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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, December 7, 2009

Grammy winner JoAnn Falletta guest conducts Santa Rosa Symphony at Wells Fargo Center Jan. 23-25

**Michael Ludwig performs music from Academy Award-winning
soundtrack for *The Red Violin***

(SANTA ROSA, CA) — The Santa Rosa Symphony presents an all-American program on January 23, 24 and 25 at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, featuring the works of composers Elliott Carter (who celebrates his 101st birthday December 11), Aaron Copland, John Corigliano and Samuel Barber. For these dates, SRS Music Director Bruno Ferrandis has yielded the conductor's podium to Grammy Award winner JoAnn Falletta, of whom the *Los Angeles Times* has written, "She is one of the brightest stars of symphonic music in America." Falletta will be featured in the pre-concert "Conversations with the Conductor" taking place one hour prior to each performance (excluding the open dress rehearsal on Saturday afternoon).

Maestro Falletta and the orchestra will perform Carter's *Holiday Overture*, Copland's *El Salon Mexico* and Barber's First Symphony, as well as the *Red Violin Concerto*, whose roots can be found in the Academy Award-winning soundtrack for the film *The Red Violin*. Performing the concerto and making his SRS debut will be violinist Michael Ludwig, a collaborator of Falletta and composer Corigliano on an upcoming recording of the piece to be released by Naxos in Spring 2010.

At the 2009 Grammy Awards, Falletta's recording with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra of Corigliano's *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan* with soprano Hila Plitmann won in two categories—Best Classical Vocal Performance and Best Classical Contemporary Composition. These CDs will be available at the three Symphony performances, January 23, 24 and 25.

Ferrandis was a classmate of Falletta's at Juilliard. "JoAnn was a doctorate student while I was aspiring to the master's," he said. "She is suave and sensual; I admire her so much." Ferrandis added,

“This is a joyous program because two of the four composers are alive! It is important to me, as it is to our guest conductor, that we pay attention to their music.” Falletta is an ardent champion of the music of our time, introducing over 400 works by American composers, including more than 80 world premieres. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers honored her with her 10th ASCAP award in 2008.

Concert Sponsors

The January performances of the Santa Rosa Symphony Classical Series are underwritten by The Stare Foundation and David Stare of Dry Creek Vineyards. Guest artist Michael Ludwig is underwritten by Eric Rossin and Beth Wiesburn.

Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes

To hear JoAnn Falletta’s 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, January 23 and Monday, January 25 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 24 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 January 24. 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 \$28-\$55, 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 JoAnn Falletta and Michael Ludwig are available upon request—

Biographies follow Calendar Listing

Heading: Classical

What: Symphony Concert

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony

JoAnn Falletta, guest conductor

Michael Ludwig, violin

Date and Time:

Sat., Jan. 23, 2010 at 8 p.m.

(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., Jan. 23 at 2 p.m.)

Sun., Jan. 24, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 25, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Program:

CARTER: *Holiday Overture*

CORIGLIANO: *Red Violin Concerto*

COPLAND: *El Salón México*

BARBER: *Symphony No. 1*

Pre-concert talk featuring JoAnn Falletta starts one hour before each performance (except Discovery Rehearsal).

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

Cost: Single tickets \$28-\$55, 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.

BIOGRAPHIES

JoAnn Falletta

An effervescent and exuberant figure on the podium, **JoAnn Falletta** has been praised by *The Washington Post* as having “Toscanini’s tight control over ensemble, Walter’s affectionate balancing of inner voices, Stokowski’s gutsy showmanship, and a controlled frenzy worthy of Bernstein.” Acclaimed by *The New York Times* as “one of the finest conductors of her generation,” she serves as the Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Falletta is the recipient of many prestigious conducting awards, including the Seaver/National Endowment for the Arts Conductors Award for exceptionally gifted American conductors, the coveted Stokowski Competition, and the Toscanini, Ditson and Bruno Walter Awards, as well as the American

Symphony Orchestra League's John S. Edwards Award. She is an ardent champion of music of our time, introducing over 400 works by American composers, including more than 80 world premieres. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers honored JoAnn Falletta with her 10th ASCAP award in 2008. Falletta's growing discography includes over 50 titles.

Since becoming music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in 1999, Falletta has been credited with bringing the Philharmonic to a new level of national and international prominence, including two Grammy awards in 2009. The orchestra was also nominated for a third Grammy in the *Best Engineered Album, Classical* category for its *Respighi: Church Windows* recording. Highlights for 2009-10 include BPO's five-city concert tour throughout Florida and broadcasts nationally on NPR's *Performance Today* and *SymphonyCast*, and international broadcasts through the European Broadcasting Union.

Falletta received her undergraduate degree from the Mannes School of Music in New York, and her master's and doctorate degrees from The Juilliard School. She has been awarded eleven honorary doctorates.

Michael Ludwig

Hailed by *Strad* Magazine for his "effortless, envy-provoking technique... sweet tone, brilliant expression, and grand style," **Michael Ludwig** enjoys a multi-faceted career as a soloist, recording artist, and chamber musician. A highly sought-after soloist, he has performed on four continents, including appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, collaborating with such conductors as JoAnn Falletta, Sir Georg Solti, Joseph Silverstein, and John Williams among others.

Ludwig's critically acclaimed discography includes recordings with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Virginia Symphony Orchestra. *Fanfare* magazine writes: "His phrasing is so sensitive—knowing just where to place the slightest emphasis, where to lighten bow pressure ever so slightly to achieve delicate chiaroscuro effects, where to intensify and where to relax his vibrato—it could serve as an object lesson to every budding violinist." His recording of the rarely performed Dohnanyi Violin Concertos has received extraordinary reviews worldwide, and has revived interest in these neglected romantic works. Ludwig's latest recording, the Corigliano *Red Violin Concerto* with JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic, will be released by NAXOS in 2010.

Ludwig's concerts have appeared numerous times on *Performance Today*, a program that reaches approximately 1.2 million listeners on 230 stations nationwide. Ludwig's media credits include live radio broadcasts at WRTI (Philadelphia) and WAMC (Albany, NY), as well as an appearance on the program "From the Top." Sought after as a chamber musician, he has shared the stage with numerous acclaimed artists, such as Christoph Eschenbach, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Yefim Bronfman, Sarah Chang, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Michael performs on a rare violin made in the late 1700s by the Cremonese master Lorenzo Storioni and a Dominique Peccatte bow. His violin has been lauded in a *Fanfare* review by Jerry Dubins as "one of the most gorgeous instruments I've ever heard."

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