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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, February 9, 2010

Two Beethoven Symphonies and Rouse Percussion Concerto offered by Santa Rosa Symphony March 20-22

Concert enhanced by children's "Arts for Beethoven" exhibit in WFC lobby

(SANTA ROSA, CA)— A pair of powerhouse Beethoven symphonies, the Fourth and the Fifth, bookend a percussion concerto by award-winning American composer Christopher Rouse in the Santa Rosa Symphony's March 20, 21 and 22 concerts at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. SRS principal percussionist, Allen Biggs, will be in the spotlight as soloist for the high-energy concerto. Coincidentally, Biggs's former teacher, Barry Jekowsky, steps in as guest conductor for this performance. Jekowsky founded the California Symphony and is currently in his 23rd year as music director there.

This concert will be enhanced by an exhibit in the WFC lobby featuring poems, letters and artwork by public school children created in response to Beethoven's life and music. The "Arts for Beethoven" project was designed by a Sonoma County educator who is a mentor in the *Keeping Score* teacher training program, and an expert in teaching traditional subjects through the arts.

The *Keeping Score* multi-year music education program was originated by the San Francisco Symphony and exported to our area through the efforts of the Sonoma County Arts Council and the Santa Rosa Symphony Education Department. Currently, 16 teachers from nine Sonoma County schools are participating in *Keeping Score*. In the days leading up to the concert, KRCB radio (91.1 FM and 90.9 FM) plans to air audio clips of the children reading the best of their poems inspired by Beethoven's music.

Brief Bio of Soloist

Besides the Santa Rosa Symphony, Allen Biggs is a member of the California and Napa symphonies, and has appeared with the San Francisco Opera, Marin Symphony and Oakland East Bay Symphony. Currently he is the percussionist for the musical *Wicked* in San Francisco. In that capacity, he plays an arsenal of 48 instruments, ranging from sound effects such as water-phone, trine and bird flappers, to more conventional instruments such as xylophone, vibraphone, chimes, timpani and tam-tam. Complete bio [here](#).

Brief Bio of Conductor

Two seasons ago, California Symphony Music Director Barry Jekowsky completed his 10th and final season as music director of the Reno Philharmonic. He was associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. from 1994 to 1998, and principal timpanist of the San Francisco Symphony until 1995. His awards include a Leopold Stokowski Conducting Prize and an Arts Recognition award from the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. Complete bio [here](#)

Concert Sponsors

Santa Rosa Symphony's March concert set is underwritten by *The Press Democrat*. Soloist Allen Biggs is underwritten by Anderson, Zeigler, Disharoon, Gallagher & Gray, Attorneys at Law.

Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes

To hear Barry Jekowsky and Allen Biggs's musings on, and insights about, this 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 [here](#).

Concert Times

Concert times are Saturday, March 20 and Monday, March 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 21 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 March 20. 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 Allen Biggs and Barry Jekowsky are available upon request—

CALENDAR LISTING

Heading: Classical

What: Symphony Concert

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony
Barry Jekowsky, guest conductor
Allen Biggs, percussion

Date and Time:

Sat., March 20, 2010 at 8 p.m.
(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., March 20 at 2 p.m.)
Sun., March 21, 2010 at 3 p.m.
Mon., March 22, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Program:

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4
ROUSE: Percussion Concerto
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 5

The pre-concert talks start 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 54-MUSIC (707-546-8742) 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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