



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra performs in a Christmas and Holiday Concert in Cleveland presented by the Consulate of Italy in Detroit.

Hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us! What better way to jump into it, than attending a free concert by the extraordinarily talented Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Italian Maestro Domenico Boyagian. On Saturday, December 3rd at **7:30 pm**, the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra, for the first time in collaboration with the Consulate of Italy in Detroit, will perform in the beautiful First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd. Shaker Heights, OH 44118. This special concert - an exciting mix of classical and Christmas music - is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a post concert reception in the church's on-premises Spahr Center.

This Christmas and Holiday celebration will include a first program of Verdi and Ravel. Selections will be from *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi and *Mother Goose Suite* by Ravel. The second program will include selections by Leroy Anderson, Bugler's Holiday, Babes in Toyland, a Christmas Festival, the Festive Sounds of Hanukah and others. A full professional symphony orchestra, The Ohio Philharmonic is made up of the most gifted Ohio based musicians, performing under the directions of its Maestro and Music Director, Domenico Boyagian, as well as the guidance of William Laufer, Artistic and Executive Director. The concert is the first collaboration between the Orchestra and the Consulate of Italy in Detroit; however, Marco Nobili, Consul of Italy in Detroit and Serena Scaiola, Hon. Vice Consul of Italy in Cleveland, are so impressed by the quality of the musicians and the mission of the Orchestra's educational programs, that several other concerts organized and presented by the Consulate are already in the making in distinguished locations across the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Philharmonic - a not for profit 501-C-3 organization - performs and offers educational programs that bring an understanding and appreciation of orchestral music to all ages, but particularly to younger audiences. It also brings programs to special needs individuals via its Christopher Robertson Brown program. Additionally, the Ohio Philharmonic performs larger venue concerts for community, civic and private organizations, as well as performing and recording music for movies and special events. "People find their identity when they see themselves and share their lives with others. Musicians find their identity when they live and breathe music with others of their own, with musicians. In my case, being a musician comes first and music makes me the way I am in front of the rest of the world", stated Italian Maestro Domenico Boyagian, OPO Music Director. Born and raised in Bologna in 1980, the precocious conductor began his music studies at the age of 6. Son of the baritone Garbis Boyagian, he quickly proved himself to be equally comfortable with both the orchestral and operatic repertory. "I grew up in music. Back then, I was a spectator. Now I am a character in this very

unpredictable play”, Maestro Boyagian proudly adds, also emphasizing the successful bond he has been able to build with his musician in a short period of time. “Conducting an orchestra is very much like driving a car. The car, without a driver, will eventually hit a tree. The driver without a car is not a driver. If you know how to drive well you will get a lot of miles out of your car. If not, sometimes the engine won't even turn on. Conductors can affect the orchestra only if they are affected by music itself.”

In February of 2010 he won the position of Assistant Conductor to Maestro Anthony Barrese at Opera Southwest in Albuquerque, NM, with which he has commitments until the Spring of 2012. Around that same time in 2010, he was invited to participate in the 10th Cadaqués Orchestra International Conducting Competition in Spain. 2011 marked the beginning of Mr. Boyagian’s tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Ohio Philharmonic in Cleveland (OH). In October and November 2010 he made his Canadian conducting debut with a new production *La Traviata* for Opera Belcanto of South Simcoe, a company based in Toronto. Performances were held in Richmond Hill, Mississauga and Barrie. “This newly established relationship with the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra is a partnership our Vice Consul in Cleveland and I strongly believe in, hence our efforts to secure suitable and distinguished venues across Ohio to present additional concerts in 2012”, stated Consul Nobili. “Music is an art Italy is admired for around the world; having the opportunity to present a 50 musician professional ensemble as the Ohio Philharmonic and a young and talented Maestro as Domenico Boyagian, perfectly meets our offices’ mission of promotion of the richness of the Italian culture and supporting those who work daily to bring it forth. We look forward to this first collaboration, while at same time already planning ahead”, concluded Consul Nobili.

Mr. William Laufer is the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra Artistic and Executive Director. This emerging vibrant and young orchestra is the inspiration of this Cleveland native who also founded the Powers Concert Series at the former Saint Ann Church, now part of the Communion of Saints Parish. A former President of the Friends of CIM board and member of the CIM board, Mr. Laufer has actively been involved in supporting classical music and the Ohio music scene for nearly twenty years. He is an award winning film producer, director and writer. He co-produced the feature Christmas at Maxwell’s with his daughter, Tiffany Laufer, Laurel School Young Alumna of Distinction. He is President of Laufer Film and a founding member of the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival.

Sponsorships and ad opportunities for the OPO are available. For those not able to attend the concert but who would like to support this effort of the OPO, donations can be made on line at [Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra]
<http://www.ohiophilharmonic.com/OPO/Support.html> . Large groups are requested to contact the Ohio Philharmonic if possible with seat requirements

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