



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

2010/11 Season News

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ALAN GILBERT AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC
MUSIC DIRECTOR TO CONDUCT TWO ORCHESTRAL SHOWPIECES:
HENRI DUTILLEUX'S *MÉTABOLES* AND HINDEMITH'S
TRANSFORMATIVE *SYMPHONIC METAMORPHOSES ON THEMES BY CARL*
MARIA VON WEBER, ALONG WITH WORKS BY
R. STRAUSS AND MENDELSSOHN, SEPTEMBER 23–25 AND 28, 2010

Itzhak Perlman To Perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Following the Opening Night Gala concert on September 22, Music Director Alan Gilbert will conduct the New York Philharmonic in the first subscription concerts of the 2010–11 season, Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, September 24, at 11:00 a.m.; Saturday, September 25, at 8:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. On the program will be R. Strauss's tone poem *Don Juan*; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Itzhak Perlman as soloist; Henri Dutilleux's *Métaboles*; and Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*.

In speaking about the program, Alan Gilbert noted that, "*Don Juan* is one of my favorite Strauss pieces, and is one of the most difficult virtuoso works for the orchestra." Following the Strauss and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto is what Mr. Gilbert calls "the newer side" of the program: "Henri Dutilleux," he notes, "is one of the most important composers working today. *Métaboles* is entirely a product of the French tradition: you can hear the direct connections to Debussy and Ravel, but also the spikier, rhythmic side of Stravinsky. This visceral, dramatic, rhythmic impetus combined with a kind of perfumed French sensibility is very exciting." In discussing the closing work on the program, Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*, Mr. Gilbert says: "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."

Related Events

• ***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*

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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 October 4, 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 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 “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 opera, *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

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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.

Itzhak Perlman took part in the Inauguration of President Barack Obama, premiering a piece written for the occasion by John Williams and performing with clarinetist Anthony McGill, pianist Gabriela Montero, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. President Reagan granted him a “Medal of Liberty” in 1986, and President Clinton awarded him the “National Medal of Arts” in December 2000. In December 2003 he was a Kennedy Center Honoree. In May 2007 he performed at the State Dinner for Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, hosted by President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush at the White House.

In the 2010–11 season, Mr. Perlman will travel to Chile and Brazil for orchestral and recital performances, and will appear in Japan with pianist and frequent collaborator Rohan De Silva. Other highlights include a special performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to benefit the Rotary Foundation’s campaign to End Polio Now; a performance with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall; and recitals across North America. Mr. Perlman also appears with students and alumni from the Perlman Music Program at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey.

Itzhak Perlman also performs as conductor with leading orchestras. This season marks his third as artistic director of the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra. He was music advisor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra from 2002 to 2004, and principal guest conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra from 2001 to 2005. He has received four Emmy Awards and fifteen Grammy Awards, and collaborated with composer John Williams on the sound track of Steven Spielberg’s Academy Award-winning film *Schindler’s List*, in which he performed the violin solos. Mr. Perlman holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair at The Juilliard School.

Repertoire

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 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; it is scheduled to be performed on September 22, 2010, Opening Night of the Philharmonic’s 169th season, led by Music Director Alan Gilbert.

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In the crowded field of violin concertos, **Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto** stands apart on several counts, with its innovative first-movement cadenza, movements that flow one into another, and its dazzling finale. The work has proved to be one of his finest in the repertoire, demanding all the passionate intensity that a violinist can muster. Mendelssohn composed the concerto in 1844 while vacationing at a spa in Soden, Germany, but he had begun thinking about it six years earlier. The concerto was written with the great musician Ferdinand David in mind, a longtime friend and colleague who was the concertmaster of the Gewandhaus Orchestra and a faculty member of the Leipzig Conservatory, who premiered the work in Leipzig in 1845. The New York Symphony (which merged in 1928 with the New York Philharmonic to form today's New York Philharmonic) performed the U.S. premiere of this work in November 1849, led by Theodore Eisfeld, with Joseph Burke as soloist. Most recently it was performed in Vail, Colorado, in July 2010, with Alan Gilbert conducting and Augustin Hadelich as soloist.

A slow-working and meticulous composer, **Henri Dutilleux** (b. 1916) has produced a relatively small body of work over the course his long career, but his output is prized for its stylistic adventurousness and exacting craftsmanship. *Métaboles*, composed in 1964 for The Cleveland Orchestra, is an elaborate showpiece in five connected movements, each brilliantly emphasizing a different section of the orchestra. The title is a physiological term meaning "metabolic transformations," and suggests the technique by which the music develops, continuously changing its substance through subtle variation and re-combination. The New York Philharmonic first performed *Métaboles* in April 1988, led by Charles Dutoit, and most recently in November 2007, led by Semyon Bychkov.

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 Dali to design the ballet. The composer called off the project and set the sketches aside. Three years later he had returned to them and an 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; it is scheduled to be performed on September 22, 2010, on the Philharmonic's Opening Night Concert.

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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**.

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Prices for single tickets for these performances start at \$40 for the Friday Matinee; \$44 for the weeknight concerts; and \$50 for Saturday evenings. Tickets for Open Rehearsals are \$18. 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 \$12.50 tickets for select concerts may be available through the Internet for students within 10 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, September 23, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Friday, September 24, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Alan Gilbert, conductor

Itzhak Perlman, violin

R. STRAUSS

MENDELSSOHN

Henri DUTILLEUX

HINDEMITH

Don Juan

Violin Concerto

Métaboles

Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl

Maria von Weber

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