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## Cirque de la Symphonie Background and Bios of Performers

**Cirque de la Symphonie** is an exciting production designed to bring the magic of cirque to the music hall. For more than 10 years, it has thrilled and bedazzled veteran concert goers and new patrons as they see accomplished aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, balancers, and strongmen perform to live symphony music. They include world record holders, gold-medal winners of international competitions, Olympians and some of the most experienced cirque talent ever seen. Their performances are uniquely adapted to stage accommodations shared with the symphony, and each artist's performance is choreographed to the music arranged in collaboration with the maestro. When the artists of Cirque de la Symphonie perform in front of the full orchestra, an incredible fusion of these two great art forms takes place. The aerialists and acrobats turn the concert into a three-dimensional entertainment extravaganza, and the orchestra seems to play with enhanced enthusiasm.

**Christine Van Loo** is a seven-time consecutive National Champion, Female Olympic Athlete of the Year, and Athlete of the Decade in acrobatic gymnastics. She was inducted into the USSA (acrobatics) Hall of Fame and the World Acrobatics Society Gallery of Honor. As a professional aerialist and acrobat, she has performed in the 2002 Winter Olympics, at the Grammy Awards (with No Doubt and with Ricky Martin), at the American Music Awards (with Aerosmith), the Miss Universe pageant, and Paul McCartney's European tour. She was a trainer and performer with NBC's Celebrity Circus, and she choreographed the aerials for Britney Spears World Tour and the Stars on Ice US tour. Christine provides spell-binding performances of aerial silks, rope, lira, and trapeze with Cirque de la Symphonie.

**Elena Tsarkova**, the "Lady in White," is a graduate of the famed Moscow Circus School and first-place winner of the prestigious National Russian Circus Festival. From "Master of Sports" in gymnastics, Elena developed into a unique and graceful performer with the Big Apple Circus, Switzerland's Circus Knie, and Germany's Circus Roncalli. Her combination of contortion, balance, and graceful dance moves made her a major star with Cirque de la Mur in Florida and Circus Circus in Las Vegas. Elena's experience with major stage and theater productions offers a professional background that allows for a truly elegant performance with the live symphony.

**Vladimir Tsarkov** provides a spell-binding performance with combinations of mime and juggling feats. A favorite of audience members of all ages, Vladimir's Red Harlequin act features rings, balls, and electric batons, and he's even been known to teach the maestro a trick or two! He is a veteran of Circus-Circus, Cirque Ingenieux, and various entertainment productions globally. Vladimir graduated from Russia's prestigious State College of Circus and Theater Arts and won the gold medal at the Cirque de Demain International Festival in France. His performance with the symphony is pure entertainment.

**Vitalii Buza** began his gymnastic training in the Republic of Moldova and soon competed as an elite gymnast with the Russian national team. At the age of 16, Vitalii joined the Moscow State Circus as a professional acrobat and toured throughout Europe. After a move to the US, he starred in productions at Sea World, Universal Studios and Walt Disney World. He has been featured in numerous TV ads and won a role in the Walt Disney movie "Enchanted." Vitalii also performed at the 2006 Latin Grammy Awards, the 2007 NFL Pro Bowl, 2010 Academy Awards and the 2011 Latin Billboard Awards. He has performed for celebrities and at corporate events for major companies. Vitalii excels in multiple cirque acts, such as duo hand-balancing, straps, Cyr wheel, spinning cube, Chinese pole, and the Russian bar.

The amazing strength and balancing act of Acro Duo consists of **Vitaliy Prikhodko** and **Pavel Korshunov**. Vitaliy is a native of Ukraine, where he graduated from Kiev State Circus College. He began his career with the National Circus of Ukraine, winning first place at the New Ukrainian Circus Festival. His acrobatic experience includes worldwide tours with Nikulin's Moscow Circus. Pavel, a native of

Voronezh, Russia, is a three-time national champion of Russia, two-time World Champion and two-time Champion of the World Cup in acrobatic sport. A former veteran with Cirque du Soleil's "Varekai, Pavel is a multi-talented performer on straps, Russian swing, trampoline, and acrobatics. AcroDuo's performances with Cirque de la Symphonie create spontaneous eruptions of applause and emotion, as they display a stunning display of strength and balance.