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CLASSICAL MUSIC OFFERINGS AT FIRST NIGHT 2010

Note: The complete press kit for First Night Boston 2010, including program guide and images can be viewed at <http://www.firstnight.org/PressRoom/Default.aspx>

(BOSTON) First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On Dec. 31, 2009 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Boston offers a wide array of classical music this year. Most performances occur twice and last 45 minutes. For complete schedules including updates, please visit www.firstnight.org.

Fernando Otero (First Church in Boston, 6 and 7:45 p.m.)

Argentine composer and pianist Fernando Otero found his voice as writer, musician and bandleader when, at the urging of one of his music teachers, he began to incorporate the indigenous sounds of his native Buenos Aires into his work. Twenty years have passed since Otero opened his ears to this wealth of ideas, and ever since he has pursued his vision of X Tango. On his Nonesuch debut *Pagina de Buenos Aires* he evokes a feeling of Buenos Aires – something you can sense even if you've never been there --through his innovative use of the bandoneon, the accordion-like instrument at the heart of all tango.

Heinrich Christensen (King's Chapel, 9 p.m.)

An organ recital of Bach compositions performed on the historic King's Chapel C.B. Fisk Organ.

American Guild of Organists "Light and Serious Music for Organ" (Arlington Street Church, 10-11 pm.)

Varied works for the organ performed by Brian Jones, Rosalind Mohnsen and Christian Lane.

Old South Brass, Organ & Timpani (Old South Church, 6:30 and 7:45 pm)

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join an organist with imagination and verve in a supersonic program of "Pipes and Pops," playing electrifying arrangements of popular classics, and leading the audience in singing stirring favorites.

Project STEP Chamber Orchestra "Young Musicians of Black and Latino Heritage" (First Church in Boston, 1-1:30, 2-2:30 p.m.)

Led by Project STEP alum Mariana Green-Hill, this year's program will feature the Honors String Quartet and two other chamber groups.

New England Conservatory Children's Chorus (First Church in Boston, 3 p.m.)

The chorus will perform a rousing collection of holiday songs from around the world. Bring the family and sing along to holiday favorites.

New England Conservatory Jazz Orchestra (First Church in Boston, 4 p.m.)

Led by Ken Schaphorst, New England's finest high school musicians will light up First Night with their big band!

Meet the King of Instruments (Old South Church 3:30—4 p.m.)

Experience the “Sensurround” magnificence of Old South Church’s mighty 1921 Skinner orchestral pipe organ – affectionately dubbed the “Copley Philharmonic Organ,” demonstrated by renowned organist Harry Huff.

Classical music programming at First Night is supported by WGBH FM.

In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature **Japanese Anime; Kaiju Big Battel; Kristin Hersh; Anat Cohen; Bollywood Film;** five ice sculptures; **The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession; The FedEx Family Festival; Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor Menino and The Mugar Foundation; the traditional **midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor** sponsored by Cape Dairy; and a midnight countdown with WBZ-TV’s Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes at Copley Square. For a complete listing, visit www.firstnight.org.

All First Night outdoor events are free, though supported by sales of the First Night button (artwork by Ekua Holmes), which is the ticket for admission to all indoor events. Buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and are available at Boston-area Shaw’s and Star Markets, Tedeschi’s, Store 24, Au Bon Pain and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit www.firstnight.org. Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at www.firstnight.org through Dec. 26. For more information, visit www.firstnight.org.

First Night, Inc. is a private, 501©3 non-profit organization. It is supported by public and private contributions, sponsorships, and through the admission sales of the First Night button. First Night Boston is grateful for the support of its major contributors: The City of Boston, Thomas M. Menino, Mayor; WBZ-TV; Metro Boston; The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority; FedEx, Frank Ward of Cape Dairy; The Boston Foundation; The Linde Family Foundation; Jane’s Trust; Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau; an Anonymous Foundation; Massachusetts Cultural Council; Fleetwing Foundation; MBTA; WGBH Radio; Boston 4 Productions; The Mugar Foundation, Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, Trustee; Clear Channel Outdoor and Wall USA.

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