



For Immediate Release

Harpist Dotian Levalier to Perform Adamo's *Four Angels* with American Youth Philharmonic Free Concert and Instrument Petting Zoo for Ages 18 and Under as Part of "Comps for Kids" Program

ANNANDALE, VA, JANUARY 12, 2012: The American Youth Philharmonic (AYP) and Music Director Daniel Spalding begin the new year with "The Human Spirit" on Sunday, January 22, 3:00 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia. The concert is free for ages 18 and under as part of the annual Comps for Kids program, generously sponsored by Target, with tickets available at the door (no reservations necessary). To enhance the educational experience, AYP will host an instrument petting zoo immediately following the concert, sponsored by Foxes Music Company. Children will have the opportunity for hands-on experience with the different orchestral instruments.

AYP welcomes to the stage Dotian Levalier, Principal Harpist of the National Symphony Orchestra, performing Mark Adamo's *Four Angels, Concerto for Harp and Orchestra*.

"I couldn't be happier that American Youth Philharmonic is performing *Four Angels* with the soloist who first brought it into being," said composer Mark Adamo. "Dotian Levalier is an unforgettable artist and I know that the young players of AYP will bring it to blazing life."

"I have been looking forward to this concert for a long time," said Music Director Daniel Spalding. "The Adamo *Four Angels* has been a joy to learn and it's the kind of contemporary score that deserves to be played again and again. It's unique, beautiful, and moving, and having Dotian as harp soloist (who the work was written for) just adds to the excitement."

AYP will also be performing *The Giant Guitar* by Miguel del Aguila and *Symphony No. 1 in E minor* by Jean Sibelius.

"I'm very excited about this performance of my *Giant Guitar* by AYP," said composer Miguel del Aguila. "As they've done in the past, these talented young musicians, led by Maestro Spalding, will make the score come alive with emotional intensity, vitality and enthusiasm."

"*The Giant Guitar* is another work on the program that I'm sure no one has heard before," said Spalding, "[and] it's basically a giant crescendo that will knock your socks off. Topping all that off with the romantic Sibelius *Symphony No. 1* is certainly a challenging program for a young orchestra – but they are up to the task."

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), \$10 for college students (including college with ID), free for ages 18 and under, and free for music teachers. Tickets will be available at the door. For concert details visit www.aypo.org/events. The next concert will be "Fate's Fortune" on Sunday, February 26, 3:00 p.m. at the Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Virginia. The concert will feature the American Youth Concert Orchestra led by J.D. Anderson and the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra led by Carl J. Bianchi and repertoire by von Suppé, Schubert, Brahms, Verdi, and Tchaikovsky.

About the Guest Artist: Dotian Levalier, Principal Harpist of the National Symphony Orchestra, is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied with Carlos Salzedo and Marilyn Costello. Before joining the National Symphony in 1969, she was the Principal Harpist of the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Philadelphia



Dotian Levalier, Principal Harpist of the National Symphony Orchestra

Grand Opera and the Philadelphia Lyric Opera Company. Ms. Levalier has made numerous recital and radio appearances as well as guest artist appearances with orchestras other than her own. [Visit www.aypo.org/events for a complete biography].

About AYPO: The mission of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) is to provide the highest quality musical experience that allows our students to grow as musicians and individuals, who then contribute to our nation's cultural landscape, as they become future artistic and community leaders. Recognized as one of the leading orchestral training programs in the nation, AYPO provides competitive world-class training and performance opportunities for young musicians up to 21 years of age. With a nationally recognized artistic staff 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. For 47 years, AYPO has delivered programs of the highest caliber to young musicians and audiences throughout the Washington metropolitan region, earning an unrivaled reputation for excellence and distinction. AYPO is the *Youth Orchestra in Residence* at George Mason University Center for the Arts and was selected by the 2011-2012 Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small nonprofits in the Greater Washington region."

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