Center on the campus of Skidmore College on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. The three-concert series runs from October through March and features repeats of some of the orchestra's most exciting programs. The Albany Symphony is offering subscriptions to these three performances for only \$99.

Pre-performance talks with David Alan Miller and other guest artists will take place on Friday, October 21, 12:00PM at the Albany Public Library (161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY), 6:30PM on Saturday, October 22 from the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall stage, and 2:00PM on Sunday, October 23 from the stage of the Arthur Zankel Music Center. More information about Albany Symphony performances, subscriptions, or featured artists and composers can be found at www.AlbanySymphony.com, or by calling 518.465.4755.

The Albany Symphony presents: Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony

October 22, 7:30PM, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall – for tickets, call 518.273.0038 or visit www.albanysymphony.com

October 23, 3:00PM, Arthur Zankel Music Center, Skidmore College – for tickets, call 518.465.4755

Tickets start at \$19, \$15 Students.

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 the Albany Symphony's Carnegie Hall debut in May 2010 National Public Radio raved that the Albany Symphony was a "world class orchestra" and the New York Times declared the orchestra was "bold...polished and clear."

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