



## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **The Reno Chamber Orchestra Announces Its 2008-2009 Season**

[Reno, Nevada – March 28, 2008] – The Reno Chamber Orchestra (RCO) has announced its 2008-2009 season, its 35<sup>th</sup> year of bringing chamber orchestra music to the Truckee Meadows. Theodore Kuchar returns for his sixth season as the Orchestra's music director. He will conduct four of the season's five concerts, each of which will be presented in Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon performances.

The Orchestra offers discounts to early subscribers, new season ticket buyers, seniors, students, and groups. Also, everyone eighteen years of age and younger can attend RCO concerts for free. More information on the Orchestra and its 2008-2009 season is available by calling (775) 348-9413 or at RenoChamberOrchestra.org.

The season includes the following performances:

**Saturday, September 20, 2008, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 21, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

Composer Joseph Schwantner will be in attendance for the World Premiere of his composition *Chasing Light...* Also on the program, conducted by music director Theodore Kuchar, will be Schwantner's *New Morning for the World*, for orchestra and narrator reciting texts by Martin Luther King, and two works by Beethoven, his famous Symphony No. 5 and the Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*.

**Saturday, November 1, 2008, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 2, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

Clarinetist Daniel Gilbert – professor at the University of Michigan, longtime member of the Cleveland Orchestra, and a performer at the RCO's Nevada Chamber Music Festival – is the soloist in Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto. Maestro Theodore Kuchar will also lead the Orchestra in Haydn's "Miracle" Symphony and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 1

**Saturday, January 24, 2009, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 25, 2009, 2:00 p.m.**

Jonathan Shames, music director of the Wyoming Symphony and faculty member at the University of Oklahoma School of Music, makes his first appearance with the Reno Chamber Orchestra, leading a program featuring the “Pelleas and Melisande” Suite by Sibelius and Schubert’s Symphony No. 1. James Winn, RCO principal pianist and professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, will be the piano soloist in Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24 and will be joined by Mr. Shames in Bach’s Concerto for 2 Pianos.

**Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.**

Bassist Edgar Meyer, a winner of the MacArthur Fellowship “Genius” grant who has been hailed by *The New Yorker* as “the most remarkable virtuoso” of his instrument, will perform his own Double Bass Concerto and a virtuoso work by Bottesini. Also on the program, led by RCO music director Theodore Kuchar, are the Concerto in D by Stravinsky and Mozart’s “Prague” Symphony.

**Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 5, 2009, 2:00 p.m.**

The concluding concerts of the season, conducted by Theodore Kuchar, will include the “Ruy Blas” Overture by Mendelssohn and Schumann’s “Spring” Symphony, as well as a performance by the winner of the RCO’s 22<sup>nd</sup> annual College Concerto Competition.

### **Ford Made in America and *Chasing Light...***

The September 2008 concerts will feature the World Premiere of *Chasing Light...* by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Joseph Schwantner, one of the most frequently performed living composers. This new composition is the result of the second edition of the nationwide Ford Made in America project, the largest orchestral commissioning consortium ever in the United States – a partnership among the participating orchestras, the League of American Orchestras, and Meet the Composer.

As part of the first edition of Ford Made in America, in October 2005 the RCO gave the West Coast premiere of Joan Tower’s *Made in America*, a composition that has now been performed by over 60 orchestras in all 50 states. The premiere recording of this work, by the Nashville Symphony conducted by Leonard Slatkin, recently received Grammy Awards for Best Classical Album, Best Orchestral Performance, and Best Classical Contemporary Composition. As one of the commissioning orchestras, the RCO is mentioned in that recording’s liner notes.

Scott Faulkner, RCO Executive Director, chairs the national Steering Committee for the second edition of the project, for which the Reno Chamber Orchestra has served as lead orchestra and applied successfully for two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Reno Chamber Orchestra’s performance of Joseph Schwantner’s *Chasing Light...* is part of Ford Made in America, a partnership program of the League of American Orchestras and Meet The Composer.

Ford Made in America is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

Major support is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding from The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, and The Amphion Foundation.

The Reno Chamber Orchestra's performance of *Chasing Light...* is made possible in part by a generous gift from Sue and Dieter von Hennig.

### **The Reno Chamber Orchestra**

The Reno Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1974, provides the highest quality performances of repertoire written for smaller orchestra. It works to instill and promote the appreciation of music among audiences diverse in age, backgrounds and interests throughout the region. Along with its regular season of concerts, the RCO presents the annual Nevada Chamber Music Festival in December. More information on the RCO can be found at [www.RenoChamberOrchestra.org](http://www.RenoChamberOrchestra.org).

### **Theodore Kuchar**

Maestro Theodore Kuchar is the most recorded conductor of his generation, with over 90 compact discs to his credit on the Brilliant Classics, Naxos, Marco Polo, and Ondine labels. He holds the posts of Reno Chamber Orchestra Music Director, Artistic Director of the RCO's Nevada Chamber Music Festival, Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic and the Czech Symphony (Ostrava, Czech Republic), Resident Conductor of Kent/Blossom Music, and Conductor Emeritus of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. For sixteen years he also served as Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, regarded as the pre-eminent chamber music festival in the southern hemisphere. He has collaborated with the likes of James Galway, Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, Jessye Norman, Sarah Chang, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Frederica von Stade.

### **Joseph Schwantner**

Born in Chicago in 1943, Joseph Schwantner is a prominent American composer, Professor of Composition at Yale University, and recipient of the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for his orchestral piece, *Afertonos of Infinity*. Schwantner has balanced an impressive academic career with an increasingly busy schedule of commissions. He has served on the faculties of the Julliard School, the Eastman School of Music, and the Yale School of Music. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Among his commissions are those from the National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. More information about Joseph Schwantner is available at his website, [www.schwantner.net](http://www.schwantner.net).

### **Daniel Gilbert**

Clarinetist Daniel Gilbert joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as Associate Professor of Clarinet in 2007. Previously, he held the position of Second Clarinet in the Cleveland Orchestra from 1995 to 2007. Mr. Gilbert teaches at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and he also served as the Associate Professor of Clarinet at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music from 2000 to 2001. Before joining the Cleveland Orchestra, Mr. Gilbert was active as a

freelancer in New York City, appearing regularly with groups including The Metropolitan Opera, American Ballet Theater, New Jersey Symphony, Solisti New York, the Stamford Symphony and the New Haven Symphony.

### **Jonathan Shames**

Jonathan Shames is Music Director and Conductor of the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, as well as Artistic Director of the University of Oklahoma Opera Theater and Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Oklahoma School of Music. Shames has conducted the Opera Company of Boston, Louisiana Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, Sewanee Festival and Pine Mountain Festival Symphony Orchestra. As a pianist, since winning a finalist diploma in the 1982 Moscow International Tchaikovsky Competition, Shames has performed in France, Finland, South Korea and the former Soviet Union, as well as across the United States.

### **James Winn**

James Winn, piano and composition professor at the University of Nevada, Reno since 1997, has performed widely in North America, Europe, and Japan. Before coming to Reno, Dr. Winn was Solo Pianist with the New York City Ballet for 13 years. In addition, he was a member of the New York New Music Ensemble and of Hexagon. He is currently a member of Argenta, UNR's resident chamber group, and tours regularly with internationally acclaimed New York based violinist Rolf Schulte. An active recording artist, Winn is featured as soloist, chamber musician, or composer in more than twenty CDs, many of them world premiere recordings. Dr. Winn has given the world premieres of compositions by eleven Pulitzer Prize-winning composers.

### **Edgar Meyer**

Bassist Edgar Meyer has been hailed by the New Yorker as "...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively unchronicled history of his instrument." Mr. Meyer's uniqueness in his field has been recognized by a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius" Award. He is also the only bassist ever to receive the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Avery Fisher Prize. He has worked with musicians as diverse as Joshua Bell, the Emerson Quartet, Béla Fleck, Sam Bush, Mike Marshall, Garth Brooks, and The Chieftains. "Appalachian Journey," his collaboration with violinist Mark O'Connor and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, received a Grammy Award, and that album's predecessor "Appalachia Waltz" topped the music charts for sixteen weeks. Alongside his busy performing and composing schedules, he is currently also Visiting Professor of Double Bass at the Royal Academy of Music and at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. More information about Edgar Meyer is available at his website, [www.edgarmeyer.com](http://www.edgarmeyer.com).

[High-quality images of Theodore Kuchar, the Reno Chamber Orchestra, and all the featured guest artists in the 2008-2009 season are available to the media. Please contact Chris Morrison, RCO Operations Manager, at 775.348.9413 or [info@RenoChamberOrchestra.org](mailto:info@RenoChamberOrchestra.org).]

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