

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES
THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH ANNUAL POPS CONCERT
Two Performances Feature the CSO Chorus**

Charleston, SC (November 18, 2011) – The Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO) will give its annual Holiday Celebration Pops Series concert on Saturday, December 17, 2011 with two performances at 11:00am and 7:30pm at the Gaillard Municipal Auditorium, 77 Calhoun St., in downtown Charleston, SC. This concert is one of Charleston's most honored traditions, celebrating friendship and goodwill with audience holiday favorites. Conducted by Dr. Robert Taylor, this concert will also feature the CSO Chorus. The CSO and CSO Chorus will perform classical Christmas repertoire as well as traditional holiday songs, including "Sleigh Ride," "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "O Holy Night." The two soloists for the evening are Kori Miller, soprano, and Nathan Matticks, bass.

Dr. Robert Taylor is the Director of the CSO Chorus and the CSO Chamber Singers, and the Director of Choral Activities at the College of Charleston. He is also the Founding Music Director of the Taylor Music Festival and the Taylor Festival Choir. Dr. Taylor is also an accomplished choral scholar, clinician, and lecturer. He holds a Doctor of Music Arts in choral conducting from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music in vocal performance from Sam Houston State University, and a Bachelor in music education from the University of Central Arkansas.

The CSO Chorus is a dedicated group of auditioned, volunteer singers drawn from the greater Charleston area. The CSO Chorus was founded in 1978 and was originally called the Charleston Singers Guild. The Chorus has provided the choral component for CSO concerts for more than 30 years.

Kori Miller is a junior voice major at the College of Charleston, where she is a member of the voice studio of Dr. Robert Taylor. She has been featured as a solo performer with the CofC Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and with the professional Taylor Festival Choir. Last spring, she was Yum Yum in the CofC Opera production of *The Mikado* by Gilbert & Sullivan. She is also featured on the Taylor Festival Choir Holiday CD, *Sing We Now of Christmas*.

Nathan Matticks is a senior vocal performance major at the College of Charleston where he studies voice with David Templeton. He has appeared in *Die Fledermaus* as Frank, and played the role of Simone in Puccini's opera, *Gianni Schicchi*. Nathan most recently appeared as Pooh-Bah in the CofC Opera production of *The Mikado*. He has been a winner at the South Carolina National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions and was featured in the summer of 2010 as a soloist for the Spoleto Young

Artist Series, garnering a positive review in the *Post and Courier's Spoleto Today*. He has performed as a soloist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, is a regular soloist with the College of Charleston Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers, and is a member of the professional Taylor Festival Choir.

Single tickets for the matinee concert are general admission and cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Reserved seating tickets for the evening performance start at \$25 and student tickets are \$10. For information, visit www.charlestonsymphony.org or call (843) 723-7528. Tickets can also be purchased at the Gaillard Box Office, located at 77 Calhoun St. in downtown Charleston.

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About the Charleston Symphony Orchestra

The CSO is a resident orchestra of professional full-time musicians. Since 1936, in its pursuit of artistic excellence, the CSO has presented the Lowcountry area with classical and popular repertoire, ranging from grand symphonic performances to intimate chamber ensembles. The CSO has three affiliate vocal ensembles: the Charleston Symphony Chorus, the Charleston Symphony Gospel Choir, and the Charleston Symphony Spiritual Ensemble.

The CSO is committed to the development of music experiences for children and offers a variety of educational initiatives. During the season, the CSO will reach more than 7,500 students through in-school concerts. The CSO League, a volunteer support group for the CSO, assists in these educational programs.

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[picture of Dr. Robert Taylor]

[picture from last year's holiday concert]

Additional photos provided upon request.