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BEHIND THE SCENES / ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

'It's a blessing' -- Marturet's symphony appointment hailed

Venezuelan conductor and composer Eduardo Marturet, who joined the Miami Symphony in 2005 as associate principal conductor, has been named musical director. Marturet steps into the position held by Miami Symphony founder Manuel Ochoa, who died last month.

"For us, it's a fantastic opportunity to be able to bring on board someone who's such a talented composer and who has conducted throughout the world," said Rafael Díaz-Balart, Miami Symphony board chairman. "More than an opportunity, it's a blessing."

Marturet said that "the best contributions I can bring to the orchestra are my contacts with young artists, a new generation who is ready to take the music world by storm, as well as a business vision so the orchestra can reach new heights thanks to its patrons. This means attracting the international segment of our population, which is so important in this community."

Founded in 1989, the Miami Symphony will begin its six-concert 2006-2007 season Oct. 4 with an homage to the music of the Americas, featuring music by composers as diverse as Aaron Copland, Astor Piazzolla and Paquito D'Rivera. On Feb. 11, the orchestra under maestro Marturet will make its Carnival Center for the Performing Arts' John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall debut.

-- ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ