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KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

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Photos available upon request

MEDIA RELEASE

ANDRÉ LAPLANTE MAKES HIS DÉBUT WITH THE KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA PLAYING BEETHOVEN'S "EMPEROR" PIANO CONCERTO

Markham, Ontario. One of Canada's greatest pianists, André Laplante, makes his début with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra playing Beethoven's "Emperor" piano concerto. André Laplante has established himself as one of the greatest romantic virtuosi of 20th and 21st centuries and has performed to a great acclaim on all 5 continents.

"André Laplante is one of the finest Canadian pianists of our time," said Maestro **Kristian Alexander**, Music Director of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra. "His interpretation of Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto, deeply emotional and sincere, conquers the hearts and stirs the souls of everyone who is touched by his art."

"André Laplante has served as an inspiration to many young musicians," said **Jobert Sevilleno**, President and CEO of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra. "His work in both Canada and the USA has had a tremendous impact on preparing the next generation of gifted pianists. We are deeply honoured and fortunate to have him as featured soloist at our upcoming concert."

André Laplante replaces Anton Kuerti, whose originally scheduled performance was cancelled due to illness.

PROGRAM AND TICKET DETAILS

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased through Flato Markham Theatre Box Office in person, by phone at 905.305.7469 or online at MarkhamTheatre.ca. The Box office is located at 171 Town Centre Blvd, Markham ON L3R 8G5.

Friday, April 18, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

Flato Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts

Rimsky-Korsakov, *Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36*
Beethoven, *Concerto for piano and orchestra No. 5 "Emperor"*
Schumann, *Symphony No. 1 in B flat major, Op. 38 "Spring"*

[Kristian Alexander](#) | conductor

[André Laplante](#) | piano

[Alexa Petrenko](#) | host (Classical 96.3 FM radio)

ANDRÉ LAPLANTE - BIOGRAPHY

Over the last decade, Canadian pianist André Laplante has firmly established himself as one of the great romantic virtuosos. He garnered international attention after winning prizes at the Geneva and Sydney International Piano Competitions, then capturing the silver medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Critics have compared him with Ashkenazy, Horowitz and Rudolph Serkin, placing him in the elite circle of virtuoso pianists who do not hesitate to take risks.

In 2005, Mr. Laplante was honored to be named an Officer of the Order of Canada. In that same year, he was awarded the Prix Opus for Best Performer of the Year. In 1999, he received two Opus Awards for live performances: "Best Concert in Montréal" and "Best Concert in Québec Province." Most recently, in 2010, he received another Prix Opus, this time for Best Concert of the Year.

In recent years, Laplante has appeared as orchestral soloist with the Montréal and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, the Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Sir Neville Mariner, on tour in Europe with the Toronto Symphony under Andrew Davis and with the Royal Philharmonic under the baton of the late Sir Yehudi Menuhin during their extensive North American tour.

Recent seasons have also included a major concert tour of the People's Republic of China, recital tours of the Far East, Australia and North America, and appearances at major music festivals, including the Debussy Festival (France), Pecs Festival (Hungary), Orford Festival (Canada), Cascais Festival (Portugal), Salzburg Festival (Austria), Festival International de Lanaudière (Canada), International Summer Festival (Canada), Domaine Forget (Canada), and the TCU-Van Cliburn Institute (USA). Mr. Laplante performed with the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in Malaysia as well as a critically acclaimed appearance with orchestra and quartet in an all French Festival with the Buffalo Philharmonic. He also appeared with the Columbus Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa and Club Musical de Québec, as well as performances with the Toronto, Québec, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Lexington, Pasadena and México City symphonies.

André Laplante has served as a juror of the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, the International Music Festival in Australia, the CBC National Competition, the Honens International Piano Competition, the William Kapell International Piano Competition.

Mr. Laplante also takes time off his concerts schedule to teach. He has a class at the Montreal Conservatory and also spends a few weeks in the summer teaching in Canada and the United States. He starts his summer season by spending one week in the beautiful settings of the Adamant School of Music in Vermont, a place he is very fond of. He teaches a Master class every day and students experiment with a very intense piano immersion. He also goes to the Orford Festival where he teaches one Class every day and prepares students for performances. He has been invited to the Calgary Music Bridge program where international students gather every summer.

An active recording artist, André Laplante's releases on the Analekta label include works by Ravel and Rachmaninov, an award winning Brahms album (Félix 1996), and a Liszt recording (Félix 1995) which was voted best solo classical album of the year by the Toronto Star. He has also recorded for CBC and Melodia: his performance of Jacques Hetu's Piano Concerto No. 2 for CBC Records won the 2004 Juno award for orchestral recordings, as well as the Western Canadian Music Award. His recording of Tchaikovsky No. 1 with Joav Talmi and l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, was nominated for the 2001 Felix Award; and in 2010 his recording of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage* was awarded a Felix Award for Best Classical Solo Album of the Year.

ABOUT THE KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

Since 2009, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra has performed, to a great acclaim, sold-out audiences, and standing ovations at the legendary CBC Glenn Gould Studio in downtown Toronto. As of the 2011, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra has also established a 6-concert subscription series at the Flato Markham Theatre, in addition to 3 community-outreach and 2 educational concerts. Led by the charismatic Maestro Kristian Alexander, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra is enjoying an enormous popularity among York Region's residents and continues to attract avid audiences across the Greater Toronto Area. The Orchestra performs a wide range of compositions by Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, Handel, Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Chopin, and many others. Ardent supporter of contemporary music, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra created, also in 2011, Markham Contemporary Music Festival, an annual event that has brought to life great pieces of the 20th century by Lutoslavsky, Stravinsky, Philip Glass, Honegger as well as by illustrious Canadian composers such as Garry Kulesha, Brian Current, Larysa Kuzmenko, Daniel Friedman, Kevin Lau, and Constantine Caravassilis. During the past few years alone, the orchestra has regularly worked with internationally renowned soloists such as pianists Christina Quilico and Maxim Bernard, violinists Joelle Kee and Marc Djokic, cellist Rachel Mercer, soprano Rebecca Whelan, and tenor Keith Klassen.

The upcoming 2014.2015 concert season will offer many internationally renowned soloists: Canadian pianist Christina Petrowska-Quilico, Korean pianist Younggun Kim as well as Armenian violinist Ruben Kosemyan and American harpist Ann Hobson Pilot, among them. The orchestra will also give the Canadian première of *On Willows and Birches* for harp and orchestra written by the world's greatest composers of film music, John Williams. The Kindred Spirits Orchestra has also commissioned a brand new Concerto for piano and orchestra by the Canadian composer Constantine Caravassilis, which will have its world première in 2015. A world première of Canadian composer James Campbell's concerto for harp and orchestra is also lined up in November 2014 in Ottawa. Great lineup of masterworks by Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Strauss, Ravel, Wagner, Liszt and many others dazzle thousands of music-lovers and will bring again passion and excitement to Flato Markham Theatre 2014.2015 concert season.