



Charleston Symphony Orchestra Announces 2008 – 2009 Season

Charleston, SC – The Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO) announces its 2008 – 2009 season which includes three main performance series: Merrill Lynch Masterworks, McCrady's Charleston Pops and Backstage Pass as well as a selection of family concerts and other special performance events. In addition the 2008-09 season marks the 25th Anniversary Season of Maestro David Stahl.

The Merrill Lynch Masterworks Season will open Maestro David Stahl's 25th Anniversary Season on September 27, 2008 at 7pm at the Gaillard Auditorium, located at 77 Calhoun Street. This opening night performance is also sponsored by Piggly Wiggly and will feature: *Alexander Nevsky* (Prokofiev) and *1812 Overture* (Tchaikovsky). Of the Piggly Wiggly Opening Night sponsorship, David Schools, President of Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company said, "Piggly Wiggly and Greenbax have a history of supporting not only the CSO but many forms of art in the Lowcountry. We truly believe that enhancing the Arts in our communities enhances the business climate, strengthens the economy, and is good for everyone!" The evening's performance will be followed by the opening night gala, organized by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League. In addition to this special opening night performance, there will be seven additional Masterworks concerts throughout the season all of which start at 8pm and are at the Gaillard Auditorium.

Scott Terrell, the CSO's Resident Conductor will open the McCrady's Pops Series, at 8pm on October 11, 2008 at the Gaillard Auditorium featuring Great Ladies of Swing with Dee Daniels. In addition to the vocal stylings of Dee Daniels, three additional acclaimed guest artists will be taking the stage with the CSO during the McCrady's Charleston Pops Season.

The Backstage Pass series has been reconfigured to provide an intimate and up-close experience of the CSO in the newly renovated Memminger Auditorium, located at 56 Beaufain Street. Conducted by Scott Terrell, this series focuses on contemporary music that is paired with classics from the repertoire, in addition to highlighting CSO musicians as soloists. The Backstage Pass series opens at 7pm on October 3, 2008. On the program will be: *Capricorn Concerto for Flute, Oboe and Trumpet* (Barber), *Fiesta! Four Dances for Chamber Orchestra* (Jimmy Lopez) and *Serenade for Strings* (Tchaikovsky). The series continues through the season with two additional performances in the hip and intimate atmosphere of Memminger Auditorium.

For the complete season performance schedule please contact Emily Rybinski by email at: emily@charlestonsymphony.com.