FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The WSO performs Bruckner's unforgettable symphonic journey

Winnipeg, MB - February 19, 2014 - Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) Concertmaster Gwen Hoebig takes to the Centennial Concert Hall stage for Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2 in this weekend's Masterwork concert, Bruckner 8.

During his travels as a young man, Mozart keenly observed the concerto form, which at the time varied in rhythm, form, theme and style. He wished to elevate the concerto as a genre to higher artistic vistas and examined concerto performances across England, Germany, France and Italy. At only 19-years-old, Mozart wrote his five violin concertos during a five-month period. His Violin Concerto No. 2 is not only a delightful work but also an important one on his voyage of self-discovery.

Blessed with exceptional skill, Anton Bruckner began playing the church organ at age 10. As a young choirboy he entered the monastery of St. Florian in upper Austria where he later gained a teaching post. He spent 10 years composing and studying at the monastery. In 1855, he moved back to Linz as one of Europe's greatest cathedral organists, at the same time studying composition with several prominent Viennese teachers.

After 40 years of study, the humble and ever-insecure composer's life was changed when he attended the performance of Wagner's Tannhäuser. He was so inspired by the grandness

MEDIA CALL:
Friday, February 21, 2014
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

MEDIA:
For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact: Sarah Panas, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, at 204.949.3970 or spanas@wso.mb.ca.

Download the 2013/2014 season guide here.

The WSO is integral to Winnipeg's rich cultural life, delighting more than 100,000 audience members each year with innovative programming and musical excellence. The WSO presents educational programs for more than 25,000 students annually and tours outside the city reaching out to communities across Manitoba.
of Wagner's work that he realized he had to re-learn a whole new set of compositional rules. Bruckner set out to compose the symphonic equivalent of Wagner's opera that would be able to express his dedication to the greater glory of God. From then on, his symphonies expressed the grandeur and depth of the Wagnerian-model with inspiration of the sustaining power and sound of the organ's tones.

During this time, critics were either for or against the Wagnerian-model. And because Bruckner was incredibly sensitive and had a fragile self-esteem, he almost didn't premiere his *Seventh Symphony* for fear of criticism. Though lacking confidence in his own work, and often taking the advice of his friends and altering his pieces, Bruckner premiered his *Seventh* and *Eighth* symphonies to public acclaim. The *Eighth* is a clear descendent of the dark-to-light design of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and has the WSO adding four Wagner tubas to the already ample brass section.

Majestic brass, stunning climaxes - Bruckner's Eighth is an unforgettable symphonic journey.

For artist biographies click here to download Overture Issue 3.

Pre-concert chat with Alexander Mickelthwate on the Piano Nobile begins 45 minutes prior to evening concerts.

**Masterworks A**  
**Bruckner 8**  
**Friday, February 21 - 8:00 PM**  
**Saturday, February 22 - 8:00 PM**  
**Centennial Concert Hall**

Mozart: *Violin Concerto No. 2 in D major*  
Bruckner: *Symphony No. 8 in C minor*

Alexander Mickelthwate, conductor  
Gwen Hoebig, violin
Individual Concert Tickets start at $27.00 and are available through Ticketmaster: 1.855.985.ARTS or Ticketmaster.ca; or at the WSO Box Office: 204.949.3999 or wso.ca.

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