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Contact: Peter Rodgers
Phone: (608) 260-8680 x 226
Email: prodgers@madisonsymphony.org
Photos available

Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2016-17 Season Takes Flight This Week
"The Planets: An HD Odyssey" concerts on Fri. 9/23, Sat. 9/24 and Sun. 9/25

MADISON, WI – The Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO), with Music Director John DeMain conducting, opens its 91st season with three works by 20th century composers.

Science, music and stunning visuals come together with **Gustav Holst's** *The Planets* accompanied by a spectacular, high-definition film featuring NASA imagery. MSO's Concertmaster Naha Greenholtz is featured in the *Chaconne*, a dramatic theme by **John Corigliano**, from *The Red Violin* film. The concert begins with **George Enescu's** *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1*.

The concerts are Fri., Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 24, at 8 p.m.; and Sun., Sept. 25, at 2:30 p.m. in Overture Hall, 201 State Street.

A national hero in his homeland, **Enescu** rarely included hints of his Romanian heritage in his music, except when he composed the *Romanian Rhapsodies* as a teenager. *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1* captures a series of Romanian folk songs, including melodies of increasingly wild Gypsy dances. This is MSO's first performance of this work.

In the *Chaconne*, American composer **Corigliano** draws the audience in with a foreboding and haunting signature tune, which he wrote for the powerful film about music, *The Red Violin*. His film score for the movie earned him an Academy Award in 1999 for his original music. This will be the first time MSO has performed this work, and features MSO Concertmaster Naha Greenholtz.

Ms. Greenholtz has captivated audiences as Concertmaster of the MSO and the Quad City Symphony Orchestra. A Canadian violinist, Greenholtz was born in Kyoto, Japan, where she began her violin studies at age three. Since her solo debut at 14, she continues to perform internationally, most notably with: the Oregon Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, National Ballet of Canada, Omaha Symphony, and Memphis Symphony.

The Planets is known as **Holst's** most popular work. The musical movements were inspired by characteristics connected with astrology's seven planets. For instance, ominous sounding *Mars, the Bringer of War*, is followed by the calmly flowing *Venus, the Bringer of Peace*. The performances will be accompanied by a high-definition film projecting celestial images above the main stage. According to *New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini the film shows "photographs from rovers and satellites, radar images and computer-generated graphics...combining to give the audience the impression of circling individual planets and sometimes flying over their awesomely barren landscapes." The Madison Symphony Women's Chorus, under the direction of Beverly Taylor, will be part of the final movement of *The Planets*, and the Overture Concert Organ is featured at several moments in the piece. This is the first time MSO's performance of *The Planets* will be accompanied by the high-definition film.



One hour before each performance, Randal Swiggum, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Artistic Director, will lead a 30-minute **Prelude Discussion** in Overture Hall to enhance concertgoers' understanding and listening experience. For more background on the music, please view the Program Notes at: madisonsymphony.org/planets.

Before all of the concerts and at intermission, **Friends of University of Wisconsin–Madison Astronomy** will have an interactive display in the lobby concertgoers can experience.

The Symphony recommends concert attendees **arrive early** for each performance to make sure they have time to pass through Overture Center's security stations, and so they can experience the pre-concert talk and the astronomy exhibit (free for all ticket-holders).

Single Tickets are \$16 to \$87 each and are on sale now at madisonsymphony.org/planets, through the Overture Center Box Office at 201 State Street, or by calling the Box Office at (608) 258-4141.

Groups of 15 or more can save 25% by calling the MSO office at (608) 257-3734. For more information visit, madisonsymphony.org/groups.

Student rush tickets can be purchased in person on the day of the concert at the Overture Box Center Office at 201 State Street. Students must show a valid student ID and can receive up to two \$12 or \$15 tickets. More information is at: madisonsymphony.org/studentrush.

Seniors age 62 and up receive 20% savings on advance and day-of-concert ticket purchases in select areas of the hall.

Discounted seats are subject to availability, and discounts may not be combined.

ABOUT THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Madison Symphony Orchestra enters its 91st season with the 2016-2017 concerts and its 23rd season under the leadership of Music Director John DeMain. The MSO has grown to be one of America's leading regional orchestras, enriching lives by providing Madison residents with cultural and educational opportunities to interact with great masterworks and top-tier guest artists from around the world. The 2016-2017 Season offers a full-range of classical music and includes accompanying multimedia during two different concert weekends. Discover more at madisonsymphony.org.

Major funding for the September concerts is provided by: NBC15, Diane Ballweg, Capitol Lakes, Friends of University of Wisconsin–Madison Astronomy, The Gialamas Company, Inc., and Nicholas and Elaine Mischler. Additional funding is provided by: Analucia and Mark Allie, for their beloved “Doc” Richard Greiner; Judith and Nick Topitzes, and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowments for the Arts.

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