PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Contact: Esty Dinur, Marketing & Communications Director, 608-262-3907, edinur@wisc.edu
Note to Editors: high-resolution photos are available online, http://www.uniontheater.wisc.edu/press.html

“Classical rock star” and TED Fellow Joshua Roman to Play with UW Symphony Orchestra

“Classical rock star” cellist Joshua Roman will play with the UW-Madison Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, November 10, 2012, 8 pm, at Mills Hall, as part of the Wisconsin Union Theater’s 2012-2013 Concert Series. The program includes Menuet Antique by Maurice Ravel, Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, Op. 4 by Antonin Dvorak, and Symphony No. 4 H. 305 by Bohuslav Matinu. Tickets are $15 for the general public; $12 for Memorial Union Members, UW Madison Faculty and Staff, and Non-UW Students; $14 for Youth under the age of 18 (limit 2 per adult ticket); and free for UW Students with valid ID. To order tickets, call the Box Office at 608.265.ARTS (2787), buy online, or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

Roman has earned a national reputation for performing a wide range of repertoire and was hailed by The San Francisco Chronicle as “a cellist of extraordinary technical and musical gifts” following his 2010 debut with the San Francisco Symphony under Herbert Blomstedt. For his ongoing creative initiatives on behalf of classical music, Roman was named a 2011 TED Fellow, joining a select group of Next Generation innovators of unusual accomplishments with the potential to positively affect the world.

Last season Roman was guest artist for the Seattle Symphony’s opening night gala, made his Toronto Symphony debut, performed at the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament, and was presented on the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago, among other performances. He also performed duos with Yo-Yo Ma at a State Department event hosted by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden for the President of China, and played at the Oslo Freedom Forum in Norway.

Before embarking on a solo career, Roman was principal cellist of the Seattle Symphony for two seasons, a position he won in 2006 at the age of 22. Since that time he has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras. He performed Britten’s third Cello Suite during New York’s Mostly Mozart Festival in a pre-concert recital at Avery Fisher Hall, and was the only guest artist invited to play an unaccompanied solo during the YouTube Symphony Orchestra’s 2009 debut concert at Carnegie Hall.

Since 2007, Roman has been Artistic Director of TownMusic in Seattle, where he creates programs that feature new works and reflect his eclectic musical influences and inspirations. Committed to making music accessible to a wider audience, Roman may be found anywhere
from a club to a classroom, performing jazz, rock, chamber music, or a solo sonata by Bach or Kodály. His versatility as a performer and his ongoing exploration of new concertos, chamber music, and solo cello works have spawned projects with numerous composers, and Paste magazine singled out Roman and DJ Spooky for their cello and iPad cover of Radiohead’s “Everything in Its Right Place,” created for The Voice Project. One of Roman’s ongoing undertakings is an online video series called “The Popper Project”: wherever the cellist and his laptop find themselves, he performs an étude from David Popper’s “High School of Cello Playing” and uploads it, unedited, to his YouTube channel. Roman’s outreach endeavors have taken him to Uganda with his violin-playing siblings, where they played chamber music in schools, HIV/AIDS centers, and displacement camps, communicating a message of hope through music.

This performance is presented by the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Performing Arts Committee and supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Media sponsor is WORT, 89.9 FM