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For Immediate Release

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras' Holiday Concerts and Food Drive

Falls Church, VA, December 8, 2010: The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) presents two concerts on **Saturday, December 11, 2010** at the **Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center** at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. Dr. Cheri Collins and the American Youth String Ensemble perform **Winter Magic at 3:00pm** with a program including Newbold's *The Odyssey*, Jarrett's *American Folk Song Suite*, and arrangements of Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*, Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*, and Handel's *For Unto Us* from "Messiah". The American Youth Concert Orchestra, led by conductor J.D. Anderson, and the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra, led by conductor Carl J. Bianchi, perform **Russian Rhapsody at 7:00pm**. The program repertoire includes Herold's *Zampa Overture*, Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Song Suite*, Daniels' *Festique*, Glière's *Russian Sailor's Dance*, Shostakovich's *Festival Overture*, Borodin's *In the Steppes of Central Asia*, Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances mvmt. 1*, and Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave*. **Tickets** for both concerts are \$7 adults, \$5 seniors (65+), \$5 students (includes college with I.D.), free for ages 5 and under, and free for all Fairfax County Music Teachers. Tickets will be available at the door approximately 45 minutes prior to the concert time. *For concert details or more information about the orchestras and conductors visit www.aypo.org. The next concert is Sunday, January 30, 2011, 3:00pm at George Mason University Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia and will feature the flagship American Youth Philharmonic with guest violinist Odin Rathnam.*

AYPO will be hosting a **food drive at both concerts on December 11, 2010 on behalf of "Orchestras Feeding America"**. This project by the League of American Orchestras' inspired more than 250 orchestras from all 50 states to collect over 300,000 pounds of food in the last two years. It is the single largest orchestra project serving communities nationwide! AYP is proud to be participating this year and will be collecting food items at this Saturday's concerts and will then deliver the food donations to a local partner food bank in Fairfax, Virginia. The inspiration for the food drive came from Nathaniel Ayers: a gifted, Julliard-trained musician who survived as a homeless man on the streets of Los Angeles. He was originally a double bass player but while homeless began to play other stringed instruments that fit better in his shopping cart. As a young man, Nathaniel Ayers achieved his dream of attending Julliard but left early due to his battle with schizophrenia. *Los Angeles Times* columnist Steve Lopez discovered Nathaniel Ayers, and was drawn to his talent, intelligence, and passion for Beethoven. The hit movie, *The Soloist*, is based on the life of this extraordinary man. The film and the "Orchestras Feeding America" project are testaments to the power of music. *There will be collection boxes at both December 11th concerts. Suggested items include: powdered/canned milk, dry soup, tuna, macaroni & cheese, rice, stew, canned fruit & vegetables, cereal, canned soup, canned meats, peanut butter, pasta, fruit juices, and beans. AYPO cannot accept items in glass jars or bottles.*

About AYPO: Recognized as one of the leading orchestral training programs in the nation, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) provides competitive world-class training and performance opportunities for young musicians ages 7 - 21. With nationally recognized conductors led by Music Director Daniel Spalding, a dedicated professional staff, and a host of volunteers, AYPO annually selects and trains over 400 of the most talented young musicians from throughout the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. AYPO is the *Youth Orchestra in Residence* at George Mason University's Center for the Arts and was selected by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small nonprofits in the Greater Washington region."

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