

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

MARTURET APPOINTED NEW CONDUCTOR OF MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR FIVE YEARS, THROUGH 2011-12 SEASON

MIAMI, Fla. (Aug. 23, 2006) – It was almost prophetic that the Miami Symphony Orchestra hired world-renowned conductor and composer Eduardo Marturet as its first-ever Associate Principal Conductor.

At age 79, Maestro Manuel Ochoa – the orchestra’s founder and conductor for 16 seasons – relinquished the conducting reins to his personally chosen associate. Marturet triumphantly led the Miami Symphony Orchestra (MSO) through every concert, creating sold-out houses and garnering numerous standing ovations.

With Ochoa’s passing July 15 at age 80, the MSO’s Board of Directors has appointed Marturet to continue his leadership of the organization, effective immediately. His appointment as the orchestra’s Music Director and Conductor is for five years, and will last through the 2011-12 season.

“I am honored to accept this offer,” Marturet said. “I am glad that I had an entire season to familiarize myself with this august body of exceptional musicians, and to continue – and even expand – the work begun by my friend, Manuel Ochoa.”

“We are grateful to have Maestro Marturet continue his leadership of the Miami Symphony Orchestra,” said MSO Board Chairman Rafael Diaz-Balart. “We believed in him when we approved his appointment as Associate Principal Conductor under Maestro Ochoa, and we believe in him now to lead the orchestra into the future.”

Marturet’s hiring as Associate Principal Conductor was as swift as it was unusual. So familiar was Ochoa with Marturet’s talent – and so confident in his ability – that he was chosen without ever once having led the orchestra for a trial run.

“Maestro Ochoa knew my work,” Marturet said, “and I only had to listen to the MSO once to know that it was the right job for me.”

It wasn't the career tack Marturet had planned – but it was impossible to resist.

“I was celebrating 30 years of a very busy and successful conducting career,” Marturet said. “Now my mind was on how to find more time to compose, travel less, fish and play golf.”

Then he heard for himself the sounds of the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

“It was like being taken by a breeze of fresh air,” Marturet said. “I was not only impressed by the sound, but also by the human quality of the musicians.”

Marturet accepted the position because he believed himself to be “in tune” with Ochoa's vision, and is convinced he can help the orchestra attract a much wider public and, in the process, turn it into an even better orchestra.

“Maestro Ochoa was fond of comparing himself with Don Quijote, realizing the dream of the Miami Symphony Orchestra against astounding odds,” Marturet said. “And I think Don Quijote would agree that, whereas men pass on, dreams neither die nor fade away as long as there are people to continue nourishing them.

“So it is with the Miami Symphony Orchestra. I believe that, if there's a way the maestro could look down from heaven, he is proud of the direction his legacy is taking, and the triumphs that lie ahead.”

ABOUT EDUARDO MARTURET

Eduardo Marturet is widely considered one of South America's most prominent conductors. His broad-based guest conducting career has taken him around the world, where he spends six months in Europe with nearly a dozen orchestras including the Berliner Symphoniker, with whom he has recorded more than 30 CDs. Among these are the complete recording cycle of Brahms' orchestral music and Beethoven concerti. Added to these are his recorded works with three other European orchestras.

Born in Caracas, Marturet studied in Cambridge, England, where he became rooted in the European tradition. He earned degrees in piano, percussion, conducting and composition. He returned to Caracas in 1979, as the permanent Associate Conductor of the Orquesta Filarmonica de Caracas, before being named Artistic Director to the Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela until 1995. He also spent three years as Music Director at the Teresa Carreno Theatre.

Marturet's international career has allowed him to conduct orchestras in Italy, Greece, France, England, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Germany,

Czechoslovakia, Belgium and the United States. In 2001, Marturet took the Berlin Symphoniker on a whirlwind concert tour in Latin America, which was broadcast on DirecTV. Marturet made his Asian debut in 2003 with the Seoul Philharmonic. He also opened the Chorin Summer Festival in Berlin, and made his debut with the Buenos Aires Philharmonic in Argentina. For more information, visit the maestro's Web site at www.marturet.com.

ABOUT THE MSO

The Miami Symphony Orchestra is Dade County's flagship orchestra, numbering more than 80 musicians representing 22 nationalities, drawn from the finest orchestras around the world and throughout the United States. Now in its 18th season, and hailed as "a magnificent symphonic orchestra which captures the city's spirit," the MSO has performed at Art Basel Miami Beach and on the stage of Carnegie Hall in New York City. For the 2005-06 season, the MSO doubled its budget and adopted a five-year plan allowing an increase in the number of subscription concerts it performs to 16 a year, expand its public school program, and provide free concerts at various venues in Dade County, including the inner city of Miami. For more information about the Miami Symphony Orchestra, visit the Web site at www.miamisymphony.org, or call (305) 275-5666.

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