

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# WARNER BROS. CONSUMER PRODUCTS STRIKES A CHORD WORLDWIDE WITH "BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY"

Beloved "Bugs Bunny on Broadway" Concert Series Celebrates Its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Global Premiere of New Sequel

BURBANK, Calif., – January 28, 2010 - Warner Bros. Consumer Products announced today that *Bugs Bunny on Broadway*, the record-setting orchestra-and-film concert that reinvented a new genre of symphony orchestra concert when it debuted in 1990, will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 with a rechristened and newly-created concert sequel, *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*. The new concert, as well as the original *Bugs Bunny on Broadway*, is created and conducted by Emmy Award<sup>TM</sup> winner George Daugherty, and produced by Daugherty, Emmy Award<sup>TM</sup> winning David Ka Lik Wong, and their award-winning IFX Productions.

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony, featuring a new fusion of on-screen Looney Tunes and live symphony orchestra accompaniment, will spotlight some of the original cartoon treasures of Bugs Bunny on Broadway, while adding an enlarged "cast" of Warner Bros.' animated characters and cartoons to this celebrated melding of classical music and classic animation.

"Music has always been an important part of the beloved Looney Tunes and their appeal to a worldwide fan base," said Karen McTier, Executive Vice President, Domestic Licensing and Worldwide Marketing, Warner Bros. Consumer Products. "Bugs Bunny at the Symphony is a celebration of these wonderful characters and the artistry which they inspire. This global collaboration will be music to the ears of fans everywhere."

In keeping with the project's 20-year history of traversing the globe, *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* will be unveiled in mid-2010 in a series of major performances which span the planet, including a high-profile, two-tiered world premiere occurring at Australia's famed Sydney Opera House with





the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, and at the renowned Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic on Friday and Saturday, July 16 and 17. The Bowl performances, which will include a spectacular fireworks display choreographed to the animated classic, "What's Opera, Doc?" will also mark Warner Bros.' official celebration of the concert's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to these engagements, *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* will make an Australian national tour in May 2010, including appearances with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in Perth and The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. The U.S. East Coast premiere will take place in Washington D.C. with The National Symphony Orchestra at Wolf Trap Filene Center on Friday and Saturday, August 6 and 7. More cities/venues worldwide will be announced soon.

Bugs Bunny on Broadway first shot to fame in 1990 with its sold-out, extended Broadway run at the Gershwin Theatre. Since that Broadway debut, the concert has delighted audiences around the world with its celebration of the world's favorite Looney Tunes characters on-screen, while their extraordinary Wagner/Rossini/Strauss/Tchaikovsky-inspired Carl Stalling and Milt Franklyn scores are played live by a full symphony orchestra.

Through Warner Bros. Entertainment's animated jewels like "What's Opera, Doc?" "The Rabbit of Seville," "Baton Bunny," "Long-Haired Hare" and "Corny Concerto" (among others), concertgoers across the globe have cheered this extraordinary big-screen and symphony orchestra concert. *Bugs Bunny On Broadway* has sold-out the world's greatest concert venues and opera houses, including The Hollywood Bowl, The Sydney Opera House, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Moscow's Kremlin Palace, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Wolf Trap, London's Royal Festival Hall, and The National Concert Hall of Ireland, performing with scores of the world's greatest symphony orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony, New Japan Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Dallas Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony and more than 100 additional symphony orchestras. It is





estimated that the concert has played to audiences of nearly two million people worldwide over the past two decades.

As creator and conductor George Daugherty points out, all of these venues and orchestras have held a very important place in the 20-year history of *Bugs Bunny on Broadway*. "*Bugs Bunny on Broadway* made its international premiere at The Sydney Opera House in 1996, and we have been back to The Opera House with The Sydney Symphony for many sell-outs since," said Daugherty. "We have performed the concert at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and in front of more audience members there than at any other venue in the world!" Daugherty also points out that *Bugs Bunny on Broadway* made its original touring debut in 1990 at Wolf Trap and has returned there to perform the concert with the National Symphony over a dozen times since.

According to Daugherty, *Bugs Bunny At The Symphony* will still feature a number of *Bugs Bunny On Broadway's* most show-stopping cartoons, including Chuck Jones' brilliant "What's Opera, Doc?" and "The Rabbit of Seville," – two *Looney Tunes* classics that top virtually every published list of "The World's Funniest Cartoons" anywhere.

In addition, a number of new cartoons from the *Merrie Melodies* and *Looney Tunes* vaults will be added, including the debut of *Tweety* and *Sylveste*r into the concert with "Home Tweet Home," and a specially-created montage of Looney Tunes in Song entitled "I Love To Singa" starring *Pepe Le Pew* in "A Scent of The Matterhorn," as well as melodic moments from "I Love To Singa," "Naughty Neighbors," "Nelly's Folly, "Tweet and Lovely," "Bewitched Bunny," "One Froggy Evening," "Robin Hood Daffy," "Hillbilly Hare," and "A Bear For Punishment." The black-and-white era will be paid tribute to with Friz Freleng's "Shake Your Powder Puff," which, as said by Daugherty, was the first-ever *Looney Tune* which parodied the symphony orchestra world, and laid the ground work for decades of classical music spoofs to come.





And to add to the gala, a number of other animated stars from the extended Warner Bros. cartoon family will pay tribute to Bugs Bunny's stellar musical career – including *Tom & Jerry* in the celebrated "Tom and Jerry In The Hollywood Bowl," and spectacular new musical montages starring *The Flintstones*, *Scooby-Doo*, and other stars from the world of Hanna-Barbera.

"I am so proud to have been associated with *Bugs Bunny on Broadway* for almost its entire history," said Steven A. Linder, Senior Vice-President, Director, Attractions, IMG Artists, which is the worldwide booking and management agency for both concerts. "And I am equally thrilled to be part of its new incarnation -- *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*. This project, as so brilliantly conceived by George Daugherty, has been nothing short of groundbreaking and beautifully marries the musical passion of the concert hall with the artistic passion of some of the greatest creative minds in Hollywood."

#### **About Warner Bros. Consumer Products**

Warner Bros. Consumer Products, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, is one of the leading licensing and retail merchandising organizations in the world.

# **About IMG Artists**

IMG Artists is the global leader in the arts management business which combines the highest standards of management with an incomparable roster of performing artists, ranging from superstars Renee Fleming, Itzhak Perlman and Joshua Bell, to The Bolshoi Ballet, to the top symphony orchestras in the world, including The Cleveland Orchestra, The London Philharmonic, and The Royal Philharmonic. With offices in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Hanover, Lucca and Singapore, IMG Artists delivers an international suite of capabilities including the management and touring of the finest musicians, dance companies, orchestras, and attractions, as well as consulting and advisory work for sovereign clients, arts institutions, concert halls, and culturally engaged corporations. With an unparalleled degree of artistic and managerial talent, IMG Artists is committed to breaking new ground in the ever-evolving performing arts world.

# **About George Daugherty**

Daugherty is a frequent guest conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and Philadelphia Orchestra, and has conducted almost every major American symphony orchestra as well as a long list of international ensembles. He has become well-respected for his unique and innovative symphony orchestra concerts and productions. Additionally, he has received five Emmy<sup>TM</sup> nominations as a producer, director and music director, and he won a Primetime Emmy<sup>TM</sup> for his ABC Network production of "Peter and The





Wolf". That production, along with Daugherty's other television projects (including "Rhythm & Jam" and the Emmy-winning PBS series "Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat") received a total of 11 Emmy<sup>TM</sup> nominations and numerous other major awards.

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# **Contacts**:

Warner Bros. Consumer Products
Rita Cooper
Director, Worldwide Public Relations
(818) 954-3821
rita.cooper@warnerbros.com

# **IMG Artists**

Steven A. Linder Senior Vice-President, Director, Attractions Tel: 818-260-8523 slinder@imgartists.com

Maureen Taylor Artist Manager Tel: 212-994-3535

mtaylor@imgartists.com