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Classical Music Archives Names Renowned Violinist Eduard Grach First Artist of the Month

New Feature Promotes Prominent Independent Artists From Around the Globe

Grach Viewed as One of Russia's Best; Holds Numerous Distinguished Titles

Palo Alto, CA August 2, 2005 – The Classical Music Archives named world-renowned Russian violinist Eduard Grach as its first-ever Artist of the Month (<http://www.classicalarchives.com/artists/aotm.html>), a new honor that the 11-year-old on-line music service will provide to feature prominent independent artists whose accomplishments in the realm of classical music are exemplary.

Mr. Grach is one of the most renowned violinists in Russia, and holds a number of distinguished titles, including People's Artist of Russia and Best Teacher of Russia (twice). He was born in Odessa, Ukraine in 1930, and began playing the violin at an early age. In 1943, Mr. Grach was invited to enter the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied with Abram Yampolsky (the so-called founder of the Soviet School of Violinists.)

Early in his career, Mr. Grach won First Prize at several international competitions - in Budapest (1949), Paris (the Marguerite Long and Jaques Thibaud International Violin Competition, 1955) and Moscow (the Tchaikovsky competition, 1962) - thereby launching an active performing and recording career that continues to this day. He is often praised for his romantic, emotional playing style, and brilliant technique.

Mr. Grach began conducting in 1979, and in 1990 formed the Moscoviya Chamber Orchestra, which debuted at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory to great critical success. The ensemble's repertoire ranges widely, from Baroque to Contemporary works.

In June 2005, the Classical Archives added Maestro Grach to its ever-growing roster of Independent Classical Artists; for each of its artists, visitors to the Classical Archives can listen to thousands of recordings by over 200 performers, conductors, ensembles, and composers, as well as read bios and reviews. "We are delighted to highlight a large collection of recordings featuring the solo violin work of Eduard Brach, as well as the terrific work of his Moscoviya Chamber Orchestra," says Dr. Nolan Gasser, Artistic Director of The Classical Music Archives. 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.

As heard on ClassicalArchives.com, Mr. Grach possesses flawless technique and rich expression reminiscent of the great virtuosos of the past; the Moscoviya Chamber Orchestra tackles difficult works such as Paganini's *Moto perpetuo*, generally considered beyond the ability of an orchestra to play well. "We're certain that our visitors will be thrilled to hear these works performed by Mr. Grach and his outstanding ensemble," notes Dr. Gasser. Indeed, responses from its users are already coming in: Generosa Rader of San Diego, CA writes, "I am elated that the Classical Archives is now featuring the superb Russian violinist Eduard Grach. I am overjoyed to find a performer who displays such lyricism, passion, and total mastery of the violin, so reminiscent of David Oistrakh, the great Russian violinist of the 1930s-1950s. Kudos to the Classical Archives for preserving classical musical, and for introducing Maestro Grach's incomparable artistry to a wide audience."

The Classical Music Archives is a subscription-based online music service launched in 1994 which has grown to offer the largest collection of classical music files on the Internet. Close to 3,000,000 unique users visit the site each month and enjoy intelligent access to classical music works that are otherwise hidden or absent on other Internet music sites. (See www.classicalarchives.com). One of the first music download sites, The Classical Music Archives houses more than 34,000 full length classical music files.

The website features a user interface that is designed with the classical music enthusiast in mind. 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 a superior browsing environment with 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.

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.

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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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