


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AMERICAN CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA
— music as the masters heard it —

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR
AMERICAN CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA 2006-2007 SEASON**

At fine venues in New York and Connecticut, the ACO's concert series includes violin virtuoso Stephanie Chase in a 200th anniversary performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto, soprano Jennifer Bates, the Trinity New Haven and Christ Church Greenwich Boys' Choirs in a performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, and a Concerto program with American Classical Orchestra soloists Thomas Crawford, conductor

New York City, September 12, 2006 — The American Classical Orchestra announces its 2006-2007 concert season, with five programs at venues in New York City and Connecticut. Known throughout the tri-state area as one of the premier period performance orchestras—with a repertoire of 17th to 19th century music—the American Classical Orchestra's members include some of the finest period instrumentalists in North America.

The 2006-07 season opens with **“Rococo Enlightenment,”** a Membership Salon Concert, at the Kress Penthouse (Fifth Avenue at 83rd Street) on Monday, September 25, 2006 at 7pm. A repeat of this concert will be held in Larchmont, New York on Tuesday, October 17th. The performance will feature ACO soloists playing works by J.C. Bach, Telemann, and Couperin.

On Monday November 13, 2006, the ACO presents **“Beethoven in 1806 and 2006,”** at 7:30pm at the Ethical Culture Hall (Central Park West at 64th Street), with a pre-concert lecture at 6:30pm by Maestro Crawford. Violin virtuoso Stephanie Chase returns to the ACO for a 200th Anniversary performance of the glorious Beethoven Violin Concerto. Ms. Chase's recording of the Concerto, with the renowned Hanover Band—the first ever on period instruments—was declared “one of the most outstanding performances in the work's recorded history” (Beethoven: Violin Concerto; Cambridge University Press). This Beethoven celebration also includes a performance of the Symphony #4, which along with the Violin Concerto, was composed in Beethoven's 36th year. A musical event not to be missed.

The season continues with “**Glad Tidings,**” Holiday Music on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at Christ Church, New York City at 7:30pm (Park Avenue at 60th Street). The concert will also be performed on Sunday December 3, 2006 at Trinity Church on the Green, New Haven, CT (230 Temple Street) at 3pm, and on Saturday December 9, 2006 at Christ Church, Greenwich, CT (254 East Putnam Avenue) at 5pm. The American Classical Orchestra, with soprano Jennifer Bates and two of the nation’s finest boys’ choirs, Trinity New Haven and Christ Church Greenwich, will be performing the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah, and the Scarlatti Christmas Cantata. The setting and acoustic at Christ Church, Park Avenue, are superb for this program.

On Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7pm, the ACO presents its second Membership Salon Concert at the Kress Penthouse—“**Ostinato e obbligato.**” This concert will also be repeated on Friday, February 9th at the Unitarian Church of Westport, Connecticut. The Salon Concert will feature ACO principal musicians and guest artists performing an eclectic program of music based on a continuous melody and the virtuoso counterpoints of solo instruments.

“**ACO Concerti,**” concludes the 2006-07 season on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at the Ethical Culture Hall at 7:30pm. The program of four concerti, will feature American Classical Orchestra soloists, with a pre-concert lecture at 6:30pm by Maestro Crawford. The concerti will include Mozart works with horn virtuoso RJ Kelly and bassoon soloist Andrew Schwartz. Haydn’s stirring ‘Trauer Symphony’ will be performed as well.

Membership Subscriptions and individual tickets are now available for the American Classical Orchestra 2006-2007 season. Membership subscriptions include 5 concerts in New York and/or Connecticut and are priced at \$300. Individual tickets sales are available for the Beethoven, Glad Tidings and ACO Concerti concerts, and are priced as follows: \$50 (reserved), \$40 (general admission), and \$20 (student/senior). For more information about the American Classical Orchestra, please visit www.amerclassorch.org, or contact us at 212.717.3181.

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— *Music as the Masters Heard It* —

The American Classical Orchestra celebrates classical music performance on authentic instruments, specializing in repertoire from the 17th to 19th centuries. Founded by music director Thomas Crawford in 1985 as the Orchestra of the Old Fairfield Academy, the Orchestra works to render more faithfully music of the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic eras. In 1999 the orchestra's name was changed to American Classical Orchestra. Interested in reviving and preserving the art of playing period instruments, the American Classical Orchestra also fosters the education of musicians and the public in authentic performance technique.

Comprised of leading period instrumentalists in the New York metropolitan region, the Orchestra has achieved significant critical acclaim through its performances and its professional recordings in Connecticut and New York City. The American Classical Orchestra has recorded the complete Mozart wind concerti, using its principal players as soloists. These three compact discs, released as a boxed set in January 1998 by Musical Heritage Society, sold out in the first printing. They mark the first comprehensive survey of the Mozart wind concerti by an American period-instrument ensemble and conductor. The American Classical Orchestra has appeared in the Lincoln Center Great Performers Series. In December 2000 the Orchestra made its debut at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in a program specially designed for the exhibition "Art and the Empire City: New York, 1825-1861."

Classical Music for Kids is the Orchestra's comprehensive program for school children. Since its inception in 2000, the ACO has presented educational concerts and in-school programs to more than 300,000 children in the tri-state area.

"These are wonderfully buoyant performances...the best performances now available."

— American Record Guide —

"What reaches the ears is the aural equivalent of a fine aged brandy; warm, smooth and seamlessly blended."

— The New York Times, Feature Article —

"The program, directed by Thomas Crawford, was a labor of love, superbly crafted, superbly prepared, and superbly executed."

— Stamford Advocate —

The ACO membership is comprised of people interested in rediscovering the music of the Classical period in its original glory: performed with stylistic integrity on original instruments, in intimate settings, and accompanied by explanations which help participants visualize a time and place when the music was first performed. The settings are carefully chosen for their acoustic qualities and their appropriateness for the music. Venues have included intimate halls, museums and private residences where supporters gather to enjoy the music, experience the surroundings, and get to know one another over light refreshments.

Bach, Mozart and Beethoven wrote music in a sound-world that is different from ours today. Within great music, just like the colors of an original painting, we can now see that composers designed the compositions for the nuances of the original instruments. Playing on historic instruments, using performance techniques of the 17th-19th centuries, gives the music a completely different texture from the sound one hears when the same music is performed with a modern instrument orchestra. The use of leather-skinned tympani, valveless horns, and gut strings adds a richness and texture to these celebrated masterpieces that is much closer to the original intentions of the composers.

“Period instrument orchestras have long thrived in Europe’s capitals, where this music was originally composed and performed. My goal is to offer the highest quality performances by America’s finest period musicians.”

— Thomas Crawford —

Maestro Crawford’s training as a conductor, composer, and impresario make him uniquely qualified to champion the cause of a period instrument orchestra for New York City. He has conducted outstanding artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and Dawn Upshaw. He has released numerous recordings with the ACO. Mr. Crawford has been recognized for his teaching of children and adults through school programs and lectures.

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