

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2007

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**ALAN GILBERT NAMED MUSIC DIRECTOR  
OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC  
Initial Five-Year Contract To Commence in September 2009**

**RICCARDO MUTI TO BE IN RESIDENCE MULTIPLE WEEKS PER SEASON  
Relationship Is Expansion of Current Multi-Week / Multi-Year Agreement**

New York Philharmonic Chairman Paul B. Guenther, and President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta, announced today that conductor Alan Gilbert will become the Orchestra's next Music Director, beginning in 2009–10, the Orchestra's 168th season. Mr. Gilbert, 40, will be among the youngest music directors in the history of the New York Philharmonic, and the first native New Yorker. The initial agreement is for five years. Financial arrangements were not disclosed.

As the New York Philharmonic's 25th Music Director, Mr. Gilbert, chief conductor and artistic advisor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra since 2000, will succeed Lorin Maazel, whose tenure began in 2002, and culminates with the 2008–09 season. Beginning with the 2009–10 season, Mr. Gilbert will conduct the New York Philharmonic for 12 weeks each year, will lead the Orchestra on national and international tours, and will have responsibility for the evolution of the artistic profile of the Orchestra. Mr. Gilbert made his New York Philharmonic debut on October 18, 2001, and has since conducted the New York Philharmonic in 23 concerts; he will lead eight in the coming season (see attachment: Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic).

With his enthusiasm and admiration for the New York Philharmonic, Italian conductor Riccardo Muti has accepted an invitation to expand his commitment to conduct the Orchestra. Concurrent with Mr. Gilbert's appointment in 2009–10, Mr. Muti will appear in multiple weeks of subscription concerts each season, and occasional international tours.

“On behalf of the entire institution, we are thrilled at the choice of Alan Gilbert as the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic,” stated Philharmonic Chairman Paul B. Guenther. “He is a highly respected member of the Philharmonic family, and a great New Yorker. I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the search committee for their expert guidance – we all look forward to a very bright future.”

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“I was present at Alan Gilbert’s New York Philharmonic debut, and have attended every one of his concerts here since,” said Philharmonic President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta. “Each concert has given me an extraordinary sense of the inevitability of his destiny with the Orchestra. In the decision-making process, I kept coming back to the choice of Alan Gilbert, his remarkable gifts as a conductor and communicator, and the poetic quality of his music-making.”

“Being appointed Music Director of the New York Philharmonic is much more than a dream come true — it is the realization of something I did not even dare to dream,” said Alan Gilbert. “This is the orchestra I feel closest to in the world, these are the musicians for whom I have the highest regard in the world. To be given this vote of confidence is more than thrilling. I look forward to continuing to work with this greatest of orchestras, and to meeting and developing a close rapport with New York City’s music-loving public.”

“Making music with the New York Philharmonic has long been one of the highlights of my musical life,” commented Riccardo Muti. “I am delighted that my role with the Orchestra will expand and that we shall be performing together even more than we do currently, both at home in New York, and on tour. Furthermore, I congratulate the musicians on their choice of Alan Gilbert as their music director.”

“Like many members of the Orchestra, I’ve known Alan since he was a young man, and have followed his progress with interest,” said Fiona Simon, Chairperson of the Orchestra Committee. “He is always exciting to work with, and we are proud of his achievements as a conductor. He has developed into an outstanding musician, and we are delighted to welcome him as our next Music Director.”

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New York-born conductor **Alan Gilbert** has been chief conductor and artistic advisor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra since 2000, and principal guest conductor of Hamburg’s NDR Symphony Orchestra since 2004. He was the first music director in the history of the Santa Fe Opera, and during the company’s 50th-anniversary season in 2006, he led the U.S. premiere of Thomas Adès’s *Tempest*. He made his New York Philharmonic debut in October 2001 as the Diamond American Conductor, and has led the Orchestra numerous times, most recently in March 2007. Next season he will return for two weeks in the second year of a three-year agreement to spend multiple weeks with the New York Philharmonic.

Mr. Gilbert, who appears regularly with many of the world’s leading orchestras and opera companies, will begin the 2007–08 season with his Vienna Staatsoper debut, conducting Bizet’s *Carmen*, and soon afterward will inaugurate his final Stockholm season. He will lead The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center, and will take the

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orchestra of his alma mater — Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music — to Carnegie Hall. He will lead concerts with the San Francisco Symphony, and in Zurich will conduct the Tonhalle Orchestra and return to the Zurich Opera House. He leads the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in Paris, and Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra in the 2007 Schleswig-Holstein Festival, as well as performances in Hamburg, Lübeck, and Bremen, and on tour to Cologne, Vienna, Prague, and Ljubljana, Slovenia. Early in the season he returns to the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and will end his tenure there with a valedictory performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 9.

Alan Gilbert's parents, Yoko Takebe and Michael Gilbert, both violinists in the New York Philharmonic (Mr. Gilbert is now retired), were his first teachers. Born and raised in New York City, he studied at Harvard, The Curtis Institute, and The Juilliard School, and was a substitute violinist with The Philadelphia Orchestra for two seasons. He also played second violin to his father in 1993 in the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, where the elder Gilbert was concertmaster for many seasons.

Mr. Gilbert was the recipient of the 1997 Seaver / National Endowment for the Arts Conductors Award, and was named a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

Born in Naples, **Riccardo Muti** studied piano at that city's Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella and composition and conducting at the Conservatory "Giuseppe Verdi," Milan. In 1967 he was awarded first place in the Guido Cantelli conducting competition in Milan, and the following year he was appointed principal conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Other positions have included chief conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra (1972–82), music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra (1980–92), and music director of Milan's Teatro alla Scala (1986–2005). In 2004 he founded the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Muti has conducted most of the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, and the Vienna Philharmonic. Beginning with the 2006–07 season, he has been closely associated with the New York Philharmonic, spending multiple weeks with the Orchestra over a three-year period.

Riccardo Muti has led performances in locations that represent the troubled past and contemporary history through the Ravenna Festival's Paths of Friendship project — in cities ranging from Sarajevo (1997) to New York (2002) — with the La Scala Philharmonic and Chorus, the Orchestra and Chorus of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and the "Musicians of Europe United," a group made up of the top players of Europe's major orchestras. His extensive discography has garnered many prizes, and his numerous honors include the Great Cross of the Italian Republic, Knight of the British Empire, France's Légion d'Honneur, Russia's Order of Friendship, and Israel's Wolf Prize for the arts.

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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 2002, the latest in a distinguished line of 20th-century musical giants that has included Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, and Boulez; Mahler, Walter, and Toscanini. Since the Orchestra's founding in 1842 it has championed new music, commissioning or premiering many important works, from Dvořák's *New World Symphony* (1893) and Gershwin's *An American in Paris* (1928) to John Adams's Pulitzer Prize-winning *On the Transmigration of Souls* (2002) and Esa-Pekka Salonen's Piano Concerto (2007).

Over the last century the Philharmonic has appeared in 420 cities in 58 countries on five continents. Long a media pioneer, the Philharmonic began radio broadcasts in 1922, and is currently represented by *The New York Philharmonic This Week* — syndicated nationally 52 weeks per year, and available at [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org) and on XM Satellite Radio. In addition, the Orchestra's concerts are now broadcast throughout Europe on BBC Radio 3. On television, the Philharmonic inspired a generation through Bernstein's *Young People's Concerts* on CBS in the 1950s and '60s; its television presence has continued with annual appearances on PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*.

The Philharmonic has more than 1,500 authorized releases and many Grammy Awards to its credit. The Internet has further expanded its reach, and in 2006 the Philharmonic became the first major American orchestra to offer downloadable concerts, recorded live and available on the DG Concerts label, exclusively on iTunes. On June 4, 2007, the New York Philharmonic proudly announced a new partnership with Credit Suisse, its first-ever and sole Global Sponsor.

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**TENURES OF PREVIOUS MUSIC DIRECTORS  
OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC\***

Ureli Corelli Hill	1842-1847
Theodore Eisfeld	1848-1865
Carl Bergmann	1855-1876
Leopold Damrosch	1876-1877
Theodore Thomas	1877-1891
Anton Seidl	1891-1898
Emil Paur	1898-1902
Walter Damrosch	1902-1903
Wassily Safonoff	1906-1909
Gustav Mahler	1909-1911
Josef Stransky	1911-1923
Willem Mengelberg	1922-1930
Arturo Toscanini	1928-1936
John Barbirolli	1936-1941
Artur Rodzinski	1943-1947
Bruno Walter	1947-1949
Leopold Stokowski	1949-1950
Dimitri Mitropoulos	1949-1958
Leonard Bernstein	1958-1969
<i>Laureate Conductor</i>	1943-1990
George Szell	1969-1970
Pierre Boulez	1971-1977
Zubin Mehta	1978-1991
Kurt Masur	1991-2002
Lorin Maazel	2002-present

*\*In some years there was no designee for this position.*

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**ALAN GILBERT AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC**

2001–02 Season

**October 18, 19, 20, 23, 2001: Diamond American Conductor Debut Week**

Thomas Stacy, English horn

SIBELIUS	<i>The Swan of Tuonela</i>
STENHAMMAR	Serenade
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 6, <i>Pastorale</i>

2003–04 Season

**May 15, 19, 20, 2004: Charles Ives: An American Original**

Nathan Gunn, Baritone

The Dessoff Symphonic Choir, Kent Tritle, Director

COPLAND	“Long Time Ago,” from <i>Old American Songs</i>
MAHLER	“Revelge,” “Lob des hohen Versdtaddes,” and “Der Tambourg’sell,” from <i>Des Knaben Wunderhorn</i>

COPLAND	“At the River,” from <i>Old American Songs</i>
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BERG	Three Orchestral Pieces
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IVES/Becker	<i>General William Booth Enters into Heaven</i>
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IVES	Symphony No. 4
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2004–05 Season

**December 15, 16, 17, 18, 2004**

Celena Schafer, Soprano

Nancy Maultsby, Mezzo-soprano

Kurt Streit, Tenor

Jonathan Lemalu, Bass-baritone

Westminster Symphonic Choir, Andrew Megill, Assistant Director

HANDEL	<i>Messiah</i>
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**June 2, 3, 4, 7, 2005**

Carter Brey, Cello

DVOŘÁK

BARBER

Henri DUTILLEUX

HAYDN

*The Noon Witch*

Cello Concerto

*Mystère de l'instant*

Symphony No. 90

2006–07 Season

**February 8, 9, 10, 2007**

Lars Vogt, Piano

Daniel BÖRTZ

BEETHOVEN

DEBUSSY

*Parodos* (U.S. Premiere)

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major

*Images for Orchestra*

**February 13, 2007, *Inside the Music***

Peter Schickele, Host

DEBUSSY

*Images for Orchestra*

**March 14, 2007, *Hear & Now***

Steven Stucky, Host

Christian Tetzlaff, Violin

LIGETI

Violin Concerto

**March 15, 16, 17, 2007**

Christian Tetzlaff, Violin

J.S. BACH/Stokowski

LIGETI

J.S. BACH/Webern

SCHUMANN

Tocatta and Fugue in D minor

Violin Concerto

Ricercar from *Musical Offering*

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, *Rhenish*

2007–08 Season

**March 5, 6, 7, 8, 2008**

Audra McDonald, Soprano

HAYDN

BERIO

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 48, *Maria Theresia*

Folk Songs

Symphony No. 4

**March 12, 2008, *Rush Hour Concert***

R. STRAUSS

*Ein Heldenleben*

**March 13, 15, 2008, *Hear & Now***

Marc NEIKRUG

R. STRAUSS

*Quintessence*: Symphony No. 2 (World Premiere–  
New York Philharmonic Commission)

*Ein Heldenleben*

**March 14, 2008, *Inside the Music***

Gerard McBurney, Host

R. STRAUSS

*Ein Heldenleben*