



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

2009/10 Season News
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ALAN GILBERT AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

**MUSIC DIRECTOR TO LAUNCH FINAL THREE WEEKS OF HIS
INAUGURAL SEASON WITH MAGNUS LINDBERG'S *ARENA*,
SIBELIUS'S VIOLIN CONCERTO, AND BRAHMS'S SYMPHONY NO. 2,
JUNE 10–12 AND 15, 2010**

Lisa Batiashvili To Be the Soloist in the Sibelius Violin Concerto

**Mr. Gilbert To Perform As Violist in Brahms's String Sextet No. 2 on
Saturday Matinee Concert, June 12**

Alan Gilbert will launch the final three weeks of his inaugural season as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic when he conducts *Arena* by the Orchestra's Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence Magnus Lindberg; Sibelius's Violin Concerto, with Lisa Batiashvili as soloist; and Brahms's Symphony No. 2, Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 11, at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 12, at 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Gilbert will also conduct the Brahms Symphony No. 2 on the Saturday Matinee Concert, June 12, at 2:00 p.m., following a chamber performance of Brahms's String Sextet No. 2, in which he will play the viola with five Philharmonic musicians. The concert will be followed by a 30-minute program of world premieres written by participants in the Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program, inspired by the plight of the children of Haiti. (See separate release: Saturday Matinee Concert.)

In speaking about the program, Mr. Gilbert noted that, "It makes a lot of sense to play the Sibelius Concerto after the Lindberg piece. *Arena* is one of Magnus's earlier works and is an amazing tour-de-force for the orchestra. You can really hear his 'Finnish-ness,' the fact that he comes out of the tradition of Sibelius, his compatriot. The pieces work very well together. It's very telling — the connections and the similar national characteristics of both of these composers together."

Ms. Batiashvili, who has played with the New York Philharmonic 15 times previously, has performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto a number of times with Mr. Gilbert. She also
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gave the world premiere of Magnus Lindberg's Violin Concerto, which was written for her. Says Mr. Gilbert: "Lisa Batiashvili is one of the most gratifying musicians to play with. She's an impeccable violinist but also so natural and so sincere in everything she touches. The Sibelius concerto is really one of her great pieces."

Concerning Brahms's Symphony No. 2, Mr. Gilbert notes that, "I love the symphonies of Brahms and I particularly love the dark sound the burnished quality of expression that the New York Philharmonic brings to Brahms. I have many happy memories of hearing them play this music. The Second Symphony is probably the most extraverted and most happy of the composer's symphonies. There's a very thoughtful expressive second movement, and other than that, it's pretty ebullient and joyous, and has certainly one of the great endings of any symphony."

Related Events

- **Pre-Concert Talk**

Composer Joelle Wallach will introduce the program one hour before each performance. Tickets are \$5 in addition to the concert ticket. Attendance is limited to 90 people. Information: nyphil.org or (212) 875-5656

- ***New York Philharmonic Podcast***

Mark Travis, a producer for the WFMT Radio Network since 1999 and the producer of the 52-week-per-year nationally syndicated radio series, *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, is the producer of 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.

- **National Radio Broadcast**

This concert will be broadcast the week of June 21, 2010,* on *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, a radio concert series syndicated nationally to more than 300 stations by the WFMT Radio Network. The 52-week series, hosted by the Emmy Award-winning actor Alec Baldwin, is generously underwritten by The Kaplen Foundation, the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Philharmonic's corporate partner, MetLife Foundation. The broadcast will be available on the Philharmonic's Website, nyphil.org. The program is broadcast locally in the New York metropolitan area on 105.9 FM WQXR on Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.

*Check local listings for broadcast and program information.

Artists

Alan Gilbert began his tenure as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2009, the first native New Yorker to hold the post. For his inaugural season he has introduced a number of new initiatives: the positions of The Marie-Josée Kravis

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Composer-in-Residence, held by Magnus Lindberg, and Artist-in-Residence, held by Thomas Hampson; an annual three-week festival; and *CONTACT!*, the New York Philharmonic's new-music series. This season he led the Orchestra on a major tour of Asia in October 2009, with debuts in Hanoi and Abu Dhabi; took the musicians on a European tour in January–February 2010; and conducted world, U.S., and New York premieres. Also in the 2009–10 season, Mr. Gilbert became the first person to hold the William Schuman Chair in Musical Studies at The Juilliard School, a position that includes coaching, conducting, and hosting performance master classes.

Highlights of Mr. Gilbert's 2008–09 season with the New York Philharmonic included the Bernstein anniversary concert at Carnegie Hall and a performance with the Juilliard Orchestra, presented by the Philharmonic. In May 2009 he conducted the World Premiere of Peter Lieberman's *The World in Flower*, a New York Philharmonic Commission, and in July 2009 he led the Philharmonic's Concerts in the Parks and Free Indoor Concerts,

Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer, and performances at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Colorado. In June 2008 Mr. Gilbert was named conductor laureate of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, following his final concert as its chief conductor and artistic advisor. He has been principal guest conductor of Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra since 2004, and 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, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and Orchestre National de Lyon. 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 recording of Prokofiev's *Scythian Suite* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra was nominated for a 2008 Grammy Award, and his recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 9 received top honors from the *Chicago Tribune* and *Gramophone* magazine.

Violinist **Lisa Batiashvili**'s 2009–10 season includes concerts with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Yannick Nezet Seguin; Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester with Franz Welser-Möst; Israel Philharmonic Orchestra with Zubin Mehta; and a return to the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (with Esa-Pekka Salonen). She also gives a series of recitals, including concerts at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Brussels's Palais des Beaux Arts, and Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet. She is featured every season with the world's great orchestras, including, in the U.S., the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Philadelphia Orchestras; and in Europe the Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Amsterdam's Royal

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Concertgebouw, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, and Orchestre de Paris. Other regular relationships include the London, NHK, and Sydney symphony orchestras.

Chamber music is also an important part of Ms. Batiashvili's schedule, and she appears regularly with festivals such as Salzburg, Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Marlboro, Tanglewood, Saratoga, Schleswig-Holstein, Schubertiade, and Kuhmo. Her chamber partners include pianists Adrian Brendel and Till Fellner, oboist Francois Leuleux, and violist Lawrence Power. She has given the world premieres of three works in recent seasons, including Magnus Lindberg's Violin Concerto, which she recorded for Sony together with the Sibelius Violin Concerto.

In 1995, at the age of 16, Lisa Batiashvili was awarded second prize in the Sibelius Competition in Helsinki. In 2001, as one of the first BBC "New Generation Artists." In 2003 she was named winner of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival's Leonard Bernstein Award and was later awarded the Beethoven Ring Prize from the Beethoven Festival Bonn. In 2008 she was honored with the MIDEM Classical Award and the Choc de L'année for her debut album with Sony. The same year she received an ECHO Klassik award. Recently, she was the winner of the International Accademia Musicale Chigiana Prize in Siena.

Ms. Batiashvili has lived in Munich since 1994. She studied with Ana Chumachenko at the city's Musikhochschule, and previously, with Mark Lubotski at the Musikhochschule, Hamburg. She plays the 1709 "Engleman" Stradivarius, on loan from the Nippon Music Foundation.

Repertoire

Arena, by Magnus Lindberg, the New York Philharmonic's Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence, was commissioned for the first International Sibelius Conductors Competition in 1995 as an obligatory piece for all competitors, and with its frequent and subtle tempo shifts, it stands as a distinct challenge to any conductor who takes it on. The work, however, is far more than just a "competition piece"; it is also a dazzling and effective essay for large orchestra, which *Le Monde* praised for its "chiseled writing with irresistible life and impetuosity, absolute mastery of form and duration. One seriously begins to wonder if [Lindberg] is not the most gifted composer of his generation." These will be the Philharmonic's first performances of *Arena*; on June 23–24 and 26, 2010, the Orchestra will perform the World Premiere of a new work by Mr. Lindberg, conducted by Alan Gilbert.

Jean Sibelius completed his **Violin Concerto** in the early days of 1904. Following its first performances, he withdrew the work for revision, and the concerto we know was first performed in Berlin in 1905, conducted by Richard Strauss. German violinist Willy Burmester greeted the score with, "Wonderful! Masterly! Only once before have I spoken

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in such terms to a composer, and that was when Tchaikovsky showed me his concerto.” The New York Philharmonic performed the concerto’s U.S. premiere in 1906, with Maud Powell as soloist and Wassily Safonoff conducting. Christoph von Dohnányi led the most recent performance in October 2007, with Nikolaj Znaider as the soloist.

After agonizing for nearly two decades over the composition of his First Symphony (1876), **Johannes Brahms** started right in on his **Symphony No. 2**, which he completed by the autumn of 1877. The work contrasted greatly with its stormy predecessor, looking far more to the sunny side of life. Brahms set to work on this symphony in the lakeside country village of Pörtschach near the Austrian-Italian border, surroundings he found particularly inspiring. The Symphony No. 2 was premiered in Vienna at the end of 1877 with Hans Richter conducting. The composer himself led a second performance in Leipzig early the next year. The work first entered the repertoire of the New York Philharmonic in 1878, conducted by Adolph Neuendorff; the Orchestra most recently performed it under the direction of Lorin Maazel in April 2007.

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Magnus Lindberg is **The Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence**.

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Single tickets for these performances are \$29 to \$112. Tickets for the Saturday Matinee Concert are \$29 to \$72. Tickets to Pre-Concert Talks are \$5. Tickets for Open Rehearsals are \$16. 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. A limited number of \$12 tickets for select concerts may be available through the Internet for students within 10

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days of the performance, or in person the day of. Valid identification is required. 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.

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New York Philharmonic

Avery Fisher Hall

Thursday, June 10, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Friday, June 11, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 12, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk (one hour before each concert) with composer Joelle Wallach
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Alan Gilbert, conductor

Lisa Batiashvili, violin

Magnus LINDBERG

SIBELIUS

BRAHMS

Arena

Violin Concerto

Symphony No. 2

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**New York Philharmonic
Saturday Matinee Concert**

Avery Fisher Hall

Saturday, June 12, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk (one hour before the concert) with composer Joelle Wallach

Alan Gilbert, conductor
Sheryl Staples, violin
Lisa Kim, violin
Cynthia Phelps, viola
Alan Gilbert, viola
Carter Brey, cello
Eileen Moon, cello

BRAHMS String Sextet No. 2
BRAHMS Symphony No 2

Post-concert program to include pieces by four participants in the Very Young Composers Program, inspired by the children of Haiti:

Isabel HASSLUND	<i>One Day</i> (World Premiere)
Jade AUBERTIN	<i>Talking to You</i> (World Premiere)
Rajon HERBERT	<i>Spirit</i> (World Premiere)
Farah TASLIMA	<i>Wongol</i> (World Premiere)

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