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## Composer Andrei Eshpai Selected Classical Archives Artist of the Month for October

Acclaimed Russian Composer Celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday This Year;

**Composer of Symphonic and Chamber Music, Including Folk- and Jazz-Influenced Works**

Palo Alto, CA September 29, 2005 – Celebrated Russian composer Andrei Eshpai has been selected as the Artist of the Month for October 2005 by the Classical Archives (<http://www.classicalarchives.com/artists/aotm.html>), in recognition of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and a lifetime of creative achievement.

In his prodigious musical output, Mr. Eshpai reveals himself a true representative of the Russian school of composers (stemming from Rimsky-Korsakov to Shostakovich and beyond), indebted to its melodic heritage and the rich legacy of creative orchestration. Andrei Eshpai hails from the former Soviet republic of Mari (in the Volga River region), and the folk melodies of his homeland continually play a major role in his works. A graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied under Aram Khachaturian, Mr. Eshpai has received numerous honors – including the Lenin and State Prizes, and the distinguished title of People's Artist of Russia. He is a prolific composer, having completed nine symphonies, concertos for every instrument of the orchestra, two ballets, an opera, a musical, and numerous chamber works. Beyond his classical works, Mr. Eshpai has composed several jazz-influenced works, many of which have become celebrated in Russia.

According to Dr. Nolan Gasser, Artistic Director of the Classical Archives, "Andrei Eshpai is a wonderful new addition to the Archives. His music is bold and engaging, with rich orchestration in the best Russian tradition. His music speaks in a language that will be quite accessible to a broad range of tastes and experiences with modern music." 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.

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**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](http://www.classicalarchives.com)

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