The American Classical Orchestra Announces 2012-2013 Season
Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" to open Authentic Instrument Ensemble's 28th Season on October 15th at Tully Hall

New York, NY: Hailed as one of America's finest period performance ensembles and led by its music director and conductor THOMAS CRAWFORD, the American Classical Orchestra will perform a series of four concerts at Alice Tully Hall, beginning on October 15th, highlighted by Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream. ACO strives to perform music of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries as faithfully as possible.

The orchestra uses only instruments from those periods or high-quality reproductions of them, and employs a cast of expert musicians trained in historically informed performance techniques. One might liken the difference in sound to seeing an original painting after familiarity only with reproductions: the image is similar, but the strokes and colors - or in this case, the orchestral timbres of gut strings, wood flutes, and valveless brass - are more vivid and natural.

This season, all four concerts will take place at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall at 8:00 PM. At 7:00 PM prior to each event, Thomas Crawford will deliver a pre-concert lecture concerning the history, theory, and interpretive difficulties of the works on the program.

- OPENING NIGHT (Monday, October 15): Mendelssohn's beloved overture and incidental music to Midsummer Night's Dream forms the centerpiece of this diverse program, which also features Brahms' Four Songs for Women's Choir and Haydn's festive Symphony No. 103, "Drumroll."

- MAGNIFICAT GLORIOUS BACH (Tuesday, November 27): The ACO marshals its force of Baroque trumpets and drums, and joins longtime-collaborators the choirs of Trinity Church, Princeton and Trinity Church, New Haven, for Bach's masterful Magnificat. Listeners will also be treated to Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 4, a rarely heard work by Boyce, Symphony in B-Flat and Handel's Organ Concerto in D-minor with organist Gregory D'Agostino.
• ACO ALL STARS ONE NIGHT ONLY (Monday, February 4): The talented principal players of the ACO take their turn in the spotlight for two Mozart concerti. Eric Hoeprich assumes solo duties on basset clarinet - a form of classical-period clarinet not often found in contemporary orchestras - in Clarinet Concerto, while flutist Sandra Miller and harpist Victoria Drake are featured in his Flute & Harp Concerto. Rounding out the program are Beethoven's eternal Symphony No. 5 and Rossini's Overture to La Scala di Setta.

• REFORMATION (Tuesday, June 4): For the final concert of the season, the orchestra is joined by star soloists Layla Claire (soprano) and Benjamin Butterfield (tenor) for arias by Mozart and Rossini. The ACO will also perform Witt's Symphony in C and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, “Reformation.”

Tickets range from $35 – $75. For more information and discount subscription pricing, please visit the ACO website at www.aconyc.org or call 212 362 2727.

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