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**For Immediate Release — January 6, 2009**

**“Set your heart on fire” with the powerful rhythm of Ravel’s *Boléro***

**What:** Ravel’s *Boléro*  
Omaha Symphony MasterWorks concert featuring pianist Louis Lortie

**When:** Friday, January 16 @ 8 PM  
Saturday, January 17 @ 8 PM

**Where:** Holland Performing Arts Center 1200 Douglas Street

**Tickets:** \$15 – \$75; available by calling 402.342.3560 or at [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org)

**Omaha, Neb** – “**This is music that will set your heart on fire.**” That’s how Omaha Symphony music director Thomas Wilkins describes Ravel’s *Boléro*. With its powerful rhythms and escalating excitement, *Boléro* ranks among the most popular concert pieces ever written. “If you don’t know this music by its title, I promise you there is no way you have not heard it,” says Wilkins. The work has been featured in video games, TV shows, at the Olympics, and, most famously, in the movie *10*. The Omaha Symphony presents this powerhouse program Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17, at 8 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Pianist **Louis Lortie** is featured in another gem by Ravel, the Piano Concerto for Left Hand. An early 20th century pianist who had lost his right arm during World War 1 commissioned the concerto. This doubles the soloist’s challenge and provides the audience with a unique virtuoso performance.

One look at **Lortie**’s resumé proves he’s up to the task. The Canadian pianist has soloed with the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra National de France, Sydney Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and Montréal Symphony. He has made more than 30 recordings on the Chandos label, ranging from Mozart to Stravinsky.

The evening is full of fantastic French music from Chabrier and Poulenc, as well, finally culminating in Ravel’s “great crescendo.”

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Single tickets to Ravel's *Boléro* range from \$15 to \$75 and are available at 402.342.3560, 402.345.0606, [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org), or at the Omaha Symphony Box Office, 1605 Howard Street.

The Omaha Symphony's MasterWorks Series is sponsored by Omaha Steaks. Upcoming MasterWorks concerts include Symphonic Dances (February 13-14) and Rite of Spring (March 13-14).

*The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances each season. In addition to its series concerts, the orchestra tours both Nebraska and Iowa providing education and community engagement concerts and special events. For tickets or more information, call 402.342.3560 or visit [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org).*

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