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**NATHALIE STUTZMANN LEADS CONCERTS FEATURING DVORAK'S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY  
AND CHORAL MASTERWORKS BY BRAHMS**

**ATLANTA** –Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann returns to Atlanta Symphony Hall to lead the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) in two signature programs, featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus (ASOC) performing works by Brahms on November 2/4, followed by guest violinist Josef Špaček performing Dvořák's Violin Concerto on Nov 9/11 alongside the composer's iconic Symphony No. 9 ("From the New World").

"We are thrilled to have Nathalie back in Atlanta leading these unique programs that reflect her passion for Brahms and Dvořák. We are especially excited about the first performances of our wonderful Chorus this season," said Jennifer Barlament, ASO Executive Director.

The Delta Classical Series concerts on Thursday, November 2 and Saturday, November 4 feature a first-half program where the chorus explores rarely performed works by Brahms, including *Nänie*, *Schicksalslied*, and *Gesang der Parzen*. After intermission, the orchestra is highlighted in Rachmaninov's macabre tone poem, *The Isle of the Dead*. The evening ends on a flourish with select *Slavonic Dances* by Antonín Dvořák.

The concerts the following week on November 9 and 11 feature an all-Dvořák program, highlighted by Dvořák's timeless Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, a musical postcard written by a homesick composer working in New York City. One of the best-loved symphonies of the Romantic age, it offers a tender English-horn solo that later became a Gospel hymn.

It's paired with the composer's elegant Violin Concerto, played by talented Czech violinist Josef Špaček. Maestro Stutzmann opens the program with selections from Dvořák's *American Suite*. These concerts are presented with generous support from Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

## CALENDAR LISTING

### **Nathalie Stutzmann + Songs of Destiny**

Thursday, November 2, 8pm

Saturday, November 4, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BRAHMS: *Nänie*

BRAHMS: *Schicksalslied*

BRAHMS: *Gesang der Parzen*

RACHMANINOV: *The Isle of the Dead*

DVOŘÁK: Selections from *Slavonic Dances*

The music of Johannes Brahms is so central to classical instrumentalists that many forget he was a prolific choral composer. This week, music director Nathalie Stutzmann delves into Brahms rarities, some truly delectable – and woefully neglected – choral works starring the internationally acclaimed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The maestro gives equal billing to the Orchestra with Rachmaninov's macabre tone poem *The Isle of the Dead*. Ending the evening on a high note, the Orchestra performs select *Slavonic Dances* by Antonín Dvořák.

### **Nathalie Stutzmann + Dvořák *New World Symphony***

Thursday November 9, 8pm

Saturday November 11, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann

Josef Špaček, violin \*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

DVOŘÁK: American Suite

DVOŘÁK: Violin Concerto

DVOŘÁK: Symphony No. 9

Music director Nathalie Stutzmann conducts Dvořák's timeless Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, a musical postcard written by a homesick composer working in New York City. One of the best-loved symphonies of the Romantic age, it offers a tender English-horn solo that later became a Gospel hymn. It's paired with the composers elegant Violin Concerto, played by talented Czech violinist Josef Špaček. Maestro Stutzmann opens the program with selections from Dvořák's *American Suite*.

### **Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor**

Nathalie Stutzmann is the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She is also the Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

When Nathalie made her spectacular debut at the 2023 Bayreuth Festival leading Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, *BR Klassik* observed having "never experienced such a standing ovation at a pit debut

in Bayreuth.” Last season also saw her acclaimed debut at the Metropolitan Opera with productions of both *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni* that *The New York Times* declared “the coup of the year.”

During the 23-24 season, she leads the Atlanta Symphony in twelve programs spanning some of her favorite core repertoire and a West Coast tour. With The Philadelphia Orchestra she returns to New York for her much-anticipated Carnegie Hall debut. Nathalie Stutzmann is an exclusive recording artist for Warner Classics/Erato.

As one of today's most esteemed contraltos, she has made more than 80 recordings and received the most prestigious awards. Recognized for her significant contribution to the arts, Nathalie was named “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur,” France’s highest honour; and “Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government.

### **Josef Špaček, violin**

Praised for his remarkable range of colors, his confident and concentrated stage presence, his virtuosity and technical poise as well as the beauty of his tone, Josef Špaček has gradually emerged as one of the leading violinists of his generation.

He appears with many orchestras around the world, including the Orchestre de Paris, the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

He equally enjoys giving recitals and playing chamber music and is a regular guest at festivals. He has performed at the Kennedy Center, 92 Street Y, La Jolla Chamber Music Festival, the ChamberFest Cleveland, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and Rudolfinum in Prague. His chamber music partners have included Gil Shaham, Kian Soltani, James Ehnes, Clemens Hagen, and Yuja Wang.

Supraphon released a highly praised recording of the violin concertos of Dvořák and Janáček with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, which was the “Recording of the week” of *The Sunday Times*. He has also recorded a recital disc with works for violin and piano by Smetana, Janáček and Prokofiev with pianist Miroslav Sekera.

Josef Špaček studied with Itzhak Perlman at The Juilliard School in New York, Ida Kavafian and Jaime Laredo at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and with Jaroslav Foltýn at the Prague Conservatory. He was laureate of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and won top prizes at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition in New Zealand, the Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition in Denmark and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York.

He has served as concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the youngest in its history. Josef Špaček performs on the ca. 1732 “LeBrun; Bouthillard” Guarneri del Gesù violin. He lives in Prague with his wife and their three children. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling.

**About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs celebrate anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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