

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Music of Russian Masters at the Elgin Symphony Orchestra**

*Tchaikovsky's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony & Van Cliburn Silver Medalist, pianist Joyce Yang*

**Elgin, IL** - The Elgin Symphony Orchestra performs a program of Russian masterworks January 29-31, 2010, featuring Van Cliburn Silver Medalist Joyce Yang performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3, along with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture*, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. These three jewels of the timeless collection of Russian orchestral music will be led by Music Director Robert Hanson.

Tickets to this event start at \$15 for all concerts. Performance times are Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm, Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm and Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:30pm. All performances are at the Hemmens Cultural Center in downtown Elgin.

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. A "Lunch with the Maestro" is offered prior to the Friday Matinee performance on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the Heritage Ballroom at the Centre of Elgin, located across the street from the Hemmens. "Lunch with the Maestro" tickets may be reserved until Jan. 25, 2010 for \$25 each.

Concert Sponsor: Fifth Third Bank

#### **Joyce Yang, piano**

Critically acclaimed as "the most gifted young pianist of her generation" with a "million-volt stage presence," pianist Joyce Yang captivates audiences around the globe with her stunning virtuosity combined with heartfelt lyricism and interpretive sensitivity. At only twenty-three, she has established herself as one of the leading artists of her generation through her innovative solo recitals and notable collaborations with the world's most prestigious orchestras.

In June 2005, Ms. Yang came to international attention when she became the Silver Medalist of the 12th Van Cliburn International Competition. As the youngest contestant, Ms. Yang swept two additional awards as an all-around winner, receiving the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for the Best Performance of Chamber Music with the Takacs Quartet, and the Beverley Taylor Smith Award for the Best Performance of a New Work.

Ms. Yang has been continually engaged by orchestras across the U.S. and abroad and has performed with the Chicago Symphony, National Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Houston Symphony, National Orchestra of Brazil, and Hong Kong Philharmonic, working with renowned conductors such as Edo de Waart, Lorin Maazel, James Conlon, Leonard Slatkin, David Robertson, Bramwell Tovey, Eri Klas, Nicolai Alexeev, and Gianandrea Noseda. In March 2008, Ms. Yang completed her first extensive US tour with the award-winning Estonian Symphony Orchestra, playing 18 concerts from coast to coast. As a frequent recitalist, Ms. Yang has appeared in Chicago Symphony Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Tonhalle in Zurich, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

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### **Upcoming Concert Events**

#### **STAY TUNED with Five By Design**

February 20 & 21, 2010 - Hemmens Theatre

Robert Hanson, *conductor* | Five by Design

Sit back and stay tuned for a night recalling when television ruled the airwaves and variety was king. Vocal quintet Five By Design's vibrant harmonies and comedic talents move seamlessly from songs to skits and back again. Classic commercials come to life promoting everything from bananas to toothpaste, while on another network family and friends are unexpectedly reunited. So pop open a TV dinner and don't touch that dial!

#### **ROYAL FIREWORKS**

March 5, 6 & 7, 2010 - Hemmens Theatre

Jeanette Sorrell, *conductor* | St. Charles Singers, chorus

Matthew Agnew and Nazar Dzhuryn, cellos

This season our yearly salute to the Baroque features not only the St. Charles Singers and Handel's Water Music, but the ESO's own cellists, Matt Agnew and Nazar Dzhuryn performing Vivaldi's concerto written for two celli.

### **Elgin Symphony Orchestra**

Named "Orchestra of the Year" an unprecedented three times by the Illinois Council of Orchestras, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Maestro Robert Hanson, performs over 60 concerts a year thrilling more than 50,000 patrons, from Metro Chicagoland to Wisconsin and Indiana. In addition, the Symphony's education initiatives reach approximately 20,000 children, teachers, families, and young musicians per year through a variety of participatory music programs. Each season the Elgin Symphony attracts rising stars and internationally known guest artists including: Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Sir James Galway, Pinchas Zukerman, Midori, Leonard Nimoy, Giancarlo Guererro, Rachel Lee, Jodi Benson, and Pascal Roge. In 2008, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra released its first international recording, an album featuring works of Aaron Copland, as part of the NAXOS label's American Classics collection. The ESO continues to broadcast its Classics performances on

the fourth Friday of each month on 98.7FM WFMT, which provides the best and broadest selection of classical music and fine arts programming in the country.