

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Melissa A.E. Sanders

(212) 875-5718; sandersm@nyphil.org

For more information: nyphil.org/newsroom

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC MUSIC DIRECTOR LORIN MAAZEL  
TO CONDUCT WORKS BY R. STRAUSS AND MAHLER TO CLOSE THE  
ORCHESTRA'S SUBSCRIPTION SEASON, JUNE 20-23, 2007**

**Soprano Deborah Voigt To Sing Selected Songs by Richard Strauss**

Music Director Lorin Maazel will close the New York Philharmonic's 2006-07 subscription season with selected songs by Richard Strauss, sung by soprano Deborah Voigt, and Mahler's Symphony No. 7, Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 22 at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, June 23 at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Voigt will sing Strauss's "Befreit," "Lied der Frauen," "Morgen," and "Frühlingsfeier."

Mr. Maazel, who is known for his performances of the symphonies of Gustav Mahler, has closed all but one of his Philharmonic seasons with a Mahler symphony since the start of his tenure in September 2002. (The exception was May 2006, when he conducted Mahler's First Symphony on the penultimate program.) In 2003 he concluded the season with Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"; in 2004, the Third Symphony; and in 2005, the Symphony No. 6.

**Pre-Concert Talks**

Charles Zachary Bornstein, the Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic, 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](http://nyphil.org) or (212) 875-5656

**National Radio Broadcast**

This concert will be broadcast the week of June 25, 2007,\* on *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, a radio concert series syndicated nationally to more than 200 stations by the WFMT Radio Network. The 52-week series, hosted by WFMT's Kerry Frumkin, 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 concert will be available on the Philharmonic's Website, [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org). The program is broadcast locally in the New York metropolitan area on 96.3 FM WQXR on Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.

\*Check local listings for broadcast and program information.

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## Artists

**Lorin Maazel**, who has led more than 150 orchestras in more than 5,000 opera and concert performances, became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2002. His appointment came 60 years after his debut with the Orchestra at Lewisohn Stadium, then the Orchestra's summer venue. In the course of his first four seasons as the Philharmonic's Music Director, he conducted four World Premiere–New York Philharmonic Commissions, including the Pulitzer Prize- and Grammy Award-winning *On the Transmigration of Souls* by John Adams; the complete Beethoven symphonies and piano concertos over a three-week period; and two free Memorial Day Concerts at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

In autumn 2005 he led the Philharmonic's two-part 75th Anniversary Tour to thirteen cities and five countries, including three concerts in Dresden, Germany, as part of the reconsecration of the historic Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady); the 2006 New York Philharmonic Tour of Italy, sponsored by Generali; the November 2006 visit to Japan and Korea; and the 2007 Tour of Europe. Previously, he led the Orchestra on tours to Asia, three southern U.S. states, the American Midwest, and in residencies in Cagliari, Sardinia, and the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Colorado.

Mr. Maazel led the Orchestra's inaugural performances in the DG Concerts series — a groundbreaking initiative to offer downloadable New York Philharmonic concerts exclusively on iTunes. He also conducted the first in a series of forthcoming CDs of New York Philharmonic premieres and commissions released under a 2006 agreement with New World Records.

Prior to his tenure as Music Director, Mr. Maazel conducted more than 100 performances of the New York Philharmonic as a guest conductor. He served as music director of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (1993–2002), and has held positions as music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (1988–96); general manager and chief conductor of the Vienna Staatsoper (1982–84) — the first American to hold that position; music director of The Cleveland Orchestra (1972–82); and artistic director and chief conductor of the Deutsche Oper Berlin (1965–71).

Soprano **Deborah Voigt** has starred in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Salome*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Elektra*, and *Die ägyptische Helena*, and in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, *Die Walküre*, *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Lohengrin*. She opened the 2006–07 season in Verdi's *Un ballo in Maschera* in San Francisco, followed by her triumphant first staged performances in *Salome* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. In March she performed the title role in The Metropolitan Opera's new production of *Die ägyptische Helena*, an opera not seen at that house in nearly 80 years, and she returns to Carnegie Hall on May 11 for a solo recital.

This season she repeats the role of the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, among other roles, and sings recitals and concerts in Boston, London, Los Angeles, Munich, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Sarasota, Seattle, Toronto, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere.

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Ms. Voigt has received accolades for her appearance in the title role in Verdi's *Aida*; Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth*; Puccini's *Tosca*; as Leonora in both Verdi operas, *La forza del destino* and *Il trovatore*; and as Cassandre in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. Her discography of complete operas ranges from *Tristan und Isolde* to *Les Troyens* and R. Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. Popular song and the music of Broadway are equally important to Ms. Voigt. Her second solo disc, *All My Heart*, is a recital of American songs that followed the best-selling *Obsessions* (arias and scenes by Wagner and Strauss), both on EMI Classics. Last season she added Ponchielli's *La gioconda* to her extensive repertoire, at Barcelona's Liceu opera — a DVD of which was released this season. She made her *American Songbook* cabaret concert debut in New York and gave concerts with tenor Ben Heppner.

Ms. Voigt studied at California State University at Fullerton and in San Francisco Opera's Merola Program. She won the Luciano Pavarotti Voice Competition and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Competition, and was named a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. She also received a 2007 *Opera News* Award for distinguished achievement in the art form. She last appeared with the New York Philharmonic in June 2005, singing Berg's Seven Early Songs, conducted by Lorin Maazel.

### **Repertoire**

In the course of his long career, **Richard Strauss** tended to rove from genre to genre, devoting periods of his career to intense explorations of the forms of tone poem, opera, and chamber music. The composition of *Lieder*, however, proved to be a more continuous strand, weaving through his entire life's work. Most of Strauss's more than 200 songs were written for his wife, the soprano Pauline de Ahna. Though nearly all these works were originally conceived for solo singer with piano accompaniment, the composer lived in an age when the "orchestral *Lied*" was establishing itself as a genre — nowhere more vividly than in the works of Gustav Mahler — and so it was only natural for him to apply his formidable skill as an orchestrator to his own songs. The richly expressive body of work he created, combining the tradition of the German Romantic art song with the drama and scope of his operas, is one of the great achievements in the repertoire for solo vocalist and orchestra. The New York Philharmonic last performed Strauss orchestral songs in June 2001, on tour in Argentina, with Kurt Masur conducting the Four Last Songs, and Felicity Lott as soloist.

When **Gustav Mahler** composed his **Symphony No. 7** at his summer retreat at Mayernigg during the summers of 1904–05, he was at the height of his career. He was secure in his tenure with the Vienna Opera, in demand as a guest conductor, and had captivated audiences throughout Europe with his early symphonies. However, this work would not be premiered until 1908, three years after its completion, and in the intervening years the composer reportedly made many revisions to the score. During that time Mahler would also suffer terrible heartache and hardship: he was forced to resign his position at the opera, his eldest daughter died from scarlet fever, and he himself was diagnosed with a heart condition. The Seventh Symphony was eventually premiered in Prague, where it was the centerpiece of a festival marking the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Emperor Franz Joseph. While the performance was well rehearsed and was attended by many friends and admirers, the symphony's reception was respectful rather than enthusiastic. It was first performed by the New York Philharmonic in March 1923, led by Willem Mengelberg. The most recent performance was in February 2005, under Riccardo Chailly's direction.

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The BASF Concert Series is presented by **BASF Corporation**.

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The Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence program is underwritten by a generous gift from **Sandy and Steve Perlbinder**, with additional generous support from **Richard Nordlof** and **The Elmar Fund**.

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**96.3 FM WQXR** is the Radio Home of the New York Philharmonic.

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**, the **New York State Music Fund**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

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Single tickets for these performances are \$28 to \$96. Tickets for Pre-Concert Talks are \$5. Tickets for Open Rehearsals are \$15. All tickets may be purchased online at **nyphil.org** or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office**, 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 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**.

The Philharmonic's **24-hour hotline**, **(212) 875-5709**, provides information on this and other New York Philharmonic programs. For press tickets, call George Berry at (212) 875-5714 or e-mail *berryg@nyphil.org*.

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**New York Philharmonic**

Avery Fisher Hall

Wednesday, June 20, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

*Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.* (Guest artist may not attend this rehearsal)

Thursday, June 21, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 22, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 23, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk (one hour before each concert) with Charles Zachary Bornstein, the Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic

Lorin Maazel, conductor

Deborah Voigt, soprano

R. STRAUSS	“Befreit”
	“Lied der Frauen”
	“Morgen”
	“Frühlingsfeier”
MAHLER	Symphony No. 7

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*Photography is available in the New York Philharmonic online newsroom, [nyphil.org/newsroom](http://nyphil.org/newsroom), or by contacting the Public Relations Department: (212) 875-5700; [PR@nyphil.org](mailto:PR@nyphil.org).*