



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Lisa Remby (262) 373-5034

email: lremby@wilson-center.com
visit our website at: wilson-center.com

Frankly Music concert on Wilson Center classical series in May

Brookfield, WI (April 21, 2010) MSO Concertmaster, Frank Almond, brings his **Frankly Music** program to the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts' Classical Series at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 10 in the Dawes Studio Theater. The evening's program includes Giuseppe Tartini's, Sonata in g, *Devil's Trill*, Mendelssohn Trio in d minor, Ned Rorem selections from *Day Music* and *Night Music*, and Dvořák's Dumky trio. Ticket prices are \$30; groups of 10 or more \$20. For more information or tickets call (262) 781-9520 or visit wilson-center.com.

Frankly Music is an audience-friendly chamber music series that combines a first-rate performance with accessible discussions of specific pieces of music. In addition to violinist **Frank Almond**, the Wilson Center concert includes cellist **Joseph Johnson** and pianist **Michael Mizrahi**. Of the May 10th concert, Mr. Almond says, "I'm very excited about the program we've put together for our first concert at the Wilson Center. The Mendelssohn and Dvořák trios are really staples of the repertory that everyone will enjoy, and the Rorem pieces are beautiful and drawn from the new CD. The Tartini is also interesting to hear live, considering its intimate connection with the violin I'm playing. I'm also very happy to be performing with Michael Mizrahi, a relative newcomer to the Milwaukee and Appleton arts scene, and Joe Johnson, in what will probably be one of his final chamber music concerts before he moves to Toronto."

Violinist **Frank Almond** holds the Charles and Marie Caestecker Concertmaster Chair at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He returned to the MSO after holding positions as Concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic with Valery Gergiev, and Guest Concertmaster of the London Philharmonic with Kurt Masur. He continues an active schedule of solo and chamber music performances in the US and abroad including recent appearances with the Ojai Festival, the American String Project in Seattle, Frankly Music, the Nara Academy in Nara, Japan, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Music in the Vineyards, and various solo appearances with orchestras. He has been a member of the chamber group An die Musik in

New York City since 1997, and also directs the highly successful Frankly Music Chamber Series based in Milwaukee.

Mr. Almond holds two degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Dorothy DeLay. Other important teachers included Michael Tseitlin, Felix Galimir, and Joseph Silverstein. When he's not traveling around playing the violin he lives in Milwaukee with his wife and two young daughters. He plays on a violin by Antonio Stradivari from 1715, the "ex-Lipinski". In 2008 he started writing an online column called *nondivisi*.

Joseph Johnson is currently the principal cellist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and principal cellist-designate of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, a post he takes up at the start of the 2010-2011 season. He continues as principal cellist of the Santa Fe Opera. Highlights of Mr. Johnson's current season include six performances of Brahms's Double Concerto with violinist Frank Almond and Edo de Waart conducting the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, both locally and on tour. He performs as soloist in Dvorák's Cello Concerto with Andreas Delfs and the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, while conducting master classes and participating in chamber music collaborations throughout the country. Mr. Johnson also frequently appears on the "Frankly Music" series, with MSO Concertmaster, Frank Almond.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Johnson earned his master's degree from Northwestern University. Awards and honors include a performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music and first prize from the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition. He has conducted master classes at The New World Symphony, The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University, and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Johnson performs on a Juan Guillami cello, crafted in 1747.

Michael Mizrahi has appeared as concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and music educator across the U.S. and in Europe. He has performed as soloist with the Houston Symphony, National Symphony, Sioux City Symphony, and Prince Georges Philharmonic Orchestra, in such venues as the Kimmel Center, the Kennedy Center, and Houston's Jones Hall. In 2005 he appeared as soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto, K. 488 with the Curtis Chamber Orchestra, under Leon Fleisher. He has given solo recitals on Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Concert Series, Houston's Channing Recital Series, and in Washington, D.C.'s Phillips Collection, and has performed chamber music in Carnegie Hall, Boston's Gardner Museum, and at many chamber music festivals, including Music@Menlo, the Ravinia Festival, and the Yellow Barn Music Festival. A winner of Astral Artists' 2005 National Auditions, pianist Michael Mizrahi joined Astral's artist roster that year.

Michael Mizrahi began piano studies at the age of four. He recently received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Yale School of Music, where he studied with Claude Frank. He was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Piano at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The Frankly Music concert is sponsored by Alternative Machine Tools and takes place in the Dawes Studio Theater as part of the Wilson Center Classical Series.

Photographs of the Frankly Music musicians are available for print and web.

Attention Calendar Editors

Frankly Music

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, Brookfield

Monday, May 10, 2010 at 7:00 pm

An audience-friendly classical concert, hosted by Frank Almond, Concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, featuring music by Tartini, Mendelssohn, Rorem, and Dvořák. Tickets \$30; call (262) 781-9520 or visit wilson-center.com

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that offers performances by regional and touring groups, arts education, and an art gallery with changing exhibits. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including Danceworks, Inc., First Stage Theater Academy, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Wisconsin fine artists are showcased at the Hidden River Art Festival in September and in the Ploch Art Gallery with five exhibitions each year. **The Wilson Center for the Arts is just minutes west of Milwaukee, nestled in Brookfield's Mitchell Park south of 198th & Capitol Drive. For information about the Wilson Center call (262)781-9470.**

- # -

