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Conductor Sergei Kondrashev Selected As Classical Archives Artist of the Month for December

**Rising-Star Conductor Hailed as One of Russia's Leading Young Talents
Disciple of Legendary Conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky Recently Completed US Tour**

Palo Alto, CA December 1, 2005 – Sergey Kondrashev, a young, yet already highly acclaimed Russian conductor, has been selected as Artist of the Month for December 2005 by the Classical Archives (<http://www.classicalarchives.com/artists/aotm.html>), in recognition of his rising stature in the classical music world.

Sergey Kondrashev is but 30 years old, and already has led some of the finest orchestras in Russia – including the Bolshoi Theater Orchestra, the Russian National Ballet Orchestra, the Moscow State Philharmonic Society Orchestra, and the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra. He has twice toured the US, most recently with the Russian National Ballet Orchestra. He is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied under famed Russian conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky – who has led the BBC and Vienna Symphony Orchestras, and is a master interpreter of Prokofiev. Kondrashev seems poised to follow in his teacher's footsteps and take the reigns of the leading orchestras of Russia and beyond.

According to Dr. Nolan Gasser, Artistic Director of the Classical Archives, "Maestro Kondrashev is receiving considerable buzz from within the Moscow music scene, and seems on the verge of an increasingly international career. I am particularly impressed with his excellent interpretations of the modern Russian composer, Andrei Eshpai. It is pleasure to welcome this talented young musician as our latest Artist of the Month." Dr. Gasser is himself a critically acclaimed composer, pianist, conductor and arranger, as well as a published musicologist. He received his Ph.D. in Musicology in 2001 from Stanford University, where he is an Adjunct Professor in Medieval and Renaissance Music History.

About The Classical Archives: The Classical Music Archives mission is to focus on, and serve, the niche classical music audience which is largely ignored by online music services. Whereas a search for “Beethoven” on other sites may return three files – one of which is a movie about a dog and the other two are pop/rock titles, the Classical Archives empowers users to make in-depth searches returning meaningful and accurate results. The Classical Music Archives now offers over 35,000 tracks (increasing daily) which are carefully cataloged and presented for a superior user experience.

The Classical Music Archives is a subscription-based online music service offering the largest collection of classical music files on the Internet. Close to 3,000,000 unique users visit the site each month. Subscribers pay a small annual fee of \$25 and can stream/download up to 1,000 files per month. The site also welcomes free users although they are limited to accessing only five files per day.

The Classical Music Archives also features in-depth corollary content such as biographies, timelines, and a Learning Center for musicians and conductors. Live recordings are delivered in Hi-Fi MP3 or streamed in the WMA format. A very large collection of MIDI files enables listeners to download large works quickly and, with the appropriate software, to actually see and follow the scores.

The Classical Archives was created in 1994 by CEO Pierre R. Schwob to offer classical music in well organized and clearly cataloged MIDI files. The Internet was at the beginning of its exponential growth and the site quickly gathered a faithful and enthusiastic following. By the end of the last century, the site had developed into the largest classical music site on the web. Live recordings, biographies and historical context were then added in 2000 and the site has continued to expand. The Company is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA (with several offices around the world) and over 35,000 music files from over 1,900 composers are available at www.classicalarchives.com

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