



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEGINS THE BEETHOVEN PROJECT**

**ATLANTA** – On January 23, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Nathalie Stutzman, kicks off The Beethoven Project. This epic, year-long endeavor will shed new light on classical music’s most well-known composer through performance of all nine of his symphonies, his Triple Concerto, and the dramatic *Missa solemnis*.

“For any orchestra in the world, a Beethoven cycle is a Himalaya,” said Stutzmann. “I think it’s incredibly exciting for us, but also for the audience, because it’s rare to be able to hear the full symphony cycle plus the Triple Concerto plus the *Missa solemnis*.”

Under Stutzmann’s direction, The Beethoven Project promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear her interpretation of these masterworks with the GRAMMY® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

“She really tries to access that initial germ of musical intent,” said Jennifer Barlament, ASO Executive Director. “I think people will be surprised, because it’ll feel like they’re hearing some of those pieces for the first time, even if they’ve heard them a million times.”

“It’s my passion to take these pieces and start from scratch,” said Stutzmann. “Just pick up the score and read it with laser eyes and try to understand how it is shaped, so that I have a clear vision from the first note to the last. After all this work, the vision of the score is getting into my soul.”

This Spring, the Orchestra performs Beethoven's first 8 symphonies, with a performance of the revolutionary Ninth Symphony in the Fall. The powerful Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus joins the orchestra for the *Missa Solemnis* and Ninth Symphony this Spring.

The Beethoven Project is presented in partnership with the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta and with generous financial support from The Halle Foundation. Founded in 1986 by The Coca-Cola Company executive

Claus Halle, The Halle Foundation exists to support educational and cultural programs and activities which promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany.

The Winter/Spring 2025 list of concerts included in the Beethoven Project is below.

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

All concerts at Atlanta Symphony Hall, Woodruff Arts Center

#### **Beethoven Project: Symphonies 1 + 3**

Thursday, January 23, 8pm

Saturday, January 25, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 1

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann kicks off the first concert of the Beethoven Project starting with the First Symphony. We meet the composer as he enters a more public phase of his career, venturing into the concert hall with a symphony that's already bending the rules with this piquant production. By the Third Symphony, he's confident in a vision that would usher in the Romantic age. The Third Symphony subtitled "Eroica"—heroic—is a revelation and a revolution. Music will never be the same.

#### **Beethoven Project: Symphonies 2 + 5**

Thursday, January 30, 8pm

Saturday, February 1, 8pm

Sunday, February 2, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 2

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 5

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann and your orchestra show opposite sides of Beethoven: the tempest and the humorist. It's hard to argue with the enduring popularity of the stormy Fifth Symphony; it grabs you by the collar and keeps you riveted from start to finish. But the same composer, that scowling genius portrayed in 19th-century paintings, imbued his Second Symphony with genial wit and good cheer. Savor the lesser-known Second Symphony side by side with the rocket-fueled Fifth.

#### **Beethoven Project: Symphonies 6 + 8**

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 8

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann continues the Beethoven Project with the piece that found its way into *The Simpsons* and Walt Disney's 1940 animated classic *Fantasia*. Beethoven's ever-popular "Pastoral" Symphony grows out of the composer's daily walks through an Austrian forest, calling forth rustic folk song through the murmuring textures of a symphony orchestra. Then Maestro Stutzmann conducts a piece that extends Beethoven's norm-shattering gift for invention and impish charm—the jocular Eighth Symphony.

**Beethoven Project: Symphonies 4 + 7**

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

In just over 30 years, Ludwig van Beethoven produced works that shattered norms and became the North Star for generations of composers. This week, Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann leads the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the magnificent Seventh, a piece that bristles with bounding exuberance and rustic charm yet shimmers with a kind of unfathomable genius. Hear the Seventh Symphony paired with the electric energy of the Fourth Symphony, a piece that Hector Berlioz admired for its contrasts between a "lively, alert, and joyful" spirit and a "heavenly gentleness."

**Beethoven Project: Stutzmann Conducts Triple Concerto**

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 8pm

Friday, April 4, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

David Coucheron, violin

Daniel Laufer, cello

Julie Coucheron, piano

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano

STRAUSS: *Eine Alpensinfonie* (An Alpine Symphony)

It's three times the charm when Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann presents Beethoven's Triple Concerto, part of the Beethoven Project. The Beethoven Triple mingles the singing qualities of three solo instruments while showing off the artistry of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra family. Also on the program, the virtuosic ASO takes an Alpine trek with Richard Strauss. The ultimate master of tone painting, Strauss begins the journey before dawn, greeting one of the most spectacular sunrises in music. Then, through the ascent, the Orchestra traverses babbling brooks and Alpine meadows to reach the awe-inspired summit, followed by an apocalyptic thunderstorm. The setting sun conjures a deep sense of satisfaction at the journey's end.

**Beethoven Project: *Missa solemnis***

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 8pm  
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 8pm  
Sunday, May 11, 2025, 3pm  
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor  
Julia Grüter, soprano  
Anna Goryachova, mezzo-soprano  
Miles Mykkanen, tenor  
Lawson Anderson, baritone  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN: *Missa solemnis*

“*Missa solemnis* may be the greatest piece never heard,” wrote biographer Jan Swafford. It’s almost too big for the concert hall, too dramatic for the church, and notoriously difficult for the singers. Enter the internationally renowned Atlanta Symphony Chorus. Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann wraps up the Beethoven Project with this singular sacred work, written by Beethoven as he entered the most inward-looking, visionary time in his compositional life. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra welcomes four acclaimed soloists from the world of opera for this monumental work written as an appeal for peace and in praise of God.

### **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs just celebrated anniversaries: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrated 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turned 30.

The Orchestra’s range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO’s 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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