Russian National Orchestra Returns to Cohan Center July 21

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The renowned Russian National Orchestra – hailed as “a living symbol of the best in Russian art” by the Miami Herald – returns to the Christopher Cohan Center on Wednesday, July 21, at 8 p.m.

Russia’s most in-demand touring orchestra appears as part of the Cal Poly Arts Center Stage Summer series.

Charles Ketcham conducts the 91-member Orchestra, with guest soloists Chris and Dan Brubeck. The evening program features "Festive Overture, Op. 96" by Shostakovich, John Adams’ "The Chairman Dances," Chris Brubeck’s "Concerto for Bass Trombone and Orchestra," and Tchaikovsky's tragic and haunting "Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op.74, (Pathétique)."

Grammophon Magazine called the RNO's 1991 debut CD "an awe-inspiring experience" and listed it as the best recording of Tchaikovsky's “Pathétique” in history.

Debuting in Moscow in 1990, the privately-funded RNO was the first Russian orchestra to perform at the Vatican and in Israel. London’s Evening Standard wrote, "(The RNO) played with such captivating beauty that the audience gave an involuntary sigh of pleasure."

By the time of the RNO's 10th anniversary, they were known as classical music's "story of the decade" (International Arts Manager). Earlier this year, they were described "as close to perfect as one could hope for." (Classics Today)

The RNO has made more than 30 recordings for Deutsche Grammophon and PentaTone Classics, with conductors that include Mikhail Pletnev, Mstislav Rostropovich, Kent Nagano and Alexander Vedernikov.

Their 2003 recording of Prokofiev's “Peter and the Wolf” and Beintus' “Wolf Tracks,” conducted by Kent Nagano, won a Grammy Award, making the
RNO the first Russian orchestra ever to win the recording industry's highest honor.

Unique among the principal Russian ensembles, the RNO is independent of the government and has developed its own structure. It also established a Conductor Collegium, a group of internationally renowned conductors who share the podium leadership.

Another innovation is Cultural Allies, created in 2001 and encompassing exchanges between artists in Russia and the West in the commissioning of new works.

Prominent RNO partners in Cultural Allies include Dave and Chris Brubeck, Hélène Grimaud, Sophia Loren, Wynton Marsalis, John Corigliano, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

This concert is part of the RNO-Grove Street Winery Summer series.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 - $54 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

Center Stage Program Partners: Clifford Chapman and Gene Shidler, Sheila and Yosef Tiber, and KCBX 90.1 FM.

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