

Press Release

For immediate release

Contact: Adrienne Allen, Executive Director
(785) 823-8309, execdir@salinasymphony.org



SALINA SYMPHONY CONCERT TO HIGHLIGHT 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN COMPOSERS

Jan. 3, 2010, SALINA, KAN.—The Salina Symphony will present “Music of Our Time” on Sunday, January 31, at 4:00 p.m. at the Stiefel Theatre, 151 S. Santa Fe. The concert will highlight 20th century American composers and will feature Acoustic Eidolon as guest artists.

Acoustic Eidolon musicians Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire, a guitjo/cello duo based out of Colorado, are no strangers to the Salina community, having been featured artists at the Smoky Hill River Festival. The duo began touring with orchestras last season and is thrilled to be returning to Salina to play with the Symphony. Several of Acoustic Eidolon’s original pieces will be performed with full orchestra as accompaniment, offering an exciting blend of Celtic, folk and classical genres.

The duo is unique in that Scott plays a one-of-a-kind instrument called a guitjo, a double-neck guitar designed so that both necks can be play simultaneously. The guitar neck is strung like a traditional six-string guitar while the guitjo neck sounds much like a harp. When paired with Alkire’s cello playing, the result is an innovative sound that has been described as “brilliant instrumentality.”

The Symphony will also perform Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait,” composed in 1942 shortly after the U.S. entered World War II. The work has since become a touchstone in times of crisis and is one of the most enduring works in American music. When composing the piece, Copland

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used excerpts from various Lincoln speeches combined with musical quotations from American songs, such as “Camptown Races.” The work will be narrated by Kansas Wesleyan University faculty member, Dr. John Blackwell.

The Symphony will conclude the concert with a 20th century favorite, “Star Wars Suite” by John Williams. Williams won the Academy Award for “Star Wars” in 1978, beating out his own score for “Close Encounters of the Third Kind.”

The concert is part of the Symphony’s “Music of Substance and Soul” project, which consists of several outreach activities and performances by Acoustic Eidolon, including a January 29 concert for area 4th graders at the Stiefel Theatre. The project is being funded in part by the Horizons Grants Program of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission. Funding for the Horizons Grants Program is provided by Horizons, a private donor group, and the City of Salina.

Tickets are \$19 for adults/\$12 for students and may be purchased at the Stiefel Theatre Box Office, 151 S. Santa Fe, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, by calling 785-827-1998 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. The box office will open at noon on concert day.

The Salina Symphony is a regional orchestra dedicated to enriching lives through artistic music performance and education. For more information, please contact Adrienne Allen at (785) 823-8309 or visit www.salinasymphony.org.

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