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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Single tickets and subscriptions on sale
for the ECSO's 2024-2025 Season**

The Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra announces the opening of all subscription and single ticket sales for its 78th season that will celebrate Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada's 15th season. Join us as the ECSO returns to the award-winning Garde Arts Center stage in New London on six Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.: October 26, November 23, January 25, February 22, March 29, and April 26.

We are kicking things off in October (read below for full concert copy) with thrilling repertoire that will feature organist Simon Holt. Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3* utilizes the organ and orchestra in an event not to be missed. November's concert builds on the energy with a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear Mahler's epic *Symphony No. 3*, featuring a massive orchestra, a mezzo-soprano soloist (Janna Baty), and a women's chorus and children's choir. For January 2025, we will hear soloists from within the ECSO: Stephan Tieszen and Alex McLaughlin perform Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin & Viola*. Principal Oboe Erik Andrusyak will perform Mozart's *Oboe Concerto*, and the program is rounded out by Beethoven *Symphony No. 8*, a gorgeous work.

Our February concert will deliver a crowd-pleasing performance of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* and a world premiere by Polina Nazaykinskaya as we continue our fervent hope for peace through music. Violinist Kinga Augustyn will perform Wieniawski's *Violin Concerto No. 2*. In March, we celebrate the onset of Spring with Schumann's *Symphony No. 1 (Spring)* and we will feature pianist Adam Adov, our 2024 Instrumental Competition winner in Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3*. Our season finale in April features famous opera duets and overtures by Verdi and Puccini with soprano Sarah Joyce Cooper and tenor, Jesus Daniel Hernandez. Our Chorus will join us to help bring this landmark season to a fantastic crescendo.

To purchase tickets:

Single tickets to events can be purchased by visiting the Garde Arts Center website at gardearts.org, calling the Garde Arts Center Box Office at 860-444-7373 x 1 or the ECSO office at 860-443-2876. Subscription packages provide a significant discount (up to 40%) versus purchasing individual tickets and are available by calling the ECSO office. In addition to a range of affordable single-ticket options from \$70 to as low as \$12. The ECSO offers those under 40 years of age and active or retired military members \$12 tickets in selected sections.

Opening Night Extravaganza
October 26, 7:30pm, Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

The opening program of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra's 2024-25 season, its 15th under Music Director & Conductor Toshiyuki Shimada, spans two centuries and two continents. After standing for *The Star-Spangled Banner*—as arranged by none other than Igor Stravinsky—the audience will thrill to the theme from the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* (and, more recently, *Barbie*) from German composer Richard Strauss's 1896 tone poem *Also Sprach Zarathustra*. A trip to the Midwest of the 1930s follows: two movements from the orchestral suite based on Aaron Copland's 1954 opera *The Tender Land*. The first half wraps up with more from Strauss: the suite from his 1910 comic opera *Der Rosenkavalier*. Following intermission, London-trained organist Simon Holt, a 25-year resident of southeastern Connecticut and Director of Salt Marsh Opera (among many other organizations), will be the soloist for a performance of French composer Camille Saint-Saëns's sparkling *Symphony No. 3 in C Minor*, known as the "Organ Symphony," dedicated to the memory of Franz Liszt, who died two months after its 1886 premiere.

ECSO general copy:

We are thrilled to announce our 2024-25 Season lineup, curated by Music Director and Conductor Toshiyuki Shimada. Season Highlights include Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3 (Organ)*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*, Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* featuring our Instrumental Competition winner, Puccini & Verdi selections with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus and international guest artists. From early fall to late spring, the 75-plus member professional Symphony Orchestra presents six subscription concerts annually, most of which feature guest soloists. Subscription concerts are primarily performed at the historic award-winning Garde Arts Center on State Street in New London.

Visit www.ectsymphony.com for more information and follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) @ectsymphony.

Founded in 1946 by Norwegian immigrant, Victor Norman, the ECSO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the eastern Connecticut region, including New London, Norwich, Waterford, Groton, Mystic, Old Lyme, and East Lyme. Recent concerts in Norwich, Willimantic, and Stonington reflect our renewed dedication to serving a broader area.

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and connect our communities through live orchestral music.