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Signature Theatre to Host Launch of New Matt Conner Christmas CD *Snow*

**Wine and Cheese Reception and Performance of Holiday Songs
on Sunday, November 6th from 5 – 7 pm**

Arlington, VA, October 26, 2011 – Just in time for that special time of the year, comes the release of the holiday CD *Snow*, the second album of instrumental classic Christmas tunes by local composer (*The Hollow, Nevermore*) and actor (*Show Boat, Sunset Boulevard*) **Matt Conner**. Produced by **Signature Theatre** and **ES Productions**, the CD is being released at a wine and cheese reception at the Signature Theatre Lobby on **Sunday, November 6th from 5 – 7pm**. Admittance is free and open to the public – and Conner will be performing a number of songs from the album at 6pm. CD's will be available to purchase at the Signature Store and online for only \$20, making it a perfect holiday stuffer and an ideal listen while you go about trimming the family tree.

Signature's Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer** said, "Matt is one of DC's finest young composers and has been part of the Signature family for years now. It's always a pleasure to hear him play in the Signature Lobby before shows each night – and we are honored to host this special CD release party to celebrate this beautiful and enchanting new collection of songs."

The solo piano album blends traditional carols and songs into unforgettable music box melodies with Conner's distinct and signature sound. In addition to twelve Christmas classics including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Joy to the World," *Snow* features two original compositions by Conner. *Snow* is the second holiday recording from Conner, following the success of his debut CD *Winter* (2010) which *Metro Weekly* called, "a sweet set...dazzling."

Conner stated, "It is a true honor for Signature Theatre to be hosting my second CD Release Party. After my first album *Winter*, I am thrilled to share my interpretations of these classic songs, each one unique and special to my heart."

ABOUT MATT CONNER

Matt Conner (COMPOSER/ACTOR), Compositions: Signature Theatre: *The Hollow* (2011) *Partial Eclipse: A Rock Song Cycle* (2009), *Girl from No Man's Land* (incidental music (2007), *Nevermore* (commissioned by Signature Theatre, book by Grace Barnes, 2006), *Crossing* (commissioned by Signature Theatre, Signature Theatre Workshop, book by Grace Barnes, 2008) and Workshop Production at Shenandoah University 2011). **Creative Cauldron:** *Eddie Allan Poe* (2011), *The*

Selfish Giant (adapted book, music and lyrics, 2011), *Martin: The King of Pizza* (commissioned by Creative Cauldron, book by A.K. Brink and Ryan Dean Halbrook, 2009). **GMCW: A Carol Christmas** (commissioned by GMCW, book, music and lyrics, 2007). **Readings:** *Night of the Living Dead: The Musical*. **Recordings:** *WINTER* (2010), *SNOW* (2011). American Musical Voices Project: The Next Generation Grant Award 2008. **Acting:** Signature Theatre: Manfred/Hogeye in *Sunset Boulevard*, Windy/Captain Andy U/S in *Show Boat*, Fogg/Birdseller in *Sweeney Todd*, Thenardier/Montparnasse in *Les Miserables* (2009 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble), Aurelio in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Scotty in *Merrily We Roll Along*, Toby in *Witches of Eastwick*, Steward in *Into the Woods*, John Hinckley in *Assassins*, Tamate/Lion Dancer in *Pacific Overtures*, Protean/ Hero U/S in *A Funny Thing...Forum*, Cockney in *My Fair Lady*. Other roles include Riff in *West Side Story* (Olney Theatre Center) and The Page of Herodias in Oscar Wilde's *Salome* (Synetic Theatre). Matt is also a proud voice on the Grammy Award®-winning recording of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem.

SIGNATURE'S 2011-12 SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

The remaining line-up for Signature Theatre's 2011-2012 season features the Tony Award®-winning shows *Hairspray* (beginning performances on November 21) and *God of Carnage* and the Washington DC premiere of the cult classic musical *Xanadu*. Signature is also home to the world premiere works *Brother Russia*, and *Really Really*. In addition to the mainstage shows, Signature is presenting a special limited engagement of the world premiere musical *A Second Chance* (playing through December 11th). Stephen Sondheim's first musical *Saturday Night* will be a special concert event that will play for four performances only (October 29th and 30th). Discount subscription packages (starting at 3 shows) are available by calling the Signature Box Office at (703) 820-9771 or visiting www.signature-theatre.org.

ABOUT SIGNATURE

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company in Arlington, Virginia dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. Under the leadership of co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature has presented 35 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces.

In addition to hosting the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been home to such theatre luminaries as Chita Rivera, George Hearn, Hunter Foster, Emily Skinner, Marc Kudisch, Judy Kuhn, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company's signature composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has won 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the Washington, DC region's professional theater and has been honored with 293 nominations.

Signature is partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and by a gift from Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

DIRECTIONS

Signature Theatre is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit (#6). After the exit, blue Signature signs mark the way to the theatre. Free parking is available in two adjacent public garages. Please note that Campbell Avenue is a new street and some GPS online mapping systems do not yet recognize Signature Theatre's address. For directions visit <http://signature-theatre.org/map.htm>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Subscriptions/Groups: (703) 820-9771
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