ABAC Performance Series Features Albany Symphony Orchestra September 27

TIFTON—The Albany Symphony Orchestra will perform at 3 p.m. on Sept. 27 in the first event of this season’s ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said the concert at the Tift County High School (TCHS) Performing Arts Center will feature Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Ricercar a 6,”
John Corigliano’s Chaconne from “The Red Violin,” “Swan Remix” arranged by ASO’s violinist Tim Fain from Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s “Black Swan,” and Sir Edward Elgar’s “Enigma” Variations, Opus 36.

Fain, an Avery Fisher Career Grant-winning violinist, was seen on screen and heard on the Grammy-nominated soundtrack of the hit film “Black Swan.” He gives "voice" to the violin of the lead character in the hit film “12 Years a Slave,” as he did with Richard Gere's violin in the film "Bee Season."

Fain made his debut with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Baltimore Symphony and was a soloist with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Hague and Mexico City Philharmonic, Maryland and Cincinnati Chamber Symphony, and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. His recitals have taken him to Kennedy Center, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, California's Carmel Mozart Society, and New York's 92nd Street Y.

Fain has appeared onstage with the New York City Ballet, performing alongside the dancers in the acclaimed premiere of Benjamin Millepied's “Double Aria.” He has also worked with Black Crowes guitarist Rich Robinson and appeared at “Jazz at Lincoln Center” with Rob Thomas of Matchbox 20. Fain performs on a violin on extended loan from Clement and Karen Arrison through the generous efforts of the Stradivari Society of Chicago.

Conductor Claire Fox Hillard pursues a varied career as Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and as a guest conductor throughout the world. At 25 years old he became one of the youngest conductors ever to be appointed to the Music Directorship of a professional orchestra. Hillard made his European debut in 1994 conducting the Karlovarske Symfonicky Orchestra.
A recipient of the League of American Orchestra’s distinguished Helen M. Thompson Award, Hillard was also honored by The Meridian Council for the Arts with its Artist’s Achievement Award. He has also received a Dream Award from Albany’s annual King Celebration.

Hillard has been with the ASO since 1988. His lifelong interest in opera led to his founding of OPERAlbany! in 1995. Hillard has previously served as Music Director of the St. Joseph Symphony, Missouri Western Philharmonia, and Meridian Symphony Orchestra. He has taught at Indiana State University and Missouri Western State College.

This past season Hillard conducted the Academic Philharmonie in Kazakhstan. He continues to provide a balance of programming which includes American music, standard orchestral repertory, new music and unfamiliar classics each season. He has received seven ASCAP awards for his innovative programming and collaborated with a wide variety of composers and artists including Aaron Copland, Itzhak Perlman, Ray Charles, actress Debbie Reynolds, fiddle player Mark O’Connor, and the Billy Taylor Trio.

The Albany Symphony collaborates regularly with many diverse organizations and agencies in the region. Chamber ensembles perform in three concerts at the Albany Museum of Art. The Symphony a la Carte program makes available music for all occasions as a service to the community. Currently, the orchestra performs a series of Masterworks Concerts, two sets of Carnegie Hall’s LinkUp Concerts for third through fifth grade students in the area and a Pops concert.

In the fall of 1996, the Albany Symphony was a founding member of OPERAlbany, a cooperative project to present live, staged opera in South Georgia. The Albany Symphony has
received multiple recognitions for adventurous programming by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publications and the League of American Orchestras.

Other performances in the ABAC series include the National Players production of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium, a free bonus concert from the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus at the TCHS Performing Arts Center on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., the Peach State Opera Company’s production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” on Feb. 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium, the Dallas Brass on March 8, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the TCHS Performing Arts Center, and saxophonist Greg Tardy with the ABAC Jazz Ensemble on April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each show, Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Tickets for the entire series are $50 for adults and $20 for students under 18 years of age. Individual tickets for each event are $15 for adults and $10 each for students under 18 years of age. There is no charge for the bonus concert by the Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus on Nov. 7 but a ticket is required. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

The ABAC performing arts series is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts.

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