



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Nashua Symphony Orchestra to perform with superstar Clay Aiken**

NSA enjoys its first collaboration with Meadowbrook since 2002

Though the Nashua Symphony Orchestra can't promise a "number one" on the Billboard charts, it can certainly reach for the stars and perform with the biggest out there. On July 25, the orchestra will share the stage with American pop idol Clay Aiken at the Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion in Gilford, NH.

As the runner-up to Fox TV's second American Idol: *The Search for a Superstar* competition, Clay Aiken wowed television audiences in 2003 with his Southern charm, sweet demeanor, and bright, glorious voice, and became a pop star. Out of 7,000 hopefuls, the Charlotte, NC, native won the hearts of the judges as well as millions of fans across the globe. Aiken's debut single, "This Is the Night," made history by going number one on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. It sold more than 392,000 copies during its first week, beating Elton John's record for "Candle in the Wind 1997."

The orchestra, which will be conducted by Clay Aiken's Music Director, Jesse Vargas, was invited to perform by Meadowbrook. This is not the first time the NSA and Meadowbrook have collaborated. In 2002, the orchestra performed with the Irish Tenors.

"Collaborations like this are good for the NSA, and great for the public," says Nashua Symphony Association Executive Director Eric Valliere. "We have a high-caliber professional orchestra here in Nashua, NH and not everyone knows about us or has experienced our performances. Appearing with Clay Aiken gives us more exposure at the same time that it shares the special qualities of a live orchestra with a wider listening public."

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1923, is the state's oldest professional orchestra and includes musicians from throughout New England. Last year, longtime Music Director and Conductor Royston Nash stepped down from the podium after 21 years of devotion to Nashua. The NSA conducted an international search for a new Music Director last season. This season, audiences will enjoy performances by the finalists at four of six regular season concerts. Information about the Nashua Symphony Association 2007-08 Season: *Connections* can be acquired online at [www.nashuasymphony.org](http://www.nashuasymphony.org) or by calling (603) 595-9156.

**Program and Ticket Information**

Artists: Clay Aiken and the Nashua Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Clay Aiken's Music Director, Jesse Vargas

When: July 25, 8:00 pm

Where: Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavillion, Gilford, NH

Tickets are purchased directly from the Meadowbrook box office: [www.meadowbrook.com](http://www.meadowbrook.com) or (603)293-4700. Group discounts and accessible seats are available. For more information, contact [rj@meadowbrook.net](mailto:rj@meadowbrook.net) or [ken@meadowbrook.net](mailto:ken@meadowbrook.net).

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