



**For Immediate Release**  
January 26, 2010

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**THE MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE CELEBRATES  
5TH ANNIVERSARY**

*Music Center Served Approximately One Million Patrons and  
Established Vital Artistic and Community Partnerships*

*Five Years Marked with Performances, Celebrations, Discounts and More*

*N. Bethesda, Md.*—The Music Center at Strathmore marks its fifth anniversary on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 8 p.m. with a concert of Broadway stars and hits in “Luck Be a Lady” featuring Julia Murney, Emily Skinner and Rachel York with Jim Caruso, plus a huge custom designed cake by Fancy Cakes by Leslie intricately decorated with the Music Center’s acclaimed architecture for the audience to enjoy, and a post-concert performance by Strathmore Artist in Residence, jazz singer Lena Seikaly. Additional concerts and discounts by Strathmore’s partners are scheduled January 27 - February 15, 2010. See the calendar below for details. Tickets can be purchased by calling (301) 581-5100 or visiting [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

The Music Center at Strathmore has become a central part of the community. Between February 2005 and August 2009 Strathmore, its founding partner the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), the National Philharmonic, Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS), CityDance Ensemble, Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO), Levine School of Music and InterPLAY presented 663 concerts to 814,000 audience members. A total of 16,400 classes were held in the Education Center and almost one million patrons have enjoyed performances, classes and free events.

“Strathmore is a very big piece of the quality of life here,” says Carol Trawick, Chair of the Board of Directors. “It says Montgomery County cares about the souls of its people. And it recognizes that there are performing arts for every segment of our community.”

Strathmore has presented a variety of top artists including Natalie Cole, Tommy Tune, Queen Latifah, Dr. John, Savion Glover, Bernadette Peters, Jethro Tull, Lily Tomlin, Alice Ripley, Bebe Neuwirth, Yo-Yo Ma and more. In addition to presenting premier musicians, Strathmore has created two original productions--*Free to Sing: The Story of the First African-American Opera Company* in 2008 and *Take Joy!* in 2009.

Important guest artists regularly appear with Strathmore’s partners. The BSO has performed with Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Simone Dinnerstein, Yefim Bronfman, Hilary Hahn, Yan Pascal Tortelier and Christopher O’Reilly, to name a few. WPAS presented pianist Alfred Brendel’s final US recital as well as many other world-class performances. National Philharmonic brought Leon Fleisher, Cho-Liang Lin, Richard Stoltzman, Carter Brey and Misha Dichter to Strathmore audiences.

The Music Center has fostered artistic partnerships between Strathmore, the BSO, National Philharmonic, WPAS, CityDance, MCYO, Levine School of Music and InterPLAY. Examples of the many artistic collaborations include Strathmore and Washington Performing Arts Society’s co-presentation of premiere concerts such as La Scala Philharmonic in 2007 and the upcoming performance by the Philadelphia Orchestra in May, 2010; when Strathmore presented world-renowned soprano Dawn Upshaw, she also hosted a master class sponsored by the Levine School of Music; the BSO has held special pre-concert lectures with the Levine School; and BSO Concertmaster Jonathan Carney serves as MCYO Artistic Adviser. In addition to these collaborations, each year the Strathmore Student Concerts program brings 20,000 Montgomery County Public School second and fifth graders to an interactive concert by the National Philharmonic.

“We have education and performance under one roof,” says Strathmore President and CEO Eliot Pfanstiehl. “We have a crucible of creativity here that other places don’t. Sharing resources and skills greatly benefits both the artistic organizations and the community.”

The Music Center has supported the community with innovative education programs such as the Title 1 Elementary School partnership, Spring Break workshops, the Loiederman Middle School partnership, creativity classes, plus 287 free events that were attended by over 140,223 patrons. Strathmore has maintained free parking for Music Center concerts, no fees for ticket purchases, a free annual open house and a series of free summer performances.

One of Strathmore's signature programs is the Artist in Residence program. Introduced in 2005 as an initiative to help cultivate local musical talent in the Washington, D.C. area, the program connects established performers with emerging musicians. Each Artist in Residence is a featured performer for the duration of one month. During this month, the artist presents two diverse public performances. The artists have the opportunity to develop an audience in the community, perfect their performances, create an educational program, and premiere a new work commissioned by Strathmore. The class of musicians attends professional development workshops presented by Strathmore, including classes on marketing, recording and booking events. Former Artist in Residence graduates include Grammy-nominated hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon, singer-songwriter and Jammin' Java owner Luke Brindley, Indie singer-songwriter Laura Burhenn, saxophonist Jeff Suzda and percussionist Simone Mancuso of the Mancuso-Suzda Project, and harmonicist Frédéric Yonnet.

### **Special Anniversary Events**

Each of the Music Center partners is celebrating the fifth anniversary with concerts, discounts and more. Exactly five years to the day that the Music Center opened, Strathmore presents "Luck Be a Lady" Starring Julia Murney, Emily Skinner and Rachel York with Jim Caruso on Friday, February 5 at 8 p.m. BSO and Strathmore invited members of the community to dust off their instruments and perform under Maestra Alsop's baton on the Music Center Stage in *Rusty Musicians with the BSO* on Tuesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 4, at 6 p.m. The National Philharmonic will offer free pre-concert lectures on the history and acoustics of the Concert Hall on January 30 at 7 p.m. and January 31 at 2 p.m. CityDance Ensemble and the Levine School of Music Jazz Quintet perform together in "Take Five" on February 6 and 7 in the Education Center

with a festive music and dance program. On February 20 MCYO presents a string quartet performing prior to the BSO concert featuring Itzhack Perlman. Details and contact information are listed below.

**Music Center at Strathmore**

5301 Tuckerman Lane  
North Bethesda, Md. 20852

**Tickets and Information**

**(301) 581-5100**  
**[www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

8:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall

*Washington Performing Arts Society Presents*

***RADU LUPU, piano***

***JANÁČEK In the Mist***

**BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 23 in F minor,**

**Op. 57, “Appassionata”**

**SCHUBERT Sonata in A Major, D.959**

Acclaimed for his interpretations of Beethoven and Schubert, Van Cliburn winner Radu returns to Washington after a 16-year absence. After his 2008 performance at Carnegie Hall, *The New York Times* critic Bernard Holland wrote, “Mr. Lupu manages to sit at one end of this sizable hall and fill it with color and clarity. There is no sense that he is trying hard to do so; it simply happens.”

*The WPAS Piano Masters Series is generously underwritten by Robert and Betsy Feinberg.*

*\*More Than Notes concert preview at 7:00 p.m.*

Tickets: from \$27

**Special 5th Anniversary Offer from WPAS:** Mention code ANNIVERSARY when ordering by phone and get \$5 off per ticket. Student tickets \$10 with ID

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

Washington Performing Arts Society

Brenda Kean Tabor

(202) 533-1886

[btabor@wpas.org](mailto:btabor@wpas.org)

8:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall  
*National Philharmonic*

***RUSSIAN EVENING WITH LEON FLEISHER***

**Piotr Gajewski, conductor**

**Leon Fleisher, piano**

**MUSSORGSKY *Night on Bald Mountain***

**PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 4**

**TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6, "Pathetique"**

Tickets: From \$29. (Children 7-17 are free.)

National Philharmonic offers special free pre-concert lectures about the history and acoustics of the Concert Hall in the

Education Center one hour before the concert.

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

National Philharmonic

Deborah Birnbaum

(301) 493-9283, ext. 118

[deborah@nationalphilharmonic.org](mailto:deborah@nationalphilharmonic.org)

**Sunday, January 31, 2010**

3:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall

*National Philharmonic*

***RUSSIAN EVENING WITH LEON FLEISHER***

**Piotr Gajewski, conductor**

**Leon Fleisher, piano**

**MUSSORGSKY *Night on Bald Mountain***

**PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 4**

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National Philharmonic

Deborah Birnbaum

(301) 493-9283, ext. 118

[deborah@nationalphilharmonic.org](mailto:deborah@nationalphilharmonic.org)

**Tuesday, February 2 & Thursday, February 4, 2010**

6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m and 9 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore

*Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Strathmore Present*

***RUSTY MUSICIANS WITH THE BSO***

**Marin Alsop, conductor**

To celebrate the BSO at Strathmore's 5th Anniversary, Music Director Marin Alsop, the BSO and Strathmore invite members of the community to dust off their instruments and perform with the BSO at the Music Center at Strathmore. This once in a lifetime opportunity, led by Maestra Alsop, features excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and Elgar's Enigma Variations.

\$10 general admission plus tax.

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Laura Farmer

(410) 783-8024

[lfarmer@BSOmusic.org](mailto:lfarmer@BSOmusic.org)

**Friday, February 5, 2010**

8:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall

*Strathmore Presents*

**5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**Emily Skinner, Rachel York & Julia Murney  
with Jim Caruso**

One special night—5 years from the day the Concert Hall first opened its doors to the public! To celebrate, Strathmore brings three Broadway stars together for a one-time only concert: Emily Skinner (*Side Show*), a voice “with the capacity to soar and a deftly knowing talent to caress” (*Variety*), the “wonderfully entertaining” (*Variety*) Rachel York (*Les Miserables*) and the “superb” (*The Washington Post*) Julia Murney (*The Wild Party, Wicked*). The master of ceremonies is cabaret and comedy star Jim Caruso.

The program will feature the best of Broadway, including songs by Sondheim ("No One Is Alone"), Kander & Ebb ("Ring Them Bells," "Maybe This Time") and some of the Great White Way's biggest hits ("Maria," "Defying Gravity," "Don't Rain on My Parade").

Wish Strathmore happy birthday! We'll have a spectacular 5th birthday cake on display in the lobby before the show. Be sure to stop by after the concert to enjoy a slice and the smooth sounds of jazz singer Lena Seikaly and her band. Tickets: \$26-\$66

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**Saturday, February 6, 2010**

8:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Education Center,  
Room 405

*CityDance Ensemble and Levine School of Music*

**TAKE FIVE!**

CityDance Ensemble and the Levine Jazz Quintet come together for an intimate evening of music and dance in celebration of Strathmore's 5th Anniversary.

*Take Five is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.*

Tickets: \$20

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

CityDance

Betsy Lundgren

(202) 347-3909

[betsy@citydance.net](mailto:betsy@citydance.net)

Levine School of Music

Karen Shepherd

(202) 686-8000, ext. 1301

[kshepherd@levineschool.org](mailto:kshepherd@levineschool.org)

**Sunday, February 7, 2010**

4:00 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Education Center,  
Room 405

*CityDance Ensemble and Levine School of Music*

***TAKE FIVE!***

CityDance Ensemble and the Levine Jazz Quintet come together for an intimate evening of music and dance in celebration of Strathmore's 5th Anniversary.

*Take Five is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.*

Tickets: From \$20

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

CityDance

Betsy Lundgren

(202) 347-3909

[betsy@citydance.net](mailto:betsy@citydance.net)

Levine School of Music

Karen Shepherd

(202) 686-8000, ext. 1301

[kshepherd@levineschool.org](mailto:kshepherd@levineschool.org)

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

6:30 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, Education Center,  
Room 309

*Levine School of Music*

***MUSICAL DEVOTIONS: THE STORY OF BRAHMS AND CLARA***

**Jonathan Carney, violin**

**Melinda Baird, piano**

Explore the often misunderstood, devoted relationship of Johannes Brahms and Clara Schumann through Clara's rarely heard "Romances" for violin and piano, Brahms' early piano Ballades written for her, and his sublime G Major Violin Sonata.

Admission: \$15 online or \$20 at the door

(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

Levine School of Music

Karen Shepherd

(202) 686-8000, ext. 1301

[kshepherd@levineschool.org](mailto:kshepherd@levineschool.org)

**Monday, February 15, 2010**

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Music Center and Mansion at  
Strathmore

*Strathmore Presents*

***DISCOVER STRATHMORE: The Magic of Strathmore***

Discover the Magic of Strathmore at this free, open house family festival, celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Music Center. Musical and magical acts perform throughout the Mansion and Music Center. Headlining the festival are The Spencers in their production "Theatre of Illusion," called "a new take on magic [that] borrows the kind of lights, music and drama of a Broadway production meshed with a rock concert" (*Monterey Herald*). Paul Carr's Jazz Academy Orchestra will perform a magic themed concert. Plus performances, classes,

Strathmore

Angela Olson

(301) 581-5194

[aolson@strathmore.org](mailto:aolson@strathmore.org)

interactive workshops, demonstrations, arts and crafts and more.  
Free  
(301) 581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

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*Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, the MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities. Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.*

### **About Strathmore**

Strathmore (Carol A. Trawick, chair, Eliot Pfanstiehl, President & CEO) is Montgomery County, Maryland's home for the arts. A 26-year-old presenter of concerts, art exhibitions and community festivals, Strathmore offers world-class performances by major national artists of folk, blues, pop, jazz, Broadway and classical music in the Music Center, a state-of-the-art 1,976-seat concert hall and education complex, and in the Mansion, a turn-of-the-century historic home.

Producing credits for Strathmore include *Take Joy!, Free to Sing: The Story of the First African-American Opera Company*, the Washington Area music Timeline Concert Series, an "ambitious" (*The Washington Post*) series of 64 concerts tracing Washington, D.C.'s music history; the world premiere concert of *cELLABration: A Tribute to Ella Jenkins* in February 2006, released nationally on DVD by Smithsonian Folkways; and the upcoming *Song of the Earth: Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day* on April 23, 2010.

Strathmore regularly commissions new works of art, dance and music, including nine new works every year from Strathmore's Artists in Residence musicians; *Danzón*, a co-commission with the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on March 19, 2010; the world premiere musical compositions *Emergence: A Cicada Serenade* by David Kane, *Strathmore Sonata* by Garrison Hull and *Bling Bling* by Scott McAllister; and the commissioning of the sculptures *Music of Light* by Meryl Taradash, *Tetra con Brio* by Roger Stoller, *Schubert's Trout Quintet* by Murray Stein and *Little Temple* by Stefan Saal.

Strathmore performances can be heard all over the country on NPR and XM Radio. Public Television airs *America's Veteran's: A Musical Tribute*, an annual performance taped at the Music Center. Education plays a key role in Strathmore's art and music programming. From OperaTots and Intro to Jazz Singing, to Strathmore's new Fine Artist in Residence program, a curriculum designed to help up and coming visual artists, the development of arts appreciation has always

### **About the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**

The Grammy Award-winning Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is internationally recognized as having achieved a preeminent place among the world's most important orchestras. Acclaimed for its uncompromising pursuit of artistic excellence, the BSO has attracted a devoted national and international following while maintaining deep bonds throughout the Maryland community through innovative education and community outreach initiatives.

The BSO made musical history in 2005 when it announced the appointment of Marin Alsop as its 12<sup>th</sup> music director, making her the first woman to lead a major American orchestra. Maestra Alsop's inaugural concerts in September 2007 marked the dawn of a new era for the BSO, as she brings her highly praised artistic vision, her dynamic musicianship and her commitment to accessibility in classical music to BSO audiences throughout Maryland.

The BSO is actively involved in recording, broadcasting and podcasting projects which make the BSO's music available to audiences around the globe. It has received critical acclaim for its prolific discography, which features renowned artists such as cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Hélène Grimaud, and violinists Joshua Bell and Hilary Hahn.

In addition to the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, where the orchestra has performed for 27 years, the BSO is a founding partner and the resident orchestra at the new state-of-the-art Music Center at Strathmore, just outside Washington, D.C. With the opening of Strathmore in February 2005, the BSO became the nation's only major orchestra with year-round venues in two metropolitan areas.

### **About the National Philharmonic**

Led by dynamic Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski, the National Philharmonic is known for performances that are "powerful," "impeccable," and "thrilling" (*The Washington Post*). The National Philharmonic's long-standing tradition of reasonably priced tickets and free admission to all young people age 7-17 assures its place as an accessible and enriching part of life in Montgomery County and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area.

The Philharmonic showcases world-renowned guest artists in symphonic masterpieces conducted by Maestro Gajewski, whose "standards, taste and sensitivity are impeccable" (*The Washington Post*), and monumental choral masterworks under National Philharmonic Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson, who "uncovers depth... structural coherence and visionary scope" (*The Washington Post*).

The National Philharmonic also offers exceptional education programs for all ages including the Summer String Institutes and the Summer Chorale Institute.

For more information, visit [www.nationalphilharmonic.org](http://www.nationalphilharmonic.org).

### **About the Washington Performing Arts Society**

For more than four decades, Washington Performing Arts Society has created profound opportunities for connecting the community to artists through both education and performance. Through live events in venues across the D.C. metropolitan area, the careers of emerging artists are guided, and established artists who have close relationships with local audiences are invited to return. WPAS is one of the leading presenters in the nation. Set in the nation's capital and reflecting a population that hails from around the globe, WPAS presents the highest caliber artists in classical music, jazz, gospel, contemporary dance, and world music. For more information, visit [www.WPAS.org](http://www.WPAS.org).

### **About CityDance Ensemble**

CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is home to CityDance Ensemble, a professional contemporary dance company that performs locally and around the world; CityDance Center at Strathmore, a dance school for children, youth and adults with a pre-professional training program for teens; CityDance Early Arts, an outreach program that provides free dance classes and performances to children in underserved neighborhoods; and CityDance FilmWORKS, a creator of original dance-on-camera productions. The mission of CityDance Ensemble, Inc. is to advance the appreciation for and participation in the art of dance through excellence in performance, education, film, and artistic innovation. Learn more at [www.citydance.net](http://www.citydance.net).

### **About the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras**

Great music, artistry, plus the passion and exuberance of youth come together in one exceptional program- MCYO, the resident youth orchestra at the Music Center. Established in 1946, MCYO is the region's premier orchestral training program, seating over 400 students in grades 4-12 in one of five quality orchestras. Concerts, chamber music, master classes and more. Discover MCYO. Hear the difference. Visit [www.mcyo.org](http://www.mcyo.org).

### **About the Levine School of Music**

Levine School of Music, the Washington DC region's preeminent center for music education, provides a welcoming environment where children and adults find lifelong inspiration and joy through learning, performing, listening to, and participating with others in music. Our distinguished faculty serve more than 3500 students of all ages and abilities at four campuses in Northwest and Southeast DC, Strathmore Music Center in Maryland, and Arlington, Virginia. We strive to make Levine education available to everyone, providing substantial scholarship assistance to hundreds of students each year. Learn more at [www.levineschool.org](http://www.levineschool.org).

**About interPLAY**

interPLAY company provides adults with cognitive differences with year-round rehearsals and concert experiences performing with traditional musicians. This activity results in a new personal language for those who have no musical education, and enlightened perspectives in the community about who can play serious music. interPLAY is always open for new players, musicians and mentors. For information contact Artistic Director Paula Moore at 301-229-0829.