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## QSO Opens Season with LYRIC ROMANTICISM

Led by conductor Bruce Briney, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra Association is preparing to begin its 62<sup>nd</sup> Season. *NEW ENCOUNTERS*, the 2009-2010 season of orchestral and chorus concerts, will include a number of premier performances by the Symphony along with the return of standard works that audiences embrace. On Saturday, October 3 at 7:30PM in the Morrison Theater, the season will open with LYRIC ROMANTICISM, featuring guest soloist Istvan Szabó on viola.

The concert will open with Beethoven's *Overture to Egmont, Op. 84*. Beethoven received the commission to compose incidental music for Johann Goethe's tragic play *Egmont* in 1809. Beethoven accepted the offer because he was a fervent admirer of Goethe's writings, and completed the music in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> public performance of the play in 1810. The Overture is an audience favorite, and was last performed by the QSO in 2002.

Violist Istvan Szabó will take the stage for performances of Johann Hummel's *Fantasie for Viola* and Max Bruch's *Kol Nedrei*. Szabó is a graduate of the University of Illinois (M.M; DMA) and of the *George Dima* Academy of Music in Cluj, Romania. He has appeared in solo and chamber music recitals in the United States and Europe. Many of these recitals were broadcast on TV and radio. He served as Principal Viola for the Prairie Ensemble and Associate Principal Violist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra where he also appeared as soloist. Currently he is Associate Principal Violist with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Principal violist with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra. Szabó has been on the music faculty at Western Illinois University since 2005, and performs regularly as violist for the Julstrom String Quartet.

Bruce Briney will return to the podium after intermission to conduct the performance of Vassily Kalinnikov's *Symphony No. 1 in G Minor*. Kalinnikov's (1866–1901) story is a sad one. Like Mozart and Mendelssohn he died in his 30s, his musical promise unfulfilled. As a teenager he entered the Moscow Conservatory, but was forced to withdraw due to financial hardship. He soon won a scholarship to the Moscow Philharmonic Society Music School, but his financial position was always insecure. Tchaikovsky thought highly of Kalinnikov and recommended him for the post of conductor at the Maly Theater in 1892. The following year Kalinnikov was appointed assistant conductor at the Italian Theater. He supplemented his modest income by giving private lessons in music theory.

Kalinnikov was sickly from childhood, and moved to the Crimea when he was 26 yrs old. He spent the rest of his life there, depending largely upon his friends for financial support. In spite of his illness, he composed regularly. He was somewhat of a nationalist, and portrayed his native soil with music that evoked images and folk songs of his homeland. His *Symphony No. 1* was premiered in 1897 by the Russian Musical Society in Kiev, where the second and third movements were encored. The score eventually found its way to concert halls in Moscow, Berlin, Paris, and Vienna. *Symphony No. 1* remains in the standard repertoire of Russian orchestras to this day. Having never been performed by the QSO, the performance of Kalinnikov's *Symphony No. 1* will be a "New Encounter" for the orchestra and the Quincy community.

The QSOA is very grateful for support from the corporate community. The Silver Baton Concert Sponsor for LYRIC ROMANTICISM is the **Quincy Herald-Whig with WGEM**. **Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu, & Mitchell, LLP** is the Maestro Music Sponsor.

Tickets will be available at the door or at Wild Birds Unlimited in Quincy, or may be reserved in advance by calling 222-2856. Individual concert tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$12 for senior citizens, with children 18 and under admitted free and encouraged to attend. Morrison Theater is located in the Quincy Jr. High School at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Maine St. in Quincy, IL.

The Golden Baton Season Sponsors for *NEW ENCOUNTERS* are the **Knapheide Manufacturing Company**, and **Dene Lambkin Honda, Hyundai, & Hertz**. All QSOA concerts are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Season Tickets offer a

great discount over single ticket prices, and a special 2-for-1 offer for new subscribers has been extended until Sept. 30. The Season Ticket includes 10 QSOA events at a bargain \$60 for adults or \$50 for seniors. Flexi-tickets are also available for \$60. The Flexi-ticket includes 6 general tickets to be used all at once or throughout the season at any QSOA event. Ticket order forms are located in the season brochure or on the website. Visit [www.qsoa.org](http://www.qsoa.org) for more information on the music and performers, including program notes and soloist biographies.