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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC RECEIVES
AWARD FOR MUSIC DIPLOMACY FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY
DURING 2007 TOUR OF EUROPE**

Budapest, Hungary: May 4, 2007 — U.S. Ambassador to Hungary April H. Foley today presented **The Ambassador's Award for Music Diplomacy** to the New York Philharmonic for its distinguished service in promoting mutual understanding and strengthening the friendship between the United States and the Republic of Hungary through excellence in classical music performance.

The Philharmonic, currently in Budapest on its 2007 Tour of Europe, will perform concerts this evening and on Saturday, May 5, at the Palace of Arts Béla Bartók National Concert Hall.

At an afternoon tea today in honor of the Orchestra's visit to Hungary, Ambassador Foley said: "We wish to honor those who contribute to promoting cultural diplomacy, not only through excellence in their art, but also by bringing people together to celebrate common cultural values. The Ambassador's Award for Music Diplomacy is presented to the New York Philharmonic for sharing the best of American culture with our friends in Hungary and around the world."

Music Director Lorin Maazel and the New York Philharmonic are currently on an eight-city, 14-concert tour of Europe, May 3–18, 2007. This week the Orchestra made visits to Warsaw and Budapest, and will continue on to Vienna, Frankfurt, Mannheim, Cologne, Paris, and Luxembourg, with Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow, Principal Cello Carter Brey, pianist Emanuel Ax, and violinist Julia Fischer as soloists. The New York Philharmonic 2007 Tour of Europe concert on May 4 in Budapest is sponsored by Citibank Hungary.

The New York Philharmonic has launched a **Virtual Tour**, accessible from the homepage of the Orchestra's Website, nyphil.org, which provides details on the 2007 Tour of Europe including an online photo album that will be updated throughout the tour.

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