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TRUMPETER CHARLES LAZARUS RELEASES DEBUT SOLO CD

Uniquely diverse trumpeter and composer Charles Lazarus has released his debut solo cd. Entitled *Solo Settings*, the 13-track recording features solo trumpet set with a wide variety of other instruments including marimba, rhythm section, wave drum, guitar, ipu (a Hawaiian percussion instrument), and string orchestra, among others.

As a testament to Lazarus's commitment to original music, each track on *Solo Settings* is a work by a living composer. The project brings together the music of Craig Hara, Steve Heitzeg, Guinga, Kari Sundström and Lazarus himself. His stylistic versatility is highlighted in the eclectic pairings - ranging from world music and classical settings to jazz solos and electronic grooves - that make up the album. Defying categorization and creating its own niche, the recording is truly reflective of the diversity of Lazarus' experience and his mastery of many styles of playing.

Osmo Vänskä, Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra (and Musical America 2005 Conductor of the Year) writes, "The new CD made by trumpeter Chuck Lazarus shows brilliantly his huge talent. The musical genre is varying always: classical, jazz, pop etc., and Chuck plays everything as a grand virtuoso with the greatest confidence. His highest notes sound so easy! One cannot put Chuck Lazarus in a pigeonhole; he feels at home with any style of the musical world. I have to also mention the producer of the CD, multi-instrumentalist Craig Hara, who has also arranged most of the pieces. His talent is tremendous!"

New York Newsday writes of Lazarus's "bedazzling technique and refined sense of musicianship", while Frankfurt's Allgemeine Zeitung applauds his "sparkling trumpet sound." The Washington Post declares, "Lazarus could have tumbled the walls of Jericho."

"Some of the music on this CD has been on my mind for years; some of it came into being as we played," says Lazarus. "All of it reflects a love of diverse styles of music. It's the culmination of a project involving many uniquely talented musicians and represents the creative energy of collaborating with my good friend, producer Craig Hara. In the end, it took shape as an album of original music for solo trumpet played in a variety of settings. This is music I love to play; I hope that you enjoy listening to it as much as we enjoyed recording it."

The eclectic career of trumpeter Charles Lazarus has been met with acclaim from critics worldwide. Lazarus made his main stage Carnegie Hall solo debut with the New York String Orchestra at the age of 19 while still completing his studies at The Juilliard School in New York. A year later he joined the Dallas Brass, touring nationally and internationally for nine years, and appearing with them at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and with dozens of American orchestras including those of Detroit, Dallas, Florida, Oregon and Milwaukee, as well as the Cincinnati and New York Pops. Following his tenure with Dallas Brass, Charles joined New York's Meridian Arts Ensemble until becoming a member of the Minnesota Orchestra in 2000.

During the 2005 season, Lazarus joined the world renowned Canadian Brass, touring to 7 countries, and appearing on 3 recordings and a chart topping video for Bravo Canada. He has been on the trumpet faculties of St. Olaf College and Princeton University and has performed and taught master classes in every US state and throughout Europe and Asia.

Lazarus is an avid proponent of original music and is active as a soloist and composer. He has performed his original compositions for the Montréal and Ottawa international jazz festivals, live on Radio Canada, and on national television in Canada including features on Bravo and Much Music. His original music video "Java" won Montréal's Musique Plus Democlip of the Year award and he has been a guest soloist in settings ranging from pop, rap, jazz, and classical ensembles to appearances with New York performance artists, and on French Canadian talk shows and a Soap Opera. Lazarus has been a featured soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Les Violons du Roy, Les Jeune Virtuoses de Montréal and the McGill Chamber Orchestra. Charles has performed with the New York Trumpet Ensemble, The New York Big Brass, The London Brass, Montréal Symphony and with back up bands for Barry White and Joe Williams. He has recorded with the Canadian Brass, Dallas Brass, Montréal Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, the Societe de Musique Contemporaine du Québec, and Ensemble Contemporaine de Montréal, as well as with numerous pop artists and for IMAX film scores. Lazarus has recently released a crossover CD of all original music, entitled *Solo Settings*, featuring a unique collaboration between diversely talented composers and performers including members of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Charles Lazarus: *Solo Settings*

CD number 837101037020

Original music performed by trumpeter Charles Lazarus and friends.

Available for purchase: amazon.com, cdbaby.com, towerrecords.com,
in Minneapolis at Applause, Electric Fetus and Barnes & Noble Nicollet Mall.
Digital and physical distribution through The Orchard at www.theorchard.com.

More information: charleslazarus.com

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