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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE CORPUS CHRISTI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS  
“PEPE AND BEETHOVEN”  
FEATURING FAMED GUITARIST PEPE ROMERO  
FOR ITS SECOND SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT  
OF THE 2011-2012 CONCERT SEASON**

**Who:** The Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra (CCSO), Maestro John Giordano (CCSO Music Director and Conductor), and Pepe Romero.

**What:** The CCSO presents the second subscription concert of its 66<sup>th</sup> consecutive season with music by von Suppé, Rodrigo, featuring classical guitar legend Pepe Romero, and Beethoven.

**When: Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 8:00 pm.**

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

**Why:** Celebrating its 66<sup>th</sup> season during 2011-2012, the CCSO opens the second subscription concert with Overture to *Light Cavalry* from Franz von Suppé. Guitarist Pepe Romero then joins the orchestra in performing Rodrigo's *Concierto para una fiesta*. *Concierto para una fiesta* was premiered on March 5, 1983 by none other than Pepe Romero, conducted by John Giordano. Romero's contributions to the field of classical guitar have inspired compositions by some of the finest composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, including tonight's concerto. The second subscription concert will conclude with Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor. This symphony is one of the most popular and best-know compositions in all of classical music, and one of the most played symphonies.

Ticket packages may be purchased by calling the Symphony office at 883-NOTE (6683) or toll-free at 877-286-6683. Mini-Season tickets (a package of any three-to-five concerts) start at \$80 per seat and are offered at a substantial discount over the purchase of single tickets. Single concert tickets start at \$20 per seat. For more information, visit [www.ccsymphony.org](http://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](http://www.ccsymphony.org).

### 2011-2012 Concert Schedule:

#### **Subscription Concert #1**

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

#### **Subscription Concert #2**

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

#### **Subscription Concert #3**

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

#### **Subscription Concert #4**

February 18, 2012  
*"Best of Broadway"*

#### **Subscription Concert #5**

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

#### **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.



### **NOVEMBER 12, 2011 Pepe Romero, guitar**

There are very few true living legends in the world of classical music, few who have sustained greatness and grown throughout their lives. Pepe Romero is such an artist. He has been honored by kings, heads of state, and major institutions—the encomiums continue to pour in. But to Romero, his most important contribution has been reaching the common man. He has communicated the richness and beauty of the classical guitar to millions of people throughout the world. He has, indeed, become an ambassador of classical music, and, correspondingly, of the classical guitar.

But this gift did not just appear out of nowhere. Pepe is the second son of one of the greatest guitarists that ever lived—Celedonio Romero. And he is brother to two more musical phenoms—Celin and Angel Romero. But perhaps we should start at the beginning...

Pepe was born in Málaga, Spain, in 1944. In those days, following the devastating Spanish Civil War (1936-39) and during the Second World War, Spain was in desperate economic straits. Basic survival was the primary challenge. Yet, in spite of this, Celedonio Romero and his remarkable wife, Angelita, instilled in all three of their children a love of music that transcended the profound misery surrounding them.

By age seven, Pepe set foot on the concert stage for the first time, at the Teatro Lope de Vega in Sevilla. And now, more than fifty years later, he continues to mesmerize audiences throughout the world. During that time, he has given literally thousands of concerts worldwide, many with the remarkable Romero Quartet, and many as a solo instrumentalist. He has worked with almost every major conductor alive, and has to his credit more than 60 recordings (among which are 20 concerto recordings with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with both Neville Marriner and Iona Brown).

Pepe Romero has premiered works by some of the finest composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Moreno Torroba, Lorenzo Palomo, Padre Francisco de Madina, Paul Chihara, Enrique Diemecke, Ernesto Cordero, and, most poignantly, Celedonio Romero, have written compositions for Pepe. Always a champion of music by composers in earlier periods of music history, he has also delved into rare archives to re-explore lost pieces by Fernando Sor, Mauro Giuliani, Francesco Molino, Ferdinando Carulli, Johann Kaspar Mertz, Luigi Boccherini, and others.

In 1992, Pepe Romero performed on a groundbreaking laser disc of the *Concierto de Aranjuez* with Neville Marriner and the Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields. He played a prominent role in the major film documentary *Shadows and Light: Joaquin Rodrigo at 90*, which received numerous plaudits worldwide (including the Chicago International Film Festival, International Emmy Awards, and San Francisco International Film Festival).

Maestro Romero's many accomplishments include: world premieres of Rodrigo's *Concierto andaluz* (with the entire Romero Guitar Quartet), *Concierto madrigal* (with Angel Romero), and *Concierto para una fiesta*; Federico Moreno Torroba's *Diálogos entre guitarra y orquesta* (Pepe was personally chosen by Moreno Torroba and Andrés Segovia for the world premiere recording of this work dedicated to Segovia); and Lorenzo Palomo's *Concierto de Cienfuegos* (with the Romero Quartet) and *Nocturnos de Andalucía* (both released on the Naxos label). He also revived the great orchestral work *Metamorfosi de concert* by Xavier Montsalvatge, with Gianandrea Noseda, and premiered as well as recorded the *Concerto for Guitar and Orchestrawith Trumpet Obbligato* by Paul Chihara, with Neville Marriner and the London Symphony.

In 2005 the Romero Quartet recorded *Concierto vasco para 4 guitarras y orquesta* by Francisco de Madina (written for the Romeros) with the Basque National Orchestra on a Claves release (entitled *Aita Madina*). A prominent new recording entitled *The Romeros: Generations*, features premieres of works by Jorge Morel (such as *El Maestro*, dedicated to Celedonio) and by Pepe himself, *Recuerdos del pasado*. In the spring of 2005, a solo recital release called *Corazón Español* became available on the CPA Hollywood Records label. Shortly thereafter, on the same label, came *Classic Romero*, another invaluable recital recording. In the summer of 2008, Pepe Romero recorded a splendid solo-vocal work by Lorenzo Palomo, with internationally recognized Spanish soprano Maria Bayo. It included the song cycles *Mi jardín solitario* (with texts by Celedonio Romero) and *Madrigal and Five Sephardic Songs*. Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and due for release in early 2009, is a brand new recording by the Romeros for Sony's RCA Red Seal Label.

Pepe Romero has performed (by himself and with his family) at the White House, the Vatican for Pope John Paul II, for HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, and Queen Beatrice of Holland. He has been a special guest at music festivals in Salzburg, Israel, Schleswig-Holstein, Menuhin Festival, Osaka, Granada, Istanbul, Ravinia, Garden State, Hollywood Bowl, Blossom, Wolf Trap, and Saratoga, among many others.

In the United States, he has appeared with leading symphony orchestras in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Boston, San Francisco, Dallas, New York, and Los Angeles, as well as with the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble and Boston Pops. European ensembles with which he has appeared include the Academy of St-Martins-in-the-Fields, Dresden Philharmonic, London Symphony, Monte Carlo Philharmonic, I Musici, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Hungarica, Solisti di Zagreb, Hungarian State Orchestra, Spanish National Orchestra, Spanish National Radio Television Orchestra, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Hamburg Philharmoniker, L'Orchestre de la Suisse-Romande, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, New Moscow Chamber Orchestra, American Sinfonietta, and Bournemouth Symphony—among many others.

In addition, he has collaborated with such distinguished conductors as Sir Neville Marriner, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Jesús López-Cobos, Eugene Ormandy, Josep Pons, Arthur Fiedler, Lawrence

Foster, Enrique Jordá, Andre Kostelanetz, Leonard Slatkin, Phillipe Entremont, Odón Alonso, Morton Gould, Michael Palmer, Guillermo Figueroa, Michael Zearrot, Miguel Ángel Gómez Martínez, Pedro Halffter, and Christoph Eschenbach.

Pepe Romero has always felt, along with his father and brothers, that the sharing of one's art is a personal responsibility. Mr. Romero has served as Professor of Guitar at the University of Southern California, University of California at San Diego, Southern Methodist University, and the University of San Diego. He has conducted master classes at the Salzburg Summer Academy, Córdoba Guitar Festival, and the Schleswig-Holstein Festival. In 2004 he was appointed Distinguished Artist in Residence at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

Pepe Romero holds an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Victoria, British Columbia. In June 1996, he received the "Premio Andalucía de la Música," the highest recognition given by his native land for his contribution to the arts. In addition, His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, has knighted Pepe and his brothers into the Order of "Isabel la Católica."

A biographical documentary about the Romeros appeared on PBS in 2001 entitled "Los Romeros, the Royal Family of the Guitar." Following this production, German television released another brilliant documentary about the Romeros entitled "Los Romeros, the Dynasty of the Guitar." In 2007, the Romeros received the President's Merit Award from the Recording Academy, producers of the Grammy Awards, for their significant contributions to the music world and professional career achievements. What will come tomorrow? Who knows? Pepe is only just beginning to flex his artistic muscles...

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