

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: January 15, 2009

### **Santa Rosa Symphony features keyboard giant and Grammy winner Garrick Ohlsson Feb. 21-23**

**Program also includes Schoenberg and Debussy *Nocturnes***

(SANTA ROSA, CA) – Bruno Ferrandis and the Santa Rosa Symphony voyage into the mysteries of the night in a program at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on February 21, 22 and 23. It is anchored by universally-renowned pianist and Grammy Award winner Garrick Ohlsson playing not one but two concertos: Weber’s *Konzertstück* and DeFalla’s *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*. The nocturnal theme is carried through into the Debussy piece, where members of the Sonoma County Bach choir will lend their voices as the Sirens who lured Ulysses during his mythic journey. Schoenberg’s *Transfigured Night*, according to Ferrandis, is not one of the composer’s atonal pieces, and “is very romantic.”

To hear more of the SRS maestro’s insights, 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.

#### **Guest Artist Bio**

One of the biggest solo stars of the Symphony’s 2009 season, Garrick Ohlsson, was hailed in the *Boston Globe* as “a pianist...of large, vital tone, sweep, imagination and attention to detail.” Of his performances has been written: “...the music basically takes leave of the keyboard and enters the world of pure, radiant spirit.” Ohlsson rose to fame after winning the 1970 Chopin International Piano competition, and has long been regarded as one of the world’s leading exponents of the music of Frédéric Chopin. But the artist has recorded widely and is well known for his masterly

interpretation of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert as well as the Romantic repertoire. His concerto repertoire alone is wide and eclectic—to date consisting of some 80 concertos. In February 2008, he won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance (without Orchestra) for his Beethoven Sonatas, Vol. 3

Ohlsson's recordings, including his brand new release of Scriabin etudes, will be available at the concert. His extended bio is included at the end of this release.

### **Concert Underwriters**

The February performances of the Santa Rosa Symphony Classical Series are underwritten by the The Dr. Larry Schoenrock Endowment Fund and the Press Democrat. Guest artist Garrick Ohlsson is underwritten by an anonymous friend of the orchestra.

### **Concert Times**

Concert times are Saturday and Monday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, in Santa Rosa. *Conversations with the Conductor* begin in the main concert hall one hour prior to each concert. The popular Discovery Series of open rehearsals continues at 2 p.m. on February 21. These 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](http://santarosasympphony.com), or come in person to the Symphony Box 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.

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## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Heading:** Classical

**What:** Symphony Concert

**Who:** Santa Rosa Symphony

Bruno Ferrandis, conductor

Garrick Ohlsson, piano

### **Date and Time:**

Sat., February 21, 2009 at 8 p.m.

(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., February 21 at 2 p.m.)

Sun., February 22, 2009 at 3 p.m.

Mon., February 23, 2009 at 8 p.m.

### **Program:**

Bruno Ferrandis, conductor

Garrick Ohlsson, piano

SCHOENBERG *Transfigured Night*

WEBER: *Konzertstück*

DE FALLA: *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*

DEBUSSY: *Nocturnes*

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

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### **Garrick Ohlsson - Guest Soloist, Piano**

Since his triumph as winner of the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, pianist Garrick Ohlsson has established himself worldwide as a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. Although he has long been regarded as one of the world's leading exponents of the music of Frédéric Chopin, Ohlsson commands an enormous repertoire, which ranges over the entire piano literature. A student of the late Claudio Arrau, Ohlsson has come to be noted for his masterly performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the Romantic repertoire. His concerto repertoire alone is unusually wide and eclectic—ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21st century—and to date he has at his command some 80 concertos.

In the 2008-09 season, Ohlsson will appear in North America with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and the National Symphony Orchestra, among others. He performs Prokofiev's Fifth Piano Concerto with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony in San Francisco followed by a west coast tour including Seattle and Los Angeles' Disney Hall. Along with pianist Yoko Nozaki, Ohlsson will reprise their performances with Mark Morris Dance Group in the critically acclaimed *Mozart Dances*; and with contralto Ewa Podles, he

will embark on a tour of North America to be followed by a Winter 2008 release of their live-recorded recital from London's Wigmore Hall. A solo recital project focusing on the piano music of Scriabin and Russian contemporaries which began in San Francisco and San Diego in the spring 2008 will continue through the next season and includes performances at the 92nd Street Y and London's O2 Arena. In Europe, Ohlsson performs with the Salzburg Mozarteum and Hugh Wolff, the Halle Orchestra with both Mark Elder and Edward Gardner, and the Deutsche Symphony Berlin.

In the 2007-08 season, Ohlsson appeared with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Houston, San Francisco, and Toronto, among others. Special projects included performances in Berkeley and Los Angeles with Mark Morris Dance Group and pianist Yoko Nozaki in *Mozart Dances*; performances with the Russian National Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski in California and at New York's Lincoln Center; and a Florida tour with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Additionally, he performed with the Warsaw Philharmonic, RTVE Madrid, the MDR Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, and the Sydney Symphony with Vladimir Ashkenazy.

In 2006-07, Ohlsson opened the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York in a live, nationally televised performance. He also appeared in North America and Canada with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee, Montreal, New Jersey, and Pittsburgh, among others. A series of recitals in Anchorage, Boston, Cleveland, Florida, Los Angeles, Ottawa, and San Francisco culminated in three recitals of Beethoven sonatas at Lincoln Center, and a performance of Beethoven's *Emperor* concerto at Carnegie Hall with Orchestra of St. Luke's. In Europe, he performed at the BBC Proms with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, at the Warsaw Chopin Festival, with the Czech Philharmonic, with the BBC Philharmonic, and in recital in Spain and Italy.

During the summer of 2006, Ohlsson presented the complete cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas in both the Ravinia and Tanglewood festivals, a cycle he performed for the first time in the summer of 2005 at Switzerland's prestigious Verbier Festival.

Ohlsson is an avid chamber musician and has collaborated with the Cleveland, Emerson, Takács and Tokyo string quartets, among other ensembles. Together with violinist Jorja Fleezanis and cellist Michael Grebanier, he is a founding member of the San Francisco-based FOG Trio.

A prolific recording artist, Ohlsson can be heard on the Arabesque, RCA Victor Red Seal, Angel, Bridge, BMG, Delos, Hänssler, Nonesuch, Telarc, and Virgin Classics labels. His undertaking of the complete Beethoven sonatas for Bridge Records has already resulted in 3 discs, the third of which won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance.

A native of White Plains, N.Y., Ohlsson began his piano studies at the age of 8. He attended the Westchester Conservatory of Music and at 13 entered The Juilliard School in New York City. His musical development has been influenced in completely different ways by a succession of distinguished teachers, most notably Claudio Arrau, Olga Barabini, Tom Lishman, Sascha Gorodnitzki, Rosina Lhévinne and Irma Wolpe. Although he won First Prizes at the 1966 Busoni Competition in Italy and 1968 Montréal Piano Competition, it was his 1970 triumph at the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, where he won the Gold Medal, that brought him worldwide recognition as one of the finest pianists of his generation. Since then he has made nearly a dozen tours of Poland, where he retains immense personal popularity.

Ohlsson was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize in 1994 and received the 1998 University Musical Society Distinguished Artist Award in Ann Arbor, Mich. In February 2008, he won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance (without Orchestra) for his Beethoven Sonatas, Vol. 3 (Bridge Records, Inc.). He makes his home in San Francisco.