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(not for publication)

**Wintergreen Performing Arts Presents “Old World, New World – Spain, France, Italy  
& the Americas – A Journey of Discovery”**

For immediate release

Wintergreen, VA – Experience the music of the old and the new worlds without leaving Central Virginia as Wintergreen Performing Arts presents works from Spain, France, Italy, and the Americas in a four-week “Journey of Discovery” from July 7-August 3, 2008. This year’s Summer Music Festival features more than 150 events, including 9 orchestral performances, 17 chamber music performances, two plays (a total of 11 performances), a film festival (13 showings), four jazz concerts, a piano marathon, a Bastille Day Celebration, two cabaret performances, a 5K walk/run race, three solo recitals, eight cooking classes, 48 seminars, four wine tastings, and, as the saying goes, much, much more.

**Spain Week** from **July 7 - 13** kicks off the Festival with great fanfare! On July 7th, a very special guest, Ambassador Inocencio F. Arias, (Consul General for Spain in Los Angeles and the former Spanish Ambassador to the United Nations), will open the Festival with the first of 40 Morning Seminars. On the same day, 40 students at the Wintergreen Summer Music Academy will arrive and settle into their rooms for a month of study and artistic growth. Opening Night on July 9th will feature orchestral and chamber music by Spanish composers Joaquin Turina, Antón García Abril and Manuel de Falla. Later in the week, de Falla’s *El amor brujo* will be performed in its rarely heard original version, along with Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 73*. Spanish pianist Gustavo Diaz-Jerez will be the soloist, and Christopher Zimmerman will conduct the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra. Mr. Diaz-Jerez will also perform the complete *Iberia* by Isaac Albeniz. This monumental work for solo piano was completed in 1908, and the Festival will celebrate the 100th anniversary of this important music.

How fitting that **France Week (July 14 - 20)** begins on Bastille Day! In fact, the transition from Spain to France is made with a 25-hour piano marathon on July 13th at DelFosse Vineyards and Winery in Faber, Virginia. The marathon will end on July 14th as guests enjoy French fare and wine while they prepare to observe a music competition. In fact, the audience will be invited to judge! Come and see who wins the Prix DelFosse! French music will abound throughout the week. Highlights will include the Wintergreen Chamber Players performing Olivier Messiaen’s *Quartet for the End of Time* to mark the 100th anniversary of the composer’s birth. The Wintergreen Festival Orchestra will present *An Evening in the Court of Veritas* on July 16th at Veritas Vineyard & Winery in Afton, Virginia. Cellist Wesley Baldwin will be the soloist in performances of Saint-Saëns’ *Cello Concerto in a minor, Op. 33* on July 19th and 20th with Adrian McDonnell conducting the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra. France Week ends with a first . . . *The Tour de France*. . . *ON FOOT*, a 5K walk/run event on the mountain at Wintergreen Resort.

***Viva Italia!*** Those words say it all as the Festival celebrates **Italy** from **July 21 - 27**. The week features an Italian Pops Concert on July 23rd. That concert will include some of the most famous and beautiful melodies the world has ever known. On July 26th and 27th, the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra, conducted by Alfred Savia, will perform Italian or Italian-influenced music by Rossini, Puccini, Stravinsky and Mendelssohn. There will also be great Italian chamber music on several concerts. The 2008 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival will include an Italian Film Festival that will be presented in cooperation with the Italian Film Festival of Miami, the Virginia Film Festival, and Ecco Italy of Charlottesville. Ecco Italy owner and director Christina Ball will discuss Italian films and the Italian film industry at three of the Morning Seminars. Have we mentioned food and wine? Each week, two cooking classes will be offered featuring country-specific dishes, and there will be a wine tasting every Saturday afternoon. Wine, food, music . . . now that's Italian! ***Viva Italia!***

“Jazz” will be the word of the week during **Americas Week (July 28 - August 3)** as jazz pianist and composer Kirk Nurock comes to Wintergreen for three concerts. His performances will pay tribute to the past and celebrate the present. Mr. Nurock will be joined by trumpeter John D'earth for *America's Jazz Legends – Ellington, Monk and more . . .* on August 1st. Concerts on August 2nd and 3rd will feature vocal jazz by Kirk Nurock (*Jazz Meets Poetry: The Kirk Nurock Songbook*). *Latin Jazz* will be highlighted as Robert Jospé and Inner Rhythm perform at Veritas Vineyard and Winery in Afton, Virginia, on July 30th. In addition to “Jazz,” the Academy Chamber Orchestra will debut on July 31st. The James Piano Quartet and violinist Christopher Pulgram will perform an evening of chamber music on July 29th, and playwright Peter Coy's Helen Hayes Award-Winning Play, *A House in the Country*, will be presented in cooperation with the Hamner Theater. Americas Week is so huge that it actually overlaps with Italy Week as we present playwright-performer Debra Ehrhardt in five performances of her play, *Jamaica, Farewell*. These performances will bring our “Journey of Discovery” to a rousing climax.

Ticket information and a full schedule of activities can be found at [www.wintergreenperformingarts.org](http://www.wintergreenperformingarts.org)

**Located in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Wintergreen Performing Arts, Inc (WPAI), under the Artistic and Executive direction of Larry Alan Smith, is a non-profit organization that produces a high-quality summer music festival featuring symphonic and chamber concerts, as well as other performing arts programs throughout the year. Education is a major part of the organization's mission, reflected both in the Wintergreen Summer Music Academy and in outreach programs for those living in the surrounding area. By attracting first-rate musicians to participate as performers and educators, WPAI strives to enrich the lives of all—residents and visitors alike—who share the unique Wintergreen experience.**

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