

## **For Immediate Release**

**March 24, 2010**

Contact: Michael Frisco  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
(847) 888-0404  
m.frisco@elginsymphony.org

### **The Elgin Symphony Orchestra Goes to Hollywood!**

#### **ESO performs music with movie clips during 2009-2010 *Exiles in Hollywood* Festival, exploring music of American film composers**

**Elgin, IL** - The Elgin Symphony Orchestra's month-long festival exploring the music of American film composers opens by welcoming pianist Kevin Cole, known for being a preeminent interpreter of the works of George Gershwin, performing music from the silver screen. Along with Gershwin, the program features music of Jerome Kern, John Williams and Max Steiner, including Gershwin's Piano Concerto from the film *Delicious* and Jerome Kern's Suite for the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film *Swing Time*. Clips from cinema classics *An American in Paris*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Bandwagon* and *Singin' in the Rain* will be projected over the ESO during the concert!

Performance times are Friday, April 16th at 8:00pm at Schaumburg's Prairie Center for the Arts, and at the Hemmens Theatre in Elgin Saturday, April 17th at 6:00pm and Sunday, April 18th at 3:30pm.

For more information, call the ESO Box Office at (847) 888-4000 Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm, or visit [www.ElginSymphony.org](http://www.ElginSymphony.org). To stay up-to-date on all ESO events, visit [www.facebook.com/ElginSymphonyOrchestra](http://www.facebook.com/ElginSymphonyOrchestra). Groups of 10 or more qualify for discounted tickets – speak to a Box Office representative for more details.

**Concert Sponsors:** First Community Bank, Shales-McNutt Construction and Smile for Life Dental

**Guest Artist Sponsor:** ANR Piano Service

#### **The Elgin Symphony Orchestra's 60th Season Celebration**

Saturday, April 17. 8:00 p.m. at the Heritage Ballroom in the Centre of Elgin

Join us as the Elgin Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 60th Season! Be sure not to miss any part of this exciting evening as the "ESO Goes to Hollywood"! The celebration will take place immediately following the 6:00 p.m. *ESO Goes to Hollywood* concert. This special night begins with a celebrity walk down the red-carpeted Walk of Fame and into the Heritage Ballroom at the Centre of Elgin where guests will enjoy a champagne reception.

Stroll through the over 60 silent and live auction items and participate in a thrilling Wine Pull event, all while dining on the cuisine of our finest local establishments.

Tickets for the Celebration are \$75/guest or \$750 for a table of 8. Call the ESO Box Office at (847) 888-4000 for more information.

### **2010 Exiles in Hollywood Festival**

The Elgin Symphony Orchestra's 2010 *Exiles in Hollywood* Festival is the sixth installment in the ESO's multi-year *Exploring Our American Voice* project presented to the greater Chicago community. A series of concerts and humanities programs begin in the early spring and continue through the ESO's May Classics concert: *Exiles in Hollywood*.

This year the ESO examines Hollywood film music, which itself has become an American Icon and favorite for concert audiences. From George Gershwin to John Williams, the ESO will discover works of beloved Hollywood composers who have touched lives through the sounds of the Big Screen. The *Exiles in Hollywood Festival* also dives further into the history of film music, exploring music from the composers of Hollywood's golden age, including Erich Korngold and Miklós Rózsa, who were responsible for bringing the European musical language to film. Once musical sound came to motion pictures, a new genre of music was born. The festival highlights this genre through concert music by Hollywood composers and film music by concert composers. Film composers have taken both leading and supporting roles in shaping American music, "We musicians are just now beginning to recognize the important part Hollywood composers have played in defining America's music." – Robert Hanson

The *Exploring Our American Voice* project strives to intellectually stimulate and engage audiences of all ages beyond the program notes through community activities, educational initiatives, and collaborative partnerships. The festival started in 2005 with the exploration of musical icon Antonin Dvorák with *Dvorák in America*. Since then, the festival has pushed borders with *In Search of the American Dream: The Immigrant Experience* in 2006 and uncovered the lives of icons such as Aaron Copland (2007), George Gershwin (2008), and Leonard Bernstein (2009). The continuation and growth of the *Exploring Our American Voice* project has been made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council.

### **Kevin Cole, piano**

"America's Pianist" Kevin Cole has delighted audiences with a repertoire that includes the best of 20th Century American Music. Kevin Cole's performances, especially his interpretation of Gershwin, have prompted accolades from some of the foremost critics in America. "When Cole sits down at the piano, you would swear Gershwin himself was at work... Cole stands as the best Gershwin pianist in America today," wrote Howard Reich, arts critic for the Chicago Tribune. Critic Andrew Patner wrote: "A piano genius...he reveals an understanding of harmony, rhythmic complexity and pure show-biz virtuosity that would have had Vladimir Horowitz smiling with envy."

Kevin was recently featured with the Nashville Symphony for "Gershwin At One Symphony Place," which aired on PBS nationwide in March 2009. Other engagements for Cole include: sold-out performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl; the BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall; the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center; the San Francisco Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra (London); the Boston Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony (Canada) and many others. He has shared the concert stage with notables from opera greats William Warfield and Sylvia McNair to Broadway legends Barbara Cook and Marvin Hamlisch.

Kevin Cole is an award-winning musical director, arranger, composer, vocalist and archivist who garnered the praises of Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, E.Y. Harburg, Hugh Martin, Burton Lane, Stephen Sondheim and members of the Jerome Kern and Gershwin families.