



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC AND FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY
TO COLLABORATE ON WEEKLONG, CITYWIDE FOOD DRIVE
DURING ORCHESTRA'S FREE CONCERTS IN THE PARKS,
JULY 10-17, 2007**

**Concertgoers May Donate Non-Perishable Food Items
At Concerts in Each Borough of New York City**

The New York Philharmonic and the Food Bank For New York City will collaborate on a week-long, citywide food drive in conjunction with the Orchestra's annual, free Concerts in the Parks series, July 10-17, 2007. For the 43rd season, the Philharmonic will again bring free music under the stars to New Yorkers during the **2007 New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks, Sponsored by CIT**.

Throughout the food drive, concertgoers are invited to donate non-perishable food items at parks concerts throughout the city. Representatives will be stationed at white-and-orange food bins (orange is the color of hunger awareness) located at the main entrances to each park, and next to the program stands located throughout each of the following parks: Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Central Park, Manhattan; Cunningham Park, Queens; Snug Harbor, Staten Island; and Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx. For more information, visit nyphil.org, or foodbanknyc.org. (See concert schedule below.)

"The New York Philharmonic, through the Concerts in the Parks, has been giving the gift of free music to New Yorkers for 43 years," said New York Philharmonic President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta. "Now, because of this unique collaboration, concertgoers will have an opportunity to give back to this great city. We are so pleased to again join forces with the Food Bank For New York City for what we hope will be the largest and most successful food drive ever."

"The Food Bank For New York City is honored to partner with the New York Philharmonic through the Concerts in the Parks," said Lucy Cabrera, Ph.D., President and CEO of Food Bank For New York City. "Through the generosity and support of the New York Philharmonic, thousands of concertgoers in all five boroughs will be treated to great music and an opportunity to provide the gift of free meals to the more than two million New Yorkers who are at risk of hunger. Let the music begin!"

(more)

Since their inception in 1965, the performances have delighted more than 14 million listeners, including 122,300 last summer alone.

About the New York Philharmonic

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and one of the oldest in the world. Lorin Maazel became Music Director in September 2002, succeeding Kurt Masur, who was Music Director from 1991 until the summer of 2002. Other recent Music Directors include Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, and Leonard Bernstein. Since its inception, the Philharmonic has played a leading role in American musical life, reaching out to audiences with touring that began in 1882; recordings beginning in 1917; radio broadcasts since 1922, now represented by *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, syndicated nationally 52 weeks a year, and available on the Orchestra's Website, nyphil.org. The Internet has further expanded the Philharmonic's audiences: the Philharmonic recently became the first major American orchestra to offer downloadable concerts, recorded live, on the DG Concerts label, exclusively on iTunes.

About the Food Bank For New York City

Food Bank For New York City, the city's primary supplier of food for those who would otherwise go hungry, helps provide more than 250,000 free meals served each day by more than 1,000 emergency and community food programs throughout the five boroughs — including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, low-income daycare centers, Kids Cafes and senior, youth and rehabilitation centers. Those in need include women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities and the working poor. Recent honors include a consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator — the nation's largest charity evaluator. The Food Bank was also recognized by America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network, with its second "Mighty Apple" award for the most fresh produce collected and distributed within the network.

The New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks are sponsored by **CIT**, with major support also provided by **The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, The Starr Foundation, The Carson Family Charitable Trust, and Arthur Ross Foundation.**

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2007 NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS,
SPONSORED BY CIT
FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY DROP-OFF VENUES

Tuesday, July 10	Prospect Park, Brooklyn
Wednesday, July 11	The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan
Thursday, July 12	Cunningham Park, Queens
Friday, July 13	Snug Harbor, Staten Island
Monday, July 16	Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx
Tuesday, July 17	The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan

All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by fireworks. For further information, call the New York Philharmonic hotline: (212) 875-5709, or visit the Philharmonic's Website, **nyphil.org**. (For music programming details, see separate release, 2007 New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks.)

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