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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CORPUS CHRISTI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
“RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR”
FEATURING VIOLINIST SIRENA HUANG AND A TRIBUTE TO
FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR CORNELIUS EBERHARDT
FOR ITS 66TH SEASON PREMIERE**

Who: The Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra (CCSO), Maestro John Giordano (CCSO Music Director and Conductor), and Sirena Huang.

What: The CCSO presents the opening concert of its 66th consecutive season with Russian music by Kabalevsky, Tchaikovsky, featuring violin prodigy Sirena Huang, and Shostakovich.

When: Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 8:00 pm. The CCSO will also make honor Maestro Cornelius Eberhardt, CCSO Music Director for 25 years, who passed away in April 2011.

Where: The Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive

Why: Celebrating its 66th season during 2011-2012, the CCSO opens the first subscription concert with the overture from Kabalevsky's Overture to *Colas Breugnon*. Violinist Sirena Huang then joins the orchestra in performing Tchaikovsky's well-known Violin Concerto. Since winning the Gold Medal of the Sixth International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in 2009, Sirena has embarked on a major performing career with major orchestras and presenters throughout the world. The opening concert will conclude with Shostakovich's monumental Fifth Symphony.

Maestro Cornelius Eberhardt served as Music Director and Conductor of the CCSO from 1975-2000, longest tenure of any CCSO Music Director. During his tenure, the artistic level of the CCSO grew immensely and the Coastal Bend was treated to dynamic performances of symphony works and opera. Claudia Eberhardt, daughter of Cornelius Eberhardt, will travel from Germany to be present at the concert to accept an award on behalf of her father.

Ticket packages may be purchased by calling the Symphony office at 883-NOTE (6683) or toll-free at 877-286-6683. Season tickets (a package of all six concerts) start at \$160 and are offered at a substantial discount over the purchase of single tickets. Mini-season tickets (select three to five concerts) are also offered at a discount. Single concert tickets start at \$20. For more information, visit www.ccsymphony.org.

-Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra-

About the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra

The Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, now in its sixty-sixth consecutive season, is the premiere symphonic orchestra along the Texas Gulf Coast. Grammy®-nominated Music Director and Conductor John Giordano, formerly Music Director and Conductor with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra for 28 seasons, is in his eighth full season with the orchestra.

Giordano's and the CCSO's reputations for high-quality performances have resulted in appearances with some of the best known artists of our day. Over the last six seasons, guest artists have included Van Cliburn, Itzhak Perlman, Andre Watts, Sarah Chang, Yefim Bronfman, Marvin Hamlisch, Joshua Bell, the Romeros, Evelyn Glennie, Elizabeth Roe, Frederica von Stade and Nobuyuki Tsujii. The 2011-2012 season includes six subscription concerts.

In addition to its regular season concerts, the orchestra performs educational concerts for area school children each year. The CCSO also manages and supports the Corpus Christi Area Youth Orchestra.

The CCSO's principal performance venue is the acclaimed 1,400 seat Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Celebrating its seventh anniversary in 2012, the PAC was constructed at a cost of \$18 million and features superb acoustics for live performances. The orchestra is also supported by the Symphony Guild of Corpus Christi.

For more information, please visit www.ccsymphony.org.

2011-2012 Concert Schedule:

Subscription Concert #1

October 8, 2011
"Russian Spectacular"
Sirena Huang, violin

Subscription Concert #3

December 10, 2011
"Home for the Holidays"
Poperazzi, vocal trio

Subscription Concert #5

March 10, 2012
"Magnificent Mozart"
José Feghali, piano

Subscription Concert #2

November 12, 2011
"Pepe and Beethoven"
Pepe Romero, guitar

Subscription Concert #4

February 18, 2012
"Best of Broadway"

Subscription Concert #6

April 14, 2012
Season Finale
Stephen Hough, piano

Non-Subscription Community Concert

March 31, 2012
"CBCF Community Concert"
CCSO

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Biographies:



John Giordano, Music Director and Conductor Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra

Internationally-acclaimed and Grammy-nominated conductor John Giordano is a composer, educator, performer and former Music Director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. During his 28 seasons with the Fort Worth Symphony, Giordano founded the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra and conducted the ensemble in several successful tours across the world. The Fort Worth Symphony named him "Music Director Emeritus" in 2001. Since 1973, Giordano has served as Jury Chairman for the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. He is also a "Distinguished Fellow in Music" at Texas Christian University, where he serves as Ambassador at Large for the School of Music and the College of Fine Arts.

Music Director of the Youth Orchestra of Greater Fort Worth from 1968 to 1976, Giordano has served on the music faculties of Tarleton State University, the University of North Texas and Texas Christian University. He founded the Colorado College Summer Music Festival for Young Artists in Colorado Springs. In 1995, the trustees of Texas Christian University recognized Giordano's lifelong contribution to the University and the community of Fort Worth by naming the piano wing of the University's new Mary D. and F. Howard Walsh Performing Arts Center in his honor.

The 2011-2012 season marks John Giordano's eighth full season as Conductor and Music Director of the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra.



OCTOBER 8, 2011 Sirena Huang, *violin*

Praised by Hartford Courant as "the first real virtuoso from the text-message age," Sirena Huang is the First Prize Gold Medalist of the Sixth International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians held in Korea in 2009. Huang made her orchestra solo debut with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra at age nine. Since then, she has performed in 11 countries across three continents and has been featured as soloist with more than 40 various orchestras including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Weimar in Germany, Russian Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, Long Island Philharmonic and many others. In 2008, after winning the AMFS Violin Concerto Competition, she made her Aspen concerto debut with Aspen

Sinfonia. In 2010, Sirena received acclaimed review for her performance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Tim Smith of the Baltimore Sun praised her "substantial tone...impeccable technique and a remarkable amount of deeply expressive phrasing," and wrote that "Huang's performance revealed...personality and poetic weight."

Since 2003, Huang has been selected three times as the youngest of ten "Exceptional Young Artists" worldwide at the "Starling-DeLay Symposium for Violin Study" at Juilliard School. Additionally, Huang was invited by Elie Wiesel to perform during the ceremony in which the annual Humanitarian Award was presented to President Sarkozy of France. In November 2007, the [New York Times](#) described her performance in a concert to honor Holocaust survivor Alice Herz-Sommer, as: "A Mendelssohn concerto exquisitely performed by a 13-year-old violinist, Sirena Huang, brought down the house." In June 2006, she received the honor of playing for His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and thirty other Nobel Prize Laureates at the World Peace Conference held in Petra. Additionally, in 2006, she was invited to be a guest speaker at the [TED Conference](#) held in California—an annual gathering of over 1000 of the finest minds in Technology, Entertainment, and Design of America. TED reporters called Huang a player with "a musician's soul that transcends her years."

Huang began her violin lessons at 4 years old with Mrs. Linda Fiore at [the Hartt School](#) and currently studies with Mr. [Stephen Clapp](#) and Ms. Sylvia Rosenberg at the Juilliard School Pre-College Division. In addition to playing concerts, Huang has been involved in various charities both locally and nationally, including World Vision, and "Fund for Access" in her home in Connecticut.

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