MUNICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, LED BY ACCLAIMED CONDUCTOR PHILIPPE ENTREMONT, BRINGS CLASSICAL ROMANTIC REPERTOIRE TO JORGENSEN
Mon, Nov 2, at 7:30 pm / Concert Talk at 6:45 pm

Internationally acclaimed for his consummate interpretive abilities on the podium, conductor Philippe Entremont leads the Munich Symphony Orchestra on the concert stage at UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Monday evening, November 2nd for a stirring presentation of classical Romantic orchestral works by composers Rossini, Mendelssohn, Massenet, and Bizet. The 7:30 pm performance will be preceded by a Concert Talk at 6:45 pm by Penny Brandt of the UConn Music Department. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Entremont begins the evening’s program with the MSO’s spirited rendition of Gioachino Rossini’s Overture to L’italiana in Algeri (The Italian Girl in Algiers) composed in 1813. The popular overture features one of the Italian composer’s favorite devices: a slowly rising crescendo reaching tremendous volume – a technique that greatly excited his audiences. Following is Felix Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4, Op. 90, in A Major (Italian), in four movements. Inspired by the sights and sounds of Rome and Naples while on a European tour, Mendelssohn began composing his “Italian” symphony in 1830 and completed it in Berlin in 1833. Described as the most joyful and popular of all the German composer’s symphonies, its opening theme is also among the most famous in all music.

Following intermission Entremont leads the orchestra through the seven picturesque movements of French composer Jules Massenet’s Le Cid ballet suite, which he wrote for the second act of his opera, Le Cid -- a sweeping saga set in 12th century Spain focusing on the exploits of Don Rodrigo (Le Cid) as he battles the Moores and fights for the woman he loves. Written by Massenet in 1885, Le Cid’s ballet music is regarded by many as the French composer’s best work for orchestra. The program concludes with Excerpts from Carmen Suites No. 1 and No. 2, a collection of orchestral versions of the most popular tunes from Georges Bizet’s opera, Carmen, written by the French composer in 1875. The music of Carmen has been widely acclaimed for its brilliant melodies, harmonies, and for the skill with which Bizet musically represented the emotions and suffering of his characters.

The pairing of Philippe Entremont with the Munich Symphony Orchestra proves to be a stunning collaboration. The exceptional career of Philippe Entremont began at the age of eighteen when he came to international attention with his great success at New York’s Carnegie Hall playing Jolivet’s piano concerto and Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 1. Since then, he has pursued a top international career as a pianist, and for the last 30 years, on the podium as well.

Entremont’s renown as an orchestral conductor and his dedication to developing orchestras’ artistic potential have led to numerous international tours, playing before full houses: ten tours in the U.S. and seven in Japan with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, a tour of eleven concerts.
MUNICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, continued

with the Orquestra de Cadaqués in Asian capital cities, and a tour in Switzerland and Germany conducting the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra.

As Principal Guest Conductor of the Munich Symphony Orchestra, Entremont has led tours internationally, including the U.S. in 2005 and 2006, conducting from the piano as well as the podium. He returned in both capacities for the Munich Symphony’s highly successful 15-concert U.S. tour in February of 2009, and returns to North America once again for the 2015-2016 season.

Classical-Romantic orchestral repertoire is at the heart of the Munich Symphony Orchestra’s mission to uphold musical traditions while offering new listening experiences. In addition to the classical repertoire, the MSO also excels in top-flight productions in the fields of opera, film and show music. The orchestra’s schedule includes around 110 concerts per year, offering audiences in Germany, Europe, the Far East, and North America a wide repertoire in which the orchestra’s spirited, extroverted style of music making is on display. The MSO has recorded music for over 500 films, and audiences have enjoyed live orchestral performances of the musical scores of movies such as The Lord of the Rings and Disney’s Fantasia.

For more information about the MSO please visit: www.muenchner-symphoniker.de/en

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor seats - $47, Mezzanine - $44, Balcony - $40.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient $5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

#    #    #