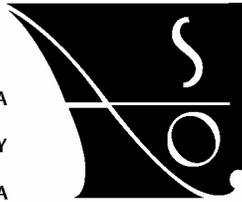


A T L A N T A  
S Y M P H O N Y  
O R C H E S T R A



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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS  
"DEAR FRIENDS - MUSIC FROM FINAL FANTASY"  
ON JUNE 24 AND 25 AT SYMPHONY HALL**

**Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to Perform  
Music from the Popular Videogame Series**

**ATLANTA –April 4, 2005**–The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will present “Dear Friends – Music from FINAL FANTASY” on June 24 and June 25 in Symphony Hall. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will perform composer Nobuo Uematsu’s music for the best-selling game series. Conductor Arnie Roth will lead the performances, which will also feature images from the game displayed on projection screens above the stage.

FINAL FANTASY, the flagship game of publisher Square Enix, is one of the strongest selling title franchises in the world with more than 60 million units sold. The first FINAL FANTASY concert was held in Japan in February 2002. The sold-out performance, featuring the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and famed conductor Taizo Takemoto, was held at the Tokyo International Forum. The first American concert, performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale in May 2004, was also a sell-out, as were subsequent performances in Chicago and San Francisco.

The Atlanta concerts will be held on **Friday, June 24 at 8pm and Saturday, June 25 at 6pm**. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$70 and can be purchased online at [www.atlantasymphony.org](http://www.atlantasymphony.org) or by calling the Woodruff Arts Center box office at 404-733-5000.

### About FINAL FANTASY

Created by Hironobu Sakaguchi, the first FINAL FANTASY was released in 1987 in Japan and 1990 in North America. Spanning across multiple platforms, the long running series introduced the world of cinematic role-playing games (RPGs) to millions of gamers around the world. The most recent installment in the series, FINAL FANTASY XI, is the first online title in the series and provides a brand new gaming universe that contains the award-winning visual content, innovative gameplay and deep storyline seen throughout the series.

### About Nobuo Uematsu

Born in Kouchi City Japan on March 21, 1959, Nobuo Uematsu has been called the “John Williams of the video game world.” Entirely self-taught, Uematsu started playing the piano at the age of 12. In his early 20's, he played keyboards with many amateur bands and eventually ventured into composition. After sending out demo tapes to several companies, he was hired to write music for radio CM. In 1985, a friend at the video game company Squaresoft asked Uematsu to write music for one of the company's video games, which led his work with Square Enix, which produces the FINAL FANTASY games.

### About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

As the largest orchestra in the Southeastern United States, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is also one of the youngest American orchestras to achieve international prominence. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is led by its Creative Partnership of Music Director Robert Spano and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles. Now in its 60<sup>th</sup> season, the ASO performs a year-round slate of more than 250 concerts annually, including a 72-concert classical season and related series at Atlanta Symphony Hall, an annual summer pops series at Chastain Park Amphitheater, and a full schedule of educational, neighborhood and Free Parks concerts throughout the City of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is committed to serving its evolving community through concerts, classroom instruction, individual mentoring and coaching, professional development for teachers and events for families. The Orchestra supports 200 young musicians annually through the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and Talent Development Program. More than 50,000 preschool through eighth grade children attend the ASO Young People's Concerts each year. Through its community partnerships, the ASO serves a variety of audiences both in Atlanta and throughout the state of Georgia.

### About the Woodruff Arts Center

The largest center in the United States for the performing arts and visual arts, the Woodruff Arts Center opened in 1968 with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and

Atlanta College of Art as founding members. The Alliance Theater was added in 1970 and Young Audiences of Atlanta in 2005. This unique combination of major institutions now draws more than one million visitors each year to the Woodruff Arts Center, provides educational programs to more than 1.2 million children annually and allows the Woodruff to be the only performing arts center in the United States to have an independent credit rating. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's expansion of the Woodruff's South Campus through the creation of Atlanta Symphony Center will be preceded in 2005 by a major expansion of the North Campus, with the opening of a new "village of the arts" designed by architect Renzo Piano. When completed, the expanded campus will feature architectural statements by Joseph Amisano, Richard Meier, Renzo Piano and Santiago Calatrava.

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