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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: January 6, 2011

### **Mozart and More at Santa Rosa Symphony's February 12-14 concerts**

#### **Soprano Christine Brandes performs Mozart aria and Berg's *Seven Early Songs***

(SANTA ROSA, CA) –*The Marriage of Figaro* was banned in Mozart's time, yet it's now a favorite of both opera buffs and classical fans. In the February 12, 13, and 14 concert set, Santa Rosa Symphony Music Director Bruno Ferrandis and the orchestra present the opera's overture and "Porgi Amor." Celebrated soprano Christine Brandes sings the famed aria from *The Marriage of Figaro* and performs Berg's *Seven Early Songs*—intensely emotional expressions in the tradition of the great German art songs (*Lieder*). The Mozart selections are capped by the famous tour de force *Jupiter* Symphony. The entire program is capped by the magnificent Adagio of Mahler's Tenth (and unfinished) Symphony.

#### **About Christine Brandes**

The *New York Times* called her "earthy and affecting" and the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* remarked, "Christine Brandes has a transporting soprano voice...a velvety, supple tone and an agile coloratura." *Opera News* says she "sang with dark allure; her intonation is a wonder." And the *San Jose Mercury News* wrote: "[Brandes has] ample vocal reserves that make audiences sit up and take notice, with technical brilliance and a deep dramatic urgency."

#### **Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes**

To hear Maestro Ferrandis' musings on, and insights about, the February 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 online.

### **Concert Sponsors**

Santa Rosa Symphony's February concerts are underwritten by The Dr. Larry Schoenrock Endowment Fund and *The Press Democrat*.

### **Concert Times**

Concert times are Saturday, February 12 and Monday, February 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 13 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 February 12. 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](http://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.

—Photo of Christine Brandes available upon request—

Brief Bio of the artist follows the calendar listing

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Heading:** Classical

**What:** Symphony Concert  
Bruno Ferrandis, conductor  
Christine Brandes, soprano

**Date and Time:**

Sat., February 12, 2011 at 8 p.m.

(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., February 12 at 2 p.m.)  
Sun., February 13, 2011 at 3 p.m.  
Mon., February 14, 2011 at 8 p.m.

**Program:**

MOZART: Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*  
MOZART: “Porgi amor” from *The Marriage of Figaro*  
MOZART: Symphony No. 41, *Jupiter*  
BERG: *Seven Early Songs*  
MAHLER: Adagio from Symphony No. 10

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](http://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.

## Guest Artist Brief Bio

### Christine Brandes, soprano

Noted for her radiant, crystalline voice and superb musicianship, soprano Christine Brandes brings her committed artistry to repertoire ranging from the 17th century to newly composed works. She enjoys an active career in North America and abroad, performing in distinguished festivals and concert series in programs spanning from recitals and chamber music to oratorio and opera.

Recent symphonic appearances have included concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the batons of both Pierre Boulez and Esa-Pekka Salonen, performances of John Adams’s *El Niño* with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Bach’s *St. John Passion* with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, *L’Enfant et les Sortilèges* with Sir Simon Rattle and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Mozart’s *Requiem* with the Cleveland Orchestra and John Nelson, Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and Beethoven’s *Egmont* with Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Philadelphia Orchestra, Mozart opera arias and Strauss orchestral songs with the National Symphony Orchestra and Heinz Fricke, Bach Cantatas with the New World Symphony Orchestra, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Toronto Symphony, the New York Philharmonic.

Brandes’s operatic career has been highlighted by engagements at Houston Grand Opera, the Seattle Opera, and the Los Angeles Opera. Additional performances have brought her to San Diego Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Central City Opera, Lisbon’s Gulbenkian, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, San Francisco Opera, the Opéra de Nancy, New York City Opera, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

She has recorded for EMI, BMG/Conifer Classics, Dorian, Harmonia Mundi USA, Virgin Classics, and Koch International. Complete bio [here](#).

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