

# Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

Elizabeth Gwinn  
Executive Director

John V. Sinclair  
Artistic Director

Eric Ravndal III  
President

Contact: Margo Stedman  
Phone: 407.646.2342  
Fax: 407.646.2692  
E-mail: [mstedman@bachfestivalflorida.org](mailto:mstedman@bachfestivalflorida.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Bach Festival Society presents Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*

**Winter Park, FL** The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park closes its 2007–2008 Choral Masterworks Series on **Saturday, April 12 at 8pm and Sunday, April 13 at 3pm** in Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College Campus with the monumental ***Symphony No. 2* by Gustav Mahler**. This impressive symphony, which ends with a large choral finale performed in German, was a favorite of Pope John Paul II and has been compared to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. The Bach Festival Choir will be joined by soprano Christina Major and mezzo-soprano Laura Pudwell.

Mahler was the quintessential Romantic figure—his art and life were interwoven in an inseparable way, and all of his music is deeply meaningful. It has been said that “Mahler, more than any other composer, attempted to express the full expanse of his identity through his symphonies” (J. Greshes). Although now widely acknowledged to be one of the late-romantic era's most important composers, during his lifetime he was better known as a conductor. Born in 1860 in what is now the Czech Republic, Mahler began his conducting career at the young age of 20 and directed the Vienna Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

*Symphony No. 2* is an epic consisting of five movements that dramatically portray humankind's struggle towards eternal salvation. The first movement of the symphony is a funeral march. The

second is about youth and the loss of innocence, while the third movement expresses anger at God about life's events. The mezzo-soprano enters in the fourth movement and sings about humankind's quest after God. The final movement, featuring the entire chorus, is an answer to the questions posed throughout the rest of the symphony—resurrection.

The Bach Festival Society is pleased to bring this exciting work to Central Florida.

#### Performance Information

**What:** The Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra performing Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*

**Where:** Knowles Memorial Chapel, Rollins College

**When:** Saturday, April 12 at 8pm; Sunday, April 13 at 3pm

**Tickets:** \$20, \$35 and \$45, depending on seat location

#### About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

For more information regarding the season or to order tickets, please call the Bach Festival Society at 407.646.2182 or visit us online at [www.bachfestivalflorida.org](http://www.bachfestivalflorida.org).

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