



KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

Kristian Alexander | Music Director

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release.

MARKHAM NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL offers new experiences.

May 6, 2011, MARKHAM – The Kindred Spirits Orchestra, under the Honorary Patronage of Mayor Frank Scarpitti of Markham, is performing the last concert of the inaugural Markham New Music Festival on this Saturday, May 7 at 8:00 p.m. at the Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery. Created as an annual event by Maestro Kristian Alexander, the founder and music director of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, and the first of this type in the York Region, the Festival explores unconventional and new ways of presenting live music to the audience by choosing untraditional concert venues (shopping centres, power plants, construction sites, airports, train stations) as well as by offering unique and unprecedented experiences. The concert at Varley Art Gallery is presented as a reflection of the multifaceted world of fairytales explored in the current art exhibition, “The Book” by Carol Wainio.

According to Maestro Alexander, *“Concerts of live orchestral music presented in art galleries are, of course, not new. We live in a world where the role of the visual stimuli has increasingly become more important than ever. This has greatly affected the traditional format of live music performances by introducing various “enhancements” that are not essential to the performance but are used primarily for illustrational or social purposes (i.e. lighting design, conventional concert attire or period costumes, video screens and cameras showing the conductors and the musicians during the concert, projections of images, and others). While these visual stimuli are mostly appropriate and address the evolving perception of the contemporary audience, I believe music presented without any visual enhancements can still be just as powerful. The music I have chosen for the first part of the concert is directly related to the world of fairytales. The fabulous tableaux by Carol Wainio that will surround both the orchestra and the audience will situate both the performer and the listener in identical context, thus, effacing the habitual line that separates these two groups in the traditional concert hall. In order to further explore the limits of the visual connection between the orchestra and its audience, we will offer our patrons an unparallel experience by placing the entire orchestra behind an 8-foot-tall resonating wall. The audience will be only visually separated from the orchestra, while experiencing the sound as a reflection of the surrounding visual world. I hope that connecting the orchestra with the listeners only through sound will redefine the boundaries of the conventional relationship between the artist and the audience, allowing them both to further enrich their experiences.”*

For more information about Markham New Music Festival, visit www.KSOchestra.ca/MNMF.html

For more information about the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, visit www.KSOchestra.ca.

For more information about Maestro Kristian Alexander, visit www.KristianAlexander.com.

The Kindred Spirits Orchestra thanks its supporters: Cultural Strategic Investment Fund of Ontario, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, the Ontario Ministry of Culture, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Association, the SOCAN Foundation, the Town of Markham through the Frederic Horsman Varley Art Gallery and the Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts, as well as the main sponsor of the Markham New Music Festival: the International Music Academy.

During the 2011 | 2012 concert season, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, Markham’s only symphony, will present 5 subscription concerts at Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts as well as 3 educational and community outreach events, including Markham New Music Festival, North York Music Festival, and Unionville Canada Day Celebration.

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