



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

2010/11 Season News

nyphil.org/newsroom

Eric Latzky
Vice President, Communications
212 875 5700
212 875 5717 Fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2010
Contact: Katherine E. Johnson
(212) 875-5718; johnsonk@nyphil.org

ALAN GILBERT AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

**MUSIC DIRECTOR TO LAUNCH THE 169TH SEASON OF THE
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC,
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010, AT 7:30 P.M.**

**Gala Evening To Open with the U.S. Premiere of Wynton Marsalis's
Symphony No. 3, *Swing Symphony*, a New York Philharmonic Co-Commission,
Performed Jointly by the New York Philharmonic and the
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Conducted by Alan Gilbert**

The Opening Night Gala Is Presented by Breguet

**Actor Alec Baldwin To Host *Live From Lincoln Center Broadcast*
Simulcast on 105.9 FM WQXR**

**Free Dress Rehearsal of Evening's Concert To Take Place at Avery Fisher Hall
That Morning, 9:45 a.m., Presented to the City by the Philharmonic and
Credit Suisse, the Philharmonic's Global Sponsor**

Alan Gilbert will begin his second season as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic when he conducts the Orchestra's Opening Night Gala, Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., presented by Breguet. The concert, which ushers in the Philharmonic's 169th season, will feature the U.S. Premiere of Wynton Marsalis's Symphony No. 3, *Swing Symphony*, a New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with the Berlin Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and The Barbican, performed jointly by the New York Philharmonic and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Also on the program: R. Strauss's *Don Juan* and Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*. Actor Alec Baldwin will host *Live From Lincoln Center*, broadcast nationally on a tape-delayed basis on PBS stations at 9:00 p.m. [Check local listings], and 105.9 FM WQXR will simulcast the broadcast.

In speaking about the program, Alan Gilbert noted that, "Wynton is a genius, an amazing musician on every level, and I think it's particularly appropriate that we're doing this collaboration between two constituent groups of Lincoln Center." He added that,
(more)

“Strauss’s *Don Juan* for me remains an amazing work. He wrote it when he was 26 years old, and it’s an explosion of creative energy — it’s one of the most difficult virtuoso pieces for orchestra. I’ve always loved this piece, and I think it’s actually one of my favorite Strauss pieces.” He chose to close the program with Hindemith’s *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber* — “a piece,” said Mr. Gilbert, “that was premiered by the New York Philharmonic. It’s a transformation of 19th-century music, a piece that exploits the orchestra, and one that uses the brilliance of the New York Philharmonic to great effect.”

According to Mr. Marsalis, his Symphony No. 3, *Swing Symphony*, is “a true jazz symphony, the movements of which are written in all styles of ‘swing’ — a song for orchestra on a grand scale in which the jazz band is totally integrated with the orchestra, not the solo element accompanied by orchestra.” The *Berliner Morgenpost* noted that the work, which was premiered in Berlin, “offered 50 minutes of joy and set many toes tapping.”

Related Events

- **Free Dress Rehearsal**

For the fourth consecutive year, the Philharmonic and its Global Sponsor, Credit Suisse, will offer a Free Dress Rehearsal that day at 9:45 a.m., with Mr. Gilbert preparing the Orchestra for the evening’s concert. General admission tickets will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at 8:00 that morning, on Lincoln Center’s Josie Robertson Plaza. Additional details about the Free Dress Rehearsal will be announced.

- **Opening Night Gala**

The black-tie Opening Night Gala will include a pre-concert reception from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., the concert, and a dinner immediately following the concert. Opening Night Gala Chairmen are **Judith M. and Russell L. Carson** and **Carol Sutton Lewis and William M. Lewis, Jr.** The executive Vice Chairmen are **Paul Calello, Agnes and Gerald L. Hassell**, and **Mark A. Hayek**. The Opening Night Gala is presented by **Breguet**. The Gala is generously underwritten by **BNY Mellon, Judith M. and Russell L. Carson**, and **Credit Suisse**.

- ***New York Philharmonic Podcast***

Elliott Forrest, Peabody Award-winning broadcaster, producer, and weekend host on Classical 105.9 FM WQXR, is the producer for this podcast. These award-winning previews of upcoming programs — through musical selections as well as interviews with guest artists, conductors, and Orchestra musicians — are available at nyphil.org/podcast or from iTunes.

Artists

Alan Gilbert became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2009, the first native New Yorker to hold the post, ushering in what *New York* magazine called

(more)

“a moment of metamorphosis and continuity.” In his inaugural season he introduced a number of new initiatives: the positions of The Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence, held by Magnus Lindberg, and The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, held in 2010–11 by violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter; an annual three-week festival; and *CONTACT!*, the New York Philharmonic’s new-music series. In the 2010–11 season he will lead the Orchestra on two tours of European music capitals; two performances at Carnegie Hall, including the venue’s 120th Anniversary Concert; and a staged presentation of Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Highlights of Mr. Gilbert’s inaugural season included major tours of Asia and Europe and an acclaimed staged presentation of Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre*.

Mr. Gilbert is conductor laureate of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and principal guest conductor of Hamburg’s NDR Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted other leading orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, including the Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco symphony orchestras; the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras; and the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich’s Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In 2003 he was named the first music director of the Santa Fe Opera.

Alan Gilbert studied at Harvard University, The Curtis Institute of Music, and The Juilliard School. From 1995 to 1997 he was the assistant conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra. In November 2008 he made his acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut conducting John Adams’s *Doctor Atomic*. His recordings have received a 2008 Grammy Award nomination and top honors from the *Chicago Tribune* and *Gramophone* magazine. On May 15, 2010, Mr. Gilbert received an Honorary Doctor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music.

Founded in 1842, the **New York Philharmonic** is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and one of the oldest in the world; on May 5, 2010, it performed its 15,000th concert. The Orchestra has always played a leading role in American musical life, championing the music of its time, and is renowned around the globe, having appeared in 429 cities in 62 countries, including the February 2008 historic visit to Pyongyang, DPRK. The Philharmonic’s concerts are broadcast on the weekly syndicated radio program, *The New York Philharmonic This Week* and streamed on the Orchestra’s Website, nyphil.org and are telecast annually on *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS. The Philharmonic has made nearly 2,000 recordings since 1917, with more than 500 currently available. The first major American orchestra to offer downloadable concerts, recorded live, the Philharmonic last season released the first-ever classical iTunes Pass. The Orchestra has built on the long-running Young People’s Concerts to develop a wide range of education programs, including the School Partnership Program, enriching music education in New York City, and Learning Overtures, fostering international exchange. Alan Gilbert became Music Director in September 2009, succeeding Lorin Maazel in a
(more)

distinguished line of musical giants. Credit Suisse is the New York Philharmonic's exclusive Global Sponsor.

The **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**, composed of 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1987. Featured in all aspects of the organization's programming, the versatile Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs and leads concert and educational events in New York, across the U.S., and around the world with many of the world's leading symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, local students, and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists. Education is a major part of Jazz at Lincoln Center's mission, and its educational activities are coordinated with concert and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra tour programming. Led by artistic director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra spends more than half the year on tour and performs a vast repertoire, ranging from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works by guest artists and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra members. To date, 13 recordings featuring the orchestra, under the former name of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, have been released and internationally distributed.

Repertoire

Wynton Marsalis's Symphony No. 3, *Swing Symphony* is receiving its U.S. Premiere in this performance. Describing the work, Mr. Marsalis has said: "My piece follows the evolution of swing to the modern, to the current time. And the attitude of the piece is that all the eras of swing are always present. Every moment of it is a modern moment. It is perpetually new; it revives itself; it's a timeless rhythm. A swing rhythm doesn't age." The work allows Mr. Marsalis to continue his explorations on how to join the forces of two strains of Western music — jazz and the symphony orchestra — to allow them to maintain their distinct identities while avoiding any possible sense of conflict or competition that derives from their different practices and genres. "I want to try to figure some other ways how they can work together," he has explained. "The challenge for me is to make it sound like it's swinging."

Pulitzer Prize winner and renowned trumpeter and composer **Wynton Marsalis** is the artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and music director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, he began his classical training on trumpet at age 12, entering The Juilliard School at age 17. He has recorded more than 30 jazz and classical recordings, which have won him nine Grammy Awards. The New York Philharmonic, in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (now the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra), gave the World Premiere of his four-movement Blues-inspired *All Rise* — a New York Philharmonic Commission — in December 1999.

Richard Strauss completed his lush orchestral tone poem *Don Juan* in 1888, inspired by the dramatic poem by the Austrian poet Nikolaus Lenau (1802–50). In Lenau's work, the famous 16th-century rogue had been cast in a more sympathetic light than usual. Lenau re-imagined Don Juan as a kind of idealist hero on a philosophical quest, searching the

(more)

world for the perfect woman. Strauss's inimitable skill at orchestral storytelling captures the energy, suavity, and ultimate tragedy of the hero in a work that has enthralled audiences since the composer led the world premiere in Weimar in 1889. *Don Juan* was first performed by the New York Philharmonic in December 1905, led by Max Fiedler, and most recently in January 2007, led by Lorin Maazel.

In 1940, the dancer and choreographer Leonid Massine proposed a new project to composer **Paul Hindemith**: a ballet based on the music of the great 19th-century German composer Carl Maria von Weber. Hindemith began sketching out his own compositional interpretations of some themes from Weber, but these did not particularly please Massine, who apparently had had something more conservative in mind. The last straw came when Hindemith learned to his great displeasure that Massine intended Salvador Dalí to design the ballet. The composer called off the project and set the sketches aside. Three years later he had returned to them and orchestral work in four movements, which he titled *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*. The lively and inventive score was quickly embraced into the concert repertory and remains one of Hindemith's most frequently performed works. The New York Philharmonic gave the world premiere of the *Symphonic Metamorphoses* in January 1944, with Artur Rodzinski conducting; the most recent performances took place in December 1995, conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

* * *

Credit Suisse is the Global Sponsor of the New York Philharmonic.

* * *

The Opening Night Gala is presented by **Breguet**, the exclusive timepiece of the New York Philharmonic. Generous underwriting is provided by **BNY Mellon, Judith M. and Russell L. Carson, and Credit Suisse**.

Breguet is the ultimate watch brand among the 159-member companies comprising the Swatch Group Ltd of Biel, Switzerland, the largest watch company in the world. First established in the studio of A.L. Breguet in 1775, the company can draw a thread through the fabric of European art and culture, where Breguet watches were indispensable to the scientific, military, financial and diplomatic elites of the age. Today, with boutiques around the world, it is a point of honor for Breguet to stay ahead of its era while preserving its splendid history.

* * *

Programs of the New York Philharmonic are supported, in part, by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts**.

* * *

(more)

New York Philharmonic Opening Day and Night/6

Single tickets for Opening Night are \$73 to \$249. All tickets may be purchased online at **nyphil.org** or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office** or the **Alice Tully Hall Box Office** at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 65th Street. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. To determine ticket availability, call the Philharmonic's Customer Relations Department at **(212) 875-5656**. [Ticket prices subject to change.]

For press tickets, call Lanore Carr in the New York Philharmonic Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at carrl@nyphil.org.

For more information about the **Opening Night Gala**, which includes a pre-concert reception, concert, and post-concert dinner, please call **Courtney Ford** at New York Philharmonic Special Events (212) 875-5757, or e-mail her at fordc@nyphil.org.

* * *

Opening Night of New York Philharmonic's 2010–11 Season

Avery Fisher Hall
Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Free Dress Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Free. Tickets required and available, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Opening Night Gala Concert — 7:30 p.m.

Live From Lincoln Center telecast on PBS stations, 9:00 p.m. [check local listings]

Alec Baldwin, host

Simulcast on 105.9 FM WQXR

Alan Gilbert, conductor
New York Philharmonic
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Wynton Marsalis, artistic director and trumpet

Wynton MARSALIS
R. STRAUSS
HINDEMITH

Symphony No. 3, *Swing Symphony*
Don Juan
Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl
Maria von Weber

###

Photography is available in the New York Philharmonic's online newsroom, nyphil.org/newsroom, or by contacting the Communications Department at (212) 875-5700; PR@nyphil.org.