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Contact: Linda Charlton 919-313-4162; lcharlton@dpacnc.com

Jim Brickman with the North Carolina Symphony Join Grand Opening Month Line-up for Durham Performing Arts Center

DURHAM, N.C. (June 30, 2008) – Christmas spirit will thrive this year at the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) as the theatre presents platinum-selling recording artist, pianist and composer Jim Brickman alongside the renowned North Carolina Symphony on December 18, 2008 at 8pm. All ages will enjoy this unforgettable celebration featuring favorite holiday songs. Ticket prices for this special holiday event range from \$35 to \$60. The show goes on sale Saturday, August 16 at 10 a.m. through the venue box office at 919-680-ARTS (2787) and online at www.DPACnc.com or www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets, including Macy's and Lowes Foods.

As part of the theatre's grand opening month, the Durham Performing Arts Center teams up with the North Carolina Symphony to offer new holiday entertainment for the community. The unbeatable clarity of Jim Brickman's music, paired with rich sounds from the North Carolina Symphony, truly offers a reason to celebrate.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring a great concert to DPAC, and doubly exciting for me as a former executive with the North Carolina Symphony to announce this co-presentation," said Linda Charlton, director of marketing for DPAC. "What synergy to have the state's premier orchestra perform with this internationally acclaimed pianist at the largest performing arts center in the Carolinas."

Jim Brickman will perform in Durham as part of his holiday tour of 30+ cities. No stranger to the orchestra, Brickman has played with many of the country's most influential symphonies. With his pop-style solo piano, Jim Brickman has revolutionized the sound of Adult Contemporary music. From the release of his debut album "No Words" in 1994 through today, Brickman has more charted adult radio hits (24) than any other artist, and his romantic style has defined him as a marquis among contemporary instrumental hit makers. In November 2005, he held the top three spots on Billboard's New Age chart for his albums "The Disney Songbook," "Grace" and "Greatest Hits." Brickman has established a reputation for his collaborations with many gifted musical artists that include: Martina McBride, Michael W. Smith, Carly Simon, Sara Evans, Gerald Levert, Michael Bolton, and Olivia Newton-John.

The Durham Performing Arts Center is currently under construction downtown in American Tobacco, adjacent to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. On track to open in December 2008, the 2,800 seat theatre is home to big shows, concerts and Broadway Carolina, an authentic Broadway experience direct-from-New York. Performances are booked through an operating partnership between Professional Facilities Management and the Nederlander Organization. This spectacular cultural landmark will draw audiences to more than 100 shows each year with convenient access off I-40, I-540 and I-85, and more than 3,500 parking spaces within walking distance.

A full-time professional orchestra of 69 musicians, the North Carolina Symphony is based in Raleigh's Meymandi Concert Hall at Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Under the artistic leadership of Grant Llewellyn, who began his tenure as Music Director in 2004, the North Carolina Symphony has been widely praised for its "transcendent performances" and its "moving and passionate playing." Top artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Bernadette Peters and Midori have performed with the North Carolina Symphony,