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Columbus Symphony
Orchestra

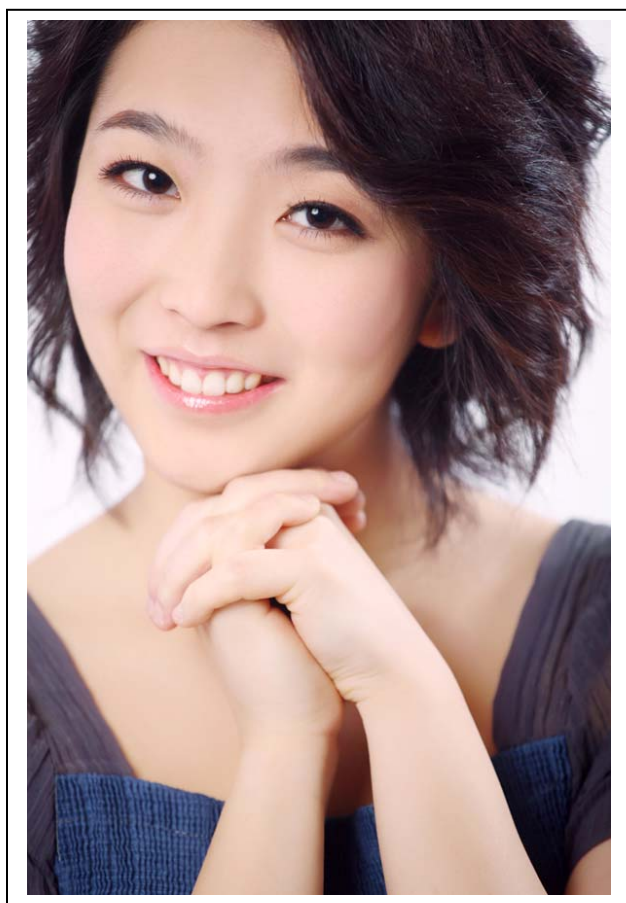
GEORGE DEL GOBBO
Music Director and Conductor



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Pianist Claire Huangci to perform Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 at Opening Concert for the CSO!

COLUMBUS, GA, August 23, 2011—The Columbus Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is pleased to present *Brahms and Prokofiev* featuring pianist Claire Huangci on September 17, 2011 at 7:30PM in Bill Heard Theatre. Come early at 6:30P and enjoy **Know the Score**, a pre-concert discussion given by Conductor George Del Gobbo about the music featured in *Brahms and Prokofiev*. Know the Score is sponsored by Columbus Regional Healthcare System. This concert features Weber's Overture to "Der Frieschutz;" Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major, Op. 26; and Brahms' Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98. Tickets are \$28 to \$36 Adults; \$26 to \$31 for Seniors (over 60); \$22 and \$26 for Students, Enlisted Military and Music/Teacher Educators; \$10 Student Rush ticket (1 hour prior to the performance, (must show school i.d.); and \$5 Child (12 and under). Tickets may be purchased at the RiverCenter Box Office, 900 Broadway, Monday through Friday, 10A to 5:30P or Tickets.com, 888.332.5200. The CSO will open the final dress rehearsal (**S'MORES – Saturday Mid-Day Orchestra Rehearsal**) for this concert on September 17th, from 12:30P to 3:30P for seniors over 60 who cannot travel at night; parents who want to expose their young children (under 12) to music; and fine arts students from local colleges and universities (with student i.d.). The cost is \$5 for seniors and students and \$3 for children. For more information call 706.256.3640.



Brahms and Prokofiev is sponsored by Aflac, St. Francis Hospital, Marriott Columbus, and Sunny 100. This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a partner of the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information call the CSO office at 706.323.5059 or visit us online at www.csoga.org.

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About Claire Huangci:

Born in Rochester, New York, 20 year old American pianist Claire Huangci astonishes all who hear her perform. Legendary pianist Vladimir Krainev has dubbed her the pianist with “the fastest fingers in the world.” Coming from a family of scientists, Claire received a grand piano for her 6th year birthday present. After exploring the instrument herself in the first year, she was featured on FOX news as a child prodigy with the skills of a professional pianist.

In 2003, Claire was accepted by the Curtis Institute with a full scholarship and continued her piano studies there for four years. During that time, she won the 57th Kosciuszko Chopin International Piano Competition in NYC and Diploma of Outstanding Merit in the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition. She also had her debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Wolfgang Sawallisch.

Claire made her first appearances in Europe in 2007 with solo performances in Herkulesaal die Residenz in Munich, Ludwigshafen, and in the Salle Cortot Hall of Paris as well as concerto appearances with National Philharmonique du Maroc, China Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Suedwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz Orchester.

During the 2008-2009 season, Claire appeared in numerous solo and concerto performances at various venues and festivals such as Vienna Konzerthaus with the Wiener Kammerorchester and Ariel Zuckermann, St. Petersburg Hermitage Theater with St. Petersburg Symphony, Bonn Beethovenhaus, Salzburg Mozarteum, Israel Rubinstein Foundation series, Osaka Symphony Hall, NYC Carnegie Hall, Bad Kissingen Klavierolympiade, Kissinger Sommer Festspiele, Schwetzingen Festspiele, and Mainz Musiksommer.

Her 2009-2010 season began with her debut in Zurich Tonhalle with the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Fedosseyev under the auspices of the Orpheum Foundation and included concerts at Karlsruhe Konzerthaus, Frankfurt Sendesaal in cooperation with Hessischer Rundfunk, Duszni Chopin Festival, Bregenz Festspielhaus, Antibes Generation Virtuoses Festival, Verbier Festival, and return visits to Bonn Beethovenhaus, Carnegie Hall and Paris Salle Cortot. In October 2009, Claire was awarded with the first prize and prize for the best performance of the polonaise at the Darmstadt International Chopin Competition. In February 2010, Claire Huangci was awarded with the 1st prize and all special prizes at the 8th US National Chopin Competition. Most recently, she became a laureate at the 2010 Queen Elisabeth Competition where she performed Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto no. 2 with the National Orchestra of Belgium under the direction of Maestro Marin Alsop at the Brussels Palais des Beaux Arts. She was given the honor of performing the opening concert at the Shanghai EXPO with Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra and Sir Roger Norrington in May 2010, as part of the orchestra’s Asian tour, with additional concerts in Macao, and Shenzhen.

Highlights from the current season include subscription concerts with the Cannes Orchestre, Stuttgart Radio Sinfonie Orchester with Sir Roger Norrington, Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Miami Symphony with Maestro Philippe Entremont, a tour of Europe with Maestro Howard Griffiths and the Animato Stiftung Orchestra, and recitals in the Duszni Chopin Festival, Lodz Rubinstein Festival, Ravinia Festival, Bodensee Festival, Paris Solistes Serres Auteil Festival, Warsaw National Philharmonic Hall, Copenhagen Tivoli Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus, and tours in Japan and USA.

Claire Huangci has been studying at the Hannover Musikhochschule with Prof. Vardi since October 2007. She has received scholarships from Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben, DAAD, and Yamaha Music Foundation, and was awarded the 2010 SONY career grant from NYC Salon de Virtuosi, Promusicis Award, and the Orpheum Music Prize from Zurich.

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra was formed in 1855 and is the second orchestra founded in the nation. The CSO, under the direction of George Del Gobbo, has long been considered one of the Southeast’s premier musical ensembles. The CSO is a tenant of RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. The Symphony’s performance venue, Bill Heard Theatre, seats 2,000 and provides a state-of-the-art visual and acoustical experience. This season marks some milestones for the CSO. We will be celebrating 156 years of the CSO and 25 years of conductor George Del Gobbo. We invite you to celebrate with us and **JOIN THE TRADITION!** For more information about the CSO visit our website at www.csoga.org or call 706.323.5059.