

# *Symphony Hamilton*

Your Community Orchestra serving  
Hamilton, Burlington and surrounding areas

**Immediate release  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

## **Media Release**

### **Symphony Hamilton - Young Artist Competition**

### **Young Artist winners from Oakville and London Ontario**

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> concert performance**

#### **Hamilton, Burlington:**

On Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm an exciting concert featuring two promising young musicians, winners of the Young Artist's Competition, aged 14 and 19, will perform as guest soloists with a full Symphony Hamilton orchestra. Senior winner, Eric Mohr (Bassoon) aged 19 is from London and Junior winner Clarisse Schneider (Violin) aged 14 lives in Oakville. Both out performed many other applicants in the Symphony Hamilton Young Artist's Competition to become selected winners in their categories.

Symphony Hamilton will feature Eric and Clarisse at the "Hollywood Spectacular & The Stars of Tomorrow" concert on **Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm inside the beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens. Performance by the 70 piece orchestra** will include favourite movie themes from James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Flight of the Valkyries, the Pink Panther and of course many from the early movies such as Casablanca.

Commenting on Eric and Clarisse, Conductor James MacKay said "they were both breathtaking in their auditions" adding "selecting the winners was a challenge with the high caliber of applicants in this year's competition. Eric and Clarisse are true young professionals, both well on their way as extraordinary musicians. We are delighted to have them guest solo with Symphony Hamilton and provide them with bursaries toward their music studies."

Clarisse and Eric have selected **Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Concerto for Violin & Orchestra as well as Nino Rota Concerto for Bassoon & Orchestra for their performances.** Bio's for both are provided on the second page of this media release.

#### **More Information, Soloist Interviews:**

Brenda Sandberg, Manager Orchestra Operations  
905-526-6690 or [bsandberg@coqeco.ca](mailto:bsandberg@coqeco.ca)

#### **Concert Tickets**

On-Line [www.symphonyhamilton.ca](http://www.symphonyhamilton.ca)  
Phone: 905-526-6690 ISA/MC

**Young Artist BIO's and Symphony Hamilton backgrounder on page 2**

## Symphony Hamilton Backgrounder -

Symphony Hamilton plays an important role in expanding the opportunities for enjoyment of music in the Hamilton and Burlington communities, by offering attractive and diverse concert programs at affordable prices.

Symphony Hamilton began in 1973 as the McMaster University Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Dr Lee Hepner. Registered as a charitable organization in 1981, the orchestra left the University in 1988 and became the Greater Hamilton Symphony Association, an independent community orchestra operating under the name of Symphony Hamilton. The orchestra still maintains its original objectives:

- to perform symphonic music of high quality;
- to stimulate excellence in instrumental performance;
- to support, improve, and expand the musical opportunities for those living in the Hamilton and Burlington regions.



As well, Symphony Hamilton provides musical training and enrichment for aspiring young musicians and qualified amateur players who enjoy the privilege of playing challenging symphonic music together with a core of professionals.

Since its inception, more than 500 musicians have performed with our orchestra and many of them have gone on to distinguished professional careers in Canada and internationally. Symphony Hamilton has performed with the Mohawk College Singers, the Guelph Chamber Choir, the Brampton Festival Singers and other regional ensembles. Small ensembles from Symphony Hamilton play in schools, churches and community concerts.

PHOTO's - High Rez orchestra photo's attached for media use.

**Clarisse Schneider (BIO)** violin

**Junior Winner Symphony Hamilton Young Artist Competition**

Clarisse Schneider has been a participant and winner of many local and provincial music festivals. She was a provincial finalist in 2007 in the Ontario Music Festival Association, Best of Class and Grade for the YIP Music Festival 2007, Provincial finalist in the Canadian Music Festival 2006 and Toronto Chapter representative for the Kiwanis Music Festival 2005 in Ottawa. She is currently studying violin with Corey Gemmell, Concertmaster of Symphony Hamilton. She enjoys orchestral playing and sharing her music with her peers. Clarisse has held the position of Concertmaster with the Halton Youth Orchestra and is presently very proud to be the Concertmaster of the Mississauga Youth Orchestra. She enjoys playing hockey and has played for the Oakville Hornets since she was 5. Clarisse, along with her school team members, represented Halton and Peel in The Provincial Math Olympics. Last year, she was also recognized by the Oakville Humane Society for her Community Outreach. Fourteen year old Clarisse Schneider currently attends Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville as a grade 9 student and looks forward to contributing and participating in her new school community.

**Eric Mohr (BIO)** bassoon

**Senior Winner Symphony Hamilton Young Artist Competition**

Nineteen-year old Eric Mohr is in his second year at the University of Western Ontario studying music performance. He began learning bassoon with Spencer Phillips of Orchestra London at the age of 11 and has been studying for 5 years with his current teacher, James McKay, Conductor of Symphony Hamilton. Eric has played bassoon with the University of Western Ontario Symphony Orchestra and bassoon and contrabassoon with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. He was the Principal Bassoonist of the Guelph Symphony Orchestra for 2 years and the London Youth Symphony for 3 years. As a soloist, Eric Mohr has participated several times in the Kiwanis Music Festivals in London and Toronto. He has performed in the Ontario Music Festivals Association provincial finals 3 times, once winning third place in the grade 10 level woodwinds, and once winning first place in diploma level woodwinds. A previous winner of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition and the London Youth Symphony Concerto Competition, Eric is very pleased to be offered the chance to perform this afternoon with Symphony Hamilton.