



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nashua Symphony Orchestra plays with
LIGHTNING & FIRE
Guest conductor Karla Lemon
returns with Handel, Mozart, Pärt & Stravinsky**

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra' 2007 | 08 season continues with an electrifying program on Saturday, October 20 at 8:00 p.m. at Nashua's Keefe Auditorium. Entitled "Lightning & Fire", the concert gives voice to both pathos and passion, the calm before the storm...and *the storm*. The excitement will build from Handel's elegant *Concerto Grosso in A minor*, through the classical thunderbolt of Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony and the eerie stillness of Arvo Pärt's *Fratres*, to the hair-raising climax of Stravinsky's *Firebird* suite.

Leading the performance will be conductor Karla Lemon, the second of four finalists in the symphony's international search for a new music director appearing with the NSO this season. Maestra Lemon last appeared with the NSO in March of 2007, when she and the orchestra performed a powerful rendition of Amy Beach's *Gaelic Symphony*. Ms. Lemon confesses that "Handel, Mozart, Pärt, and Stravinsky represent four distinct periods of musical history and four styles of performance for which I have the greatest affinity. Compositionally, each work is its own universe, but each is inevitably linked by way of musical evolution...I invite you to join us this evening to experience this thrilling program."

This will be another exciting night for the NSO and its audience, who will be invited to give their feedback on the performance and conductor through an interactive form at <http://www.nashuasymphony.org>. Audience members will also be invited to meet the Ms. Lemon at a post-concert dessert event held at Nashua's Crowne Plaza, whose desserts were named "Best in New Hampshire" by *New Hampshire Magazine*. Ticket holders will receive 10% off their bill at this "Grande Finale", courtesy of the Crowne Plaza.

This concert is notable for the inclusion of two pieces for string orchestra, one from the late Baroque period, and one from the late 20th century. The form of Handel's concerto grosso was the foundation upon which successive composers constructed the symphonic form (Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony is the apex of this evolution in the Classical period). As conductor Karla Lemon remarks, "Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* functions as sonic repose, much like a sorbet introduced between courses of a complex meal. Pärt's music is influenced by his mystical experiences with early chant. He compares his music to white light, which contains all colors: 'Only a prism can divide the colors and make them appear; this prism could be the spirit of the listener.' I admire his compositional daring, which rejects fashionable complexity in favor of purely meditative music."

Ms. Lemon goes on to note that "Both Mozart and Stravinsky were musical mavericks - expanding traditional forms and exploding the conventional harmonic and orchestrational palette. *Firebird* was conceived as a complete ballet, later shortened into the suite that you hear tonight. I love the romanticized Russian folk melodies and the rhythmic vitality that pervades the score - to say nothing of the invigorating physicality that this piece demands of the conductor."

Karla Lemon – conductor

Karla Lemon has appeared as a guest conductor with numerous orchestras including the Santa Barbara Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, the Spokane Symphony, the Women’s Philharmonic and the Berkeley Symphony. Last December Ms. Lemon made her New York debut in Alice Tully Hall as conductor with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. During the 2007-08 season she will appear as a guest conductor with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus and the Nashua Symphony. Ms. Lemon was Director of Orchestras and Music Director of the Alea II Ensemble for Contemporary Music at Stanford University for ten years. During that time she led the Stanford Symphony Orchestra on three international tours performing in major venues throughout the United States (including Carnegie Hall), Europe and China. Recent highlight performances have included collaborations with guest artists Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Christine Brandes, Fred Sherry, Maria Bachmann, Ida Kafavian and Richard Todd. Ms. Lemon has recorded for the Koch International, Albany, Innova, Vienna Modern Masters and Dorian labels.

WHEN: October 20 @ 8:00 p.m.

**WHAT: Lightning & Fire
 Karla Lemon, conductor; Nashua Symphony Orchestra**

HANDEL

Concerto Grosso in A minor, Op. 6, No. 4

MOZART

Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551 (“Jupiter”)

PÄRT

Fratres

STRAVINSKY

Suite No. 2 (1919) from *The Firebird*

WHERE: Keefe Memorial Auditorium, corner of Lake and Elm Streets, Nashua NH.

Ticket Information

Tickets, priced from \$10 to \$47, are available at the Nashua Symphony Box Office, 6 Church St., can be charged to major credit cards by calling 603.595.9156 or can be purchased online by visiting the NSA website, www.nashuasymphony.org. Discounts for seniors and groups are available. Request a season brochure online, by phone, or via email to NSO@NashuaSymphony.org



