



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS NEW SEASON WITH TCHAIKOVSKY, HARP VIRTUOSITY  
AND STUTZMANN**

**ATLANTA** – Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann opens her second season with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra by taking the orchestra on a sonic roller-coaster ride with Tchaikovsky and Mosolov on Thursday, October 5 and Saturday, October 7 at 8:00pm in Symphony Hall.

The first Delta Classical Series concert of the 2023-24 season features guest soloist Xavier de Maistre in his ASO debut performing the recently discovered showpiece from 1939--Mosolov's Harp Concerto. Stutzmann will round out the program with Tchaikovsky's unforgettable melodies and thundering salvos in three of his works: Overture to *The Queen of Spades*, "Polonaise" from *Eugene Onegin*, and Symphony No. 4.

"Artistically, we are diving into exciting territory as we start our second season with Nathalie, fresh from her triumph at the famous Bayreuth Festival this summer," said Jennifer Barlament, Executive Director. "She is already making her mark in Atlanta with repertoire that highlights the orchestra's strengths and incredible guest artists that she has chosen to work with like Xavier de Maistre."

**About Xavier de Maistre**

Xavier de Maistre is one of today's leading harpists and a profoundly creative musician. As a fierce champion of his instrument, he has broadened the harp repertoire, commissioning new work from composers. He also creates transcriptions of important instrumental repertoire.

This musical vision has led him to work with conductors including Sir André Previn, Sir Simon Rattle, Riccardo Muti, Daniele Gatti, Philippe Jordan, James Gaffigan, and Daniel Harding. He has been invited by orchestras such as Chicago, Montreal, City of Birmingham, NHK, Swedish and Finnish Radio Symphony orchestras; Los Angeles, London, St Petersburg, Oslo and China Philharmonic orchestras; Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo and Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. In his native France he has worked with Orchestre de Paris, the national orchestras of France and Lyon; and recitals in Paris and Lille operas, among other places.

Parallel to his orchestral concerts, de Maistre is passionate about chamber music and regularly puts together original recital projects. In 2020 he started a new collaboration with tenor Rolando

Villazón, with whom he records a project of South American folk songs for Deutsche Grammophon.

De Maistre has been an exclusive Sony Music artist since 2008, when he recorded his first album, *Nuit d'Étoiles*, dedicated to Debussy, winning an Echo Klassik Award as Instrumentalist of the Year. Further releases included *Hommage à Haydn* (2009), *Aranjuez* (2010) and *Notte Veneziana* (2012), featuring significant Baroque repertoire. He has taught at Musikhochschule in Hamburg since 2001.

### **About Nathalie Stutzmann**

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.

She was awarded the 2023 Opus Klassik "Concerto Recording of the Year" for her recording of Glière and Mosolov Harp concertos with Xavier de Maistre and WDR Sinfonieorchester. *Gramophone* praised her 2022 recording of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos as "a brilliant collaboration that I urge you to not miss." 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.

### **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.

## CALENDAR LISTING

### **Nathalie Stutzmann Conducts Tchaikovsky**

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 8pm

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8pm

Atlanta Symphony Hall, Woodruff Arts Center

Nathalie Stutzmann , conductor

Xavier de Maistre, harp

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY: Overture to *The Queen of Spades*

TCHAIKOVSKY: "Polonaise" from *Eugene Onegin*

MOSOLOV: Harp Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No.4

Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann takes the ASO on a sonic roller-coaster ride, featuring music by the ever-popular Tchaikovsky. The orchestra swings from ravishing melodies in the strings to thundering salvos of brass and percussion to kick the season off on a high note. The ASO also welcomes the debut of harpist Xavier de Maistre, "a virtuoso of the highest order" (*Gramophone*). Among the foremost harpists in the world, Xavier de Maistre plays the recently discovered showpiece by Alexander Mosolov, his 1939 Harp Concerto.

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