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LEXINGTON SYMPHONY PRESENTS SIBELIUS SYMPHONY NO. 1 AND
RESPIGHI'S *THE BIRDS* UNDER GUEST CONDUCTOR BRUCE HANGEN

October 10, 2011, Lexington MA – On November 5, Lexington Symphony welcomes back Guest Conductor Bruce Hangen as he leads the Lexington Symphony in a performance of Sibelius' first symphony, Respighi's *The Birds*, and Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'Été* (*Summer Nights*) featuring countertenor Matthew Truss.

Known for his ability to make music come alive for audiences everywhere, guest conductor Bruce Hangen is a frequent guest conductor of the country's leading orchestras. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the Boston Pops for over 20 years and has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and more. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Hangen is currently Artistic Director & Conductor of The Orchestra of Indian Hill and Principal Conductor of the Boston Conservatory Orchestra.

The program begins with *The Birds* by Italian composer Ottorino Respighi. This work is in five movements, each inspired by a particular birdsong and the music of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century composers. It represents a vibrant attempt to transcribe birdsong into musical notation.

Les Nuits d'Été (*Summer Nights*) is a setting of six French love poems by Hector Berlioz. Lexington Symphony's performance will feature countertenor Matthew Truss. Praised for his "mellifluous voice and ebullient manner," Mr. Truss is making his mark as a young countertenor whose "precocious" voice "boasts both beauty and volume." He has been the recipient of many awards, including the Jerry Hadley Award in the Elardo International Opera Competition, and is a two-time finalist in the New England Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Mr. Truss received his Bachelor of Music degree from Boston Conservatory with an emphasis in opera performance.

Finally, Maestro Hangen will be leading the orchestra in Sibelius' breathtaking Symphony No. 1. First performed in 1899 by the young Jean Sibelius, this symphony was influenced by Tchaikovsky and Borodin, but is clearly the work of a young composer who had already developed a distinct musical voice.

Lexington Symphony is a group of dedicated professional musicians who share a passion for music and for exacting standards of performance. The symphony is directed by Maestro Jonathan McPhee, one of the leading musical figures in New England. The symphony season runs from September through June with six ticketed concerts, community outreach programs, and a dedicated education program for the next generation of musicians, including the acclaimed program *Orchestrating Kids Through Classics™*.

Tickets available online at <http://www.lexingtonsymphony.org>, by phone at 781-523-9009, with your check payable to Lexington Symphony, P.O. Box 194, Lexington MA 02420, or in person at The Crafty Yankee Center, 1838 Mass Ave., Lexington (cash/check only). Individual ticket prices are \$50, \$40, \$30, \$20 (student). Will-call tickets must be picked up at least 15 minutes prior to concert.

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