

PRESS RELEASE: SPARTANBURG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Spartanburg Philharmonic Presents Valentine's POPS Concert

Music Director Sarah Ioannides and the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra continue the 2012-2103 Concert season with a special POPS concert on Valentine's Day at 8:00, featuring guest artist, Jens Lindemann on Trumpet and Spartanburg's Jazz Ensemble.

The Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra's POPS concert will offer a wide array of jazz and romance favorites perfect for Valentine's Day. The program will consist of selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, *Somewhere over the Rainbow*, Gilliland's *Dreaming of the Masters*, an *Ellington Medley*, *Caught a Touch of Your Love* with Spartanburg Jazz Ensembles' vocalist, Jean Calvert, *Nice and Easy* with vocal from Darin Dotson and many more wonderful songs. Also there will be a guest appearance by local attorney, William "Billy" Gunn.

"We are thrilled for the orchestra to collaborate with Spartanburg's Jazz Ensemble on Valentine Night – this makes this a real community night for Spartanburg. I am also very excited to bring Jens Lindemann to town. He is a completely unique performer & personality. He has a truly sensational sound and virtuosity that matches his flair and musical talent. Jens can thrill audiences, and in addition is a sophisticated artist. This will be the second opportunity we have had to perform the Gilliland, *Dreaming of the Masters*, which Jens also performed recently in Carnegie Hall." comments Music Director, Sarah Ioannides.

The Spartanburg Jazz Ensemble is made of musicians from all walks of life, young and seasoned, amateur and professional, from Spartanburg and the surrounding areas. Established in 1996 to provide an outlet for these community players, the Jazz Ensemble offers quality jazz performances with a big band style to the public. They have play in past events like the Spring Fling, Music on Main and Dickens of a Christmas. Their signature yearly concerts are Ice Cream Sundays Summer Concert Series and the Christmas Festival which are very popular events for the community.

Jens Lindemann is hailed as one of the most celebrated soloists in his instrument's history and was once named "International Brass Personality of the Year" (Brass Herald). Jens has played in every major concert venue in the world: from the Philharmonics of New York, Los Angeles, London and Berlin to Tokyo's Suntory Hall and even the Great Wall of China. His career has ranged from appearing internationally as an orchestral soloist, performing at London's "Last Night of the Proms", recording with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to playing lead trumpet with the renowned Canadian Brass and a solo command Performance for the Queen of England. Jens has also won major awards ranging from Grammy and Juno nominations to winning the prestigious Echo Klassik in German as well as receiving an honorary doctorate.

Classically trained at the renowned Julliard School in New York,, Jens' proven ability to perform as a diverse artist places him at the front of a new generation of musicians. He has performed as soloist and recording artist with classical starts such as Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Angel Romero, Doc Severinsen, Charles Dutoit, Gerard Schwarz, Eiji Oue, Bramwell Tovey and Jukka Pekka Saraster. Having recorded for BMG, EMI, CBC and BBC, Jens is helping to redefine the idea of the concert artist by transcending stylistic genres and the very stereotype of his instrument by performing with "impeccable attacks, agility and amazing smoothness" (The Clarin, Buenos Aires). Lindemann comments, "The trumpet is capable of being played with the virtuosity of a violin, the tenderness of the human voice and stylistic flexibility of the piano. It allows me an endless range of communication with audiences."

When Lindemann isn't traveling around the world as one of the most exciting trumpet soloists he also holds the position as a Professor of Music and Chair of Brass Studies at UCLA's Herb Albert School of Music.

The Spartanburg Philharmonic isn't just offering a great night of music but there are some Pre-Concert Specials that will make this event a wonderful date-night or night out with the family. The Philharmonic has partnered with Cribbs Kitchen, Converse Deli and Zarza restaurant to offer a 15% discount on the meal. Just show your concert ticket to the waiter and enjoy a romantic dinner. If you don't want to visit one of the participating great restaurants there will also be a Pre-Concert Music Lovers gathering in the Twichell Auditorium lobby at 6:45 PM. Here a special

Valentine's cocktail party will be offered. Either pre-concert event you choose will culminate in a wonderful evening of Jazz and Romance.

The Music Foundation is promoting their "Big Red Ticket" outreach program for this concert and the rest of season. The Music Foundation believes that every child in Spartanburg County should have the opportunity to experience the wonder of seeing and hearing a stage full of musicians performing. The "Big Red Ticket" program provides this opportunity by providing each school aged child in the county a FREE ticket to the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra to be used at any of our Masterworks Concerts. Ioannides states,

The "Big Red Ticket" is distributed through the schools or you can visit The Music Foundation of Spartanburg's website: www.spartanburgphilharmonic.org and download a copy.

All Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra performances are at 8:00 pm in Twichell Auditorium on the campus of Converse College. Reserved seating is now available. For more information, visit www.spartanburgphilharmonic.org. To purchase Tickets, please call Twichell Box Office: 864-596-9725

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