



BRAZOS VALLEY
Symphony Society

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY'S SEASON FINALE

College Station, TX—March 14, 2011—

The Brazos Valley Symphony's final subscription concert of the 2010-2011 season is "Rhapsody in Blue", featuring works by two composers who began their careers in the Brazos Valley, as well as concert hall favorites from Gershwin and Tchaikovsky. Led by Music Director, Marcelo Bussiki, this concert will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Rudder Theatre in College Station on the Texas A&M University campus. The program will include a symphony by George K. Halsell and a piano concerto by Trent Hanna. Hanna will also be featured as the soloist on "Rhapsody in Blue", with its instantly recognizable Gershwin melody.

What: "Rhapsody in Blue"

When: Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 5:00 PM

Where: Rudder Theatre in College Station on Texas A&M campus

Program:	Halsell	A Stygian Adventure
	Hanna	Concerto for Piano and Orchestra <i>Trent Hanna, piano</i>
	Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue <i>Trent Hanna, piano</i>
	Tchaikovsky	<i>Capriccio italien, op. 45</i>

Music Director Bussiki is pleased to feature works from two composers with local connections, one of which is George Halsell. Halsell is a Bryan native, having graduated from Bryan High School in 1975. He earned his bachelor's degree in bass trombone performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and his master's and doctorate, also in trombone performance, from The University of Texas at Austin. As a composer, Halsell first distinguished himself by composing a work that was premiered by the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra in 1988. This past September, Idaho Governor Butch Otter recognized his efforts by awarding him a Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

"I was introduced to the music of Halsell by a former Symphony Board member who gave me the score for Halsell's *Symphony In Five Episodes*, a very interesting work that combines various composition techniques," said Bussiki. "When I finally met with George, who currently teaches in Idaho, we decided to perform a brand new piece, which we will premiere at the April concert. The

work can be described as a symphonic poem that references the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice," added Bussiki.

Trent Hanna currently lives in Huntsville and has been recognized for his achievements both as a composer and performer. His original works have been commissioned and performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He premiered his Concerto for Piano and Orchestra with the Sam Houston State University Symphony Orchestra in 2004. As a pianist, Trent has performed extensively as a soloist with various orchestras, including John Corigliano's *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* with the San Angelo and Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestras.

"I like Trent's concerto very much. It is a very exciting piece that contains a few passages in the style of Corigliano's piano concerto that Trent has performed with several orchestras. The work additionally has strong similarities with Rhapsody in Blue, which Trent will also perform at the April concert," said Bussiki. "I am very happy that Trent agreed to perform the two works in one program, it is a tour de force that few pianists would undertake!" continued Bussiki.

Hanna is also excited about the performance. "I am completely honored and thrilled to be performing this work with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. I have immensely enjoyed working with Marcelo Bussiki in the past, and can't wait to tackle my concerto with him. And to finally be performing my concerto in my hometown is really wonderful," said Hanna.

Music Director Bussiki encourages everyone to come out for this 2010-2011 Season Finale. "Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio italien* was strategically placed as the last piece of the season to offer our patrons a memorable concert experience. One that will keep them anxiously awaiting the 2011-2012 Season—our 30th Season Celebration," said Bussiki.

Individual tickets (\$32 for adults, \$12 for students/children) for this concert are on sale now and can be purchased in person at the MSC Box Office, located in the Rudder Auditorium lobby, by phone at (979) 845-1234, , or on-line at <http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>. **Tickets will also be on sale at the door the night of the concert.** Please call the Symphony Office at (979) 696-6100 with any further questions or visit our website.

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About the Brazos Valley Symphony: The Brazos Valley Symphony is a non-profit performing arts organization with the mission to maintain a symphony of high artistic standards, and to promote the musical arts for cultural and education purposes in the Brazos Valley. For more information about the Symphony's 2010--2011 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Web site at www.bvso.org.

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