

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN RECEIVES TOP DUTCH CLASSICAL MUSIC PRIZE

Van Zweden, music director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, was honored for his contributions to classical music

DALLAS (Monday, November 29, 2010) – The Dallas Symphony Orchestra’s Music Director Jaap van Zweden was honored Sunday, November 28, 2010 in the Netherlands for his important contributions to classical music in that country. Van Zweden received the Radio 4 Prize in a ceremony and special concert broadcast live from the Muziekgebouw aan’t IJ (Concert Hall of the 21st Century) in Amsterdam.

The Radio 4 Prize is awarded annually and honors the Dutch musician, ensemble or special concert which is involved in presenting classical music to a wider audience. Maestro van Zweden received a check for 5,000 Euros, which he donated to the Papageno Foundation, which was established in 2000 by Maestro Van Zweden and his wife, Aaltje van Zweden–van Buuren, to provide music therapy for autistic children.

Van Zweden became highly visible in the United States in just the last few years because of memorable performances and recordings with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and acclaimed guest-conducting appearances with other top American orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra and others. Van Zweden remains an important musician and conductor in his native Holland where he has enjoyed a three decade long career.

Born in Amsterdam in 1960, Jaap van Zweden began his musical career as a violinist, becoming at nineteen the youngest ever concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. Since beginning his conducting career in 1995, he has been Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra (1996-2000), and Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orchestra (2000-2005). He is presently the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestras, and Chief Conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra.

Maestro van Zweden became music director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in the 2008-2009 season. So impressive were his initial concerts with the DSO that in only his second season his contract with the DSO was extended through the 2015-2016 season.

The special Radio 4 ceremony and concert broadcast on Sunday featured chamber music performances by some of the finest Dutch classical musicians, including the Radio Blazers Ensemble performing the Stravinsky Octet; duo pianists Lestari Scholtes and Gwylim Janssens playing Ravel’s *La Valse*; pianist Reinbert de Leeuw playing Liszt’s “La Notte” (from *Three Funeral Odes*); and violinist Simone Lamsma and pianist Robert Kulek playing Richard Strauss’ Violin Sonata in E-flat major.

Maestro van Zweden will return to conduct the Dallas Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 3-5, leading the world premiere performances of *Gamelan D'Drum* by Stewart Copeland, famous as drummer in the rock band The Police, with Dallas-based world percussion ensemble D'Drum and the DSO.

ABOUT THE DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, presents the finest in classical and pops music, new music and family and holiday concerts at the internationally heralded Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. As the largest performing arts organization in the Southwest, the DSO is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs, concerts with popular personalities, and innovative multi-media presentations. In fulfilling its commitment to the community, the DSO's involvement with the City of Dallas and the surrounding region includes an award-winning multi-faceted educational program, community concerts, popular parks concerts, complimentary ticket distribution and children's programming. The DSO has a tradition dating back to 1900, and it is a cornerstone of the unique, 68 acre Arts District in downtown Dallas that is home to multiple performing arts venues, museums and parks; the largest district of its kind in the nation.