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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 15, 2010

- WHAT:** Violinist Robert McDuffie and the Venice Baroque Orchestra perform "The Seasons Project"
- WHEN:** Monday, November 8th at 7:30 PM
- WHERE:** UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.umasstix.com/>
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

(THE SEASONS PROJECT: ROBERT MCDUFFIE PERFORMS OLD AND NEW "SEASONS")

Robert McDuffie, violin soloist, will lead the Venice Baroque Orchestra in a concert that is part of a worldwide premiere tour of *The Seasons Project* at 7:30 PM, Monday, November 8th, in the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. *The Seasons Project* consists of a new Philip Glass composition entitled Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Orchestra, *The American Four Seasons*, performed in the first half of the program, followed by Vivaldi's classic, *The Four Seasons*, in the second half. There will be a pre-performance talk by Lanfranco Marcelletti at 6:45 PM in the Concert Hall.

The performance is part of a national tour with shows in more than two dozen cities. The Toronto Star called McDuffie's performance of "The American Four Seasons," "one of the most exciting musical evenings of the year."

This project pairs McDuffie, one of the finest violinists of our age, with Glass, one of the world's most influential composers. Together in *The American Four Seasons*, the two display their very best work. The piece is scored for a baroque-sized string orchestra with an electronic keyboard as the sound of a harpsichord. *The American Four Seasons* opens with a violin solo followed by four movements, each preceded by an extended violin "song," allowing McDuffie to display his virtuosity. "I've always believed that Philip Glass is America's Vivaldi. I was so

honored when Philip agreed to write his second violin concerto, 'The American Four Seasons,' for me," McDuffie said.

Since *Einstein on the Beach*, Glass has expanded his repertoire to include music for opera, dance, theater, chamber ensemble, orchestra, and film. His score for Martin Scorsese's *Kundun* received an Academy Award nomination while his score for Peter Weir's *The Truman Show* won him a Golden Globe. His film score for Stephen Daldry's *The Hours* received Golden Globe, Grammy, and Academy Award nominations, along with winning a BAFTA in Film Music from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. The critically acclaimed films *The Illusionist* and *Notes on a Scandal* were released last year, with *Notes* earning Glass an Oscar nomination for best original score.

Grammy-nominated artist Robert McDuffie has appeared as soloist with most of the major orchestras of the world. During the 2010-2011 season, McDuffie will embark on a 30-city U.S. tour with the Venice Baroque Orchestra, pairing the Glass *The American Four Seasons* with the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*. He will also perform *The American Four Seasons* as soloist with the Düsseldorf Symphony, Prague Philharmonia at the Prague Spring Festival, National Symphony of Mexico, Poznan Philharmonic of Poland, and the Nashville, Louisiana, and San Antonio Symphonies.

Founded in 1997 by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Marcon, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of Europe's premier ensembles devoted to period instrument performance. The Orchestra has received wide critical acclaim for its concert and opera performances throughout North America, Europe, South America, and Japan.

Tickets for Robert McDuffie and the Venice Baroque Orchestra are \$35, \$30, and \$15; Five College/GCC/STCC and youth 17 and under are \$10. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or on the Fine Arts Center ticket website at <http://www.umasstix.com/>. This performance is sponsored by WFCR 88.5FM and the Vidda Foundation. For more information about the American Seasons Project visit the links below:

More About the Season's Project: <http://www.cami.com/?webid=2002>

More About Robert McDuffie: <http://www.cami.com/?webid=304>

More About Philip Glass: <http://www.philipglass.com/>

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