

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2009

Santa Rosa Symphony Demystifies Messiaen's *Turangalila* May 16-18 at Wells Fargo Center

Cecile Licad combines power and grace in Ravel Piano Concerto

(SANTA ROSA, CA) – Music Director Bruno Ferrandis and the Santa Rosa Symphony conclude the 2009-10 season with a flourish on May 16, 17, and 18 at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. They will perform three selections from Oliver Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, a composition which explores exotic rhythms and instruments in a tribute to love. *Turangalila* was inspired by Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, an excerpt from which will be played to open this concert.

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dr. Robert Winter, musicologist and professor of music and interactive arts at UCLA, will take the stage after intermission to introduce the performance of *Turangalila*. He will tie together the historical and artistic trends that influenced the composer and discuss the Messiaen work and its relationship to rest of the program.

Besides demanding immense virtuosity from the orchestra, *Turangalila* highlights piano soloist **Miles Graber**, a Bay Area teacher, accompanist and chamber player, as well as ondes Martenot soloist **Mary Chun**, one of *only two* players of this early electronic instrument in the United States. ("Ondes" in French means "waves" and its inventor was Maurice Martenot in 1928.) The instrument produces otherworldly sounds similar to the theremin. Messiaen was quite taken with the range and expressivity of the ondes Martenot and used it in several of his compositions.

The Symphony's May program is rounded out with Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, a piece that contains what some regard as "one of the best melodies Ravel ever wrote." It will be performed by **Cecile Licad** in her SRS debut. Licad, whom *The New Yorker* has called a "pianist's pianist" possesses

a blend of daring musical instinct and superb training, “fiery power and fragile grace.” A native of the Philippines, she was one of the youngest musicians to receive the prestigious Leventritt Gold Medal, and has recorded on the Naxos and Sony Classical labels. Aside from festival and recital appearances world-wide, she has performed with the Chicago and Boston symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the L.A. Philharmonic. Complete bio [here](#).

Additional Guest Artist Bios

Juilliard-trained **Miles Graber** has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1971 and has developed a wide reputation as an accompanist and collaborative pianist for instrumentalists and singers. He is active as a chamber music coach and is on the faculties of the Crowden School in Berkeley and the San Domenico Conservatory in San Anselmo. He has performed with numerous solo artists, and as a chamber player with members of the San Jose Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, the California Symphony and others. Complete bio [here](#).

Mary Chun is one of only two professional *ondistes* living in the United States, placing her in a rarified circle of international players of this uncommon early electric instrument. Her repertoire includes works by Varese, Honegger, Laderman, Fauré, Jolivet and Frank Zappa. Besides performing in *Turangalîla*, she played in the U.S. premiere of Messiaen’s only opera, *Saint François d’Assise*, with the San Francisco Opera. She was one of three onstage ondistes that were a part of the 123-piece orchestra for this monumental work. In addition to playing the ondes, Chun conducts opera and has a special passion for new music. Complete bio [here](#).

Robert Winter, Ph.D. is a professor of Music and Presidential Chair in Music and Interactive Arts at UCLA. He has been awarded Fulbright-Hayes and Martha Baird Rockefeller Foundation fellowships and has authored, co-authored or edited four major book on Beethoven and influential articles on compositional process, performance practice and Franz Schubert. Winter has been described

in the *Wall Street Journal* as “probably the best public explicator about music since Leonard Bernstein.” Complete bio [here](#).

Concert Sponsors

The Santa Rosa Symphony May concert set is underwritten by Norma and Evert Person; guest pianist Cecile Licad is The Ruth Finley Person Memorial Artist. Dr. Robert Winter’s speaking appearance is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes

To hear Maestro Ferrandis’ musings on, and insights about, the program, come to “Conversations with the Conductor,” a pre-concert talk with Q & A, beginning one hour before each performance (excluding the Saturday Discovery Open Rehearsal). This is an open-seating event that is free to ticket holders. [Program notes](#) for this concert are available at the SRS website and also in [PDF format](#) for printing out at your convenience.

Concert Times

Concert times are Saturday, May 16 and Monday, May 18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, in Santa Rosa. The popular, family-friendly Discovery Series of open rehearsals continues at 2 p.m. on May 17. The Discovery concerts, economically priced at \$10 for adults and \$6 for youth, offer a sneak peek into the final rehearsal process before each concert set.

Tickets

For tickets, call (707) 546-8742, purchase online at santarosasympphony.com, or come in person to the Symphony Patron Services Office at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue (north door entrance, off the elevator lobby), from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the door 1½ hours before each performance (based on availability.) Single tickets are \$27-50, with student and senior discounts available. \$10 Student Rush tickets (student I.D. required) can be purchased a half hour prior to curtain.

Photos of Cecile Licad, Miles Graber, Mary Chun, Robert Winter
and Bruno Ferrandis available upon request.

CALENDAR LISTING

Heading: Classical

What: Symphony Concert

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony

Bruno Ferrandis, conductor

Cecile Licad, piano

Miles Graber, piano

Mary Chun, ondes martenot

Robert Winter, guest speaker

Date and Time:

Sat., May 16, 2009 at 8 p.m.

(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., May 16 at 2 p.m.)

Sun., May 17, 2009 at 3 p.m.

Mon., May 18, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Program:

RICHARD WAGNER: *Nachtgesang* from *Tristan and Isolde*

MAURICE RAVEL: Concerto in G major for Piano and Orchestra

Largamente

Adagio assai

Presto

OLIVIER MESSIAEN: Three Tâlas from *Turungalîla-symphonie* for
Piano, Ondes Martenot and Orchestra

Turungalîla

Chant d'amour

Joie du sange des étoiles

Pre-concert talk featuring Bruno Ferrandis one hour before each performance.

Venue: Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Cost: Single tickets \$27-\$50, with senior and student discounts available.

Tickets: Online santarosasympphony.com, by phone (707) 54-MUSIC [546-8742], or in person at the
SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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