



## Media Release

For Immediate Release  
October 22, 2009

### **Symphony Meets Comedy in the HPO's *All Classical Music Explained***

Hamilton, Ontario...The **Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra** brings stand-up comedian and musician **Rainer Hersch**'s hit show *All Classical Music Explained* to Hamilton Place on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Conducted by Rainer Hersch and featuring soprano **Miriam Khalil**, symphony meets comedy in *All Classical Music Explained*, and is Rainer's self-described "simple and stupid approach to a difficult subject".

All Classical Music Explained is an erudite and witty hour long journey through the world of classical music peppered with irreverent spoofs and the common touch. The show combines Rainer's long established skills as a top rank stand-up comedian, his virtuosity as a pianist and his fanaticism for the world's most beautiful music - although he is quick to point out that whoever is in the audience will get the joke, even if they wouldn't know a string quartet from a string bikini.

Rainer Hersch is a stand-up comedian, pianist and conductor who has performed on every major comedy stage in Britain and abroad. His last official job title was Touring Manager of the **London Festival Orchestra**, but since 1992 he has devoted himself to comedy full-time. He has appeared twelve times at the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival**, and has been featured in comedy clubs all across Europe and on TV shows around the world. In Canada, Rainer has appeared with the **Winnipeg Symphony**, the **Edmonton Symphony** and **Symphony Nova Scotia**.

Lebanese-Canadian soprano Miriam Khalil is a graduate of **The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music** with an Artist Diploma in Voice, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in vocal performance from the **University of Ottawa**. Praised for her stage presence and distinctive vocal tone, Miriam is a previous member of the prestigious **Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio** and last appeared in Hamilton in **Opera Hamilton's Popera** gala in January, 2009.

#### **Concert programme includes:**

Rossini/Hersch: William Tell Overture  
Leroy Anderson: Typewriter

Hersch: Symphony of Audience Sounds  
Hersch: Abbreviated Mozart, Vivaldi, Beethoven  
Strauss/Hersch: Radetzky March  
Pachelbel/Hersch: Pachelbel Canon  
Gershwin: Summertime (with soprano)  
Courage: Star Trek Theme (with soprano)

Performance Information for **All Classical Music Explained:**

**Date + Time:** Saturday, November 14 at 7:30pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$18 - \$57  
Student tickets available for \$10

**Venue:** Hamilton Place, 1 Summers Lane

**Tickets:** In Person: HPO Box Office: 1002-105 Main Street East  
Phone: 905-526-7756  
Online: [hpo.org](http://hpo.org); [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca)

*The Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1884 as The Hamilton Orchestral Society, and grew to become one of Canada's major professional orchestras. Today the HPO is a leader in Hamilton's robust arts community where it provides professional orchestral services and music education programmes to address the needs of the community. The HPO continues to commission and premiere works, and is one of the artistic jewels of the Hamilton/Burlington area. The combined musical talents of its artists continue to enrich the community and enhance the quality of life for its residents. The 2009.2010 season marks the HPO's 125<sup>th</sup> year.*

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