

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC INVITES AUDIENCE MEMBERS TO
“VOTE FOR YOUR ENCORE” AT THE FREE CONCERT IN CENTRAL PARK
ON JUNE 24, 2008, AT 8:00 PM**

**“Vote for Your Encore” Is One of Several New Interactive Features of the
2008 *Concerts in the Parks*, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer;
Also Included Are a Photo Contest, Text-Based Concert Status Updates,
And a Free DG Concerts Download**

Audience members attending the New York Philharmonic’s free concert in Central Park on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 8:00 p.m., will have the opportunity to vote for the evening’s encore via text message from their mobile phones. At the end of the concert the Orchestra, led by conductor Bramwell Tovey, will perform the audience’s favorite. **“Vote for Your Encore”** is one of several new interactive features being offered to audience members attending the **New York Philharmonic’s free 2008 *Concerts in the Parks*, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer**, taking place June 24 and July 8–15, 2008, across the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, and New Jersey. [See full schedule below.]

Encore choices will be announced prior to the start of the concert, June 24, on The Great Lawn in Central Park. Attendees in the park can place their vote prior to and during the performance by sending a text message from their phone indicating their favorite; voting will conclude at the end of intermission. For more information about how to vote for your encore, visit nyphil.org/parks.

Also this summer, for the first time, the New York Philharmonic will offer **Concert Status Updates** for the performance in Central Park on June 24. In the case of inclement weather, up-to-the-minute information on the status of the outdoor concert will be sent by text message to attendees who sign up in advance to receive them at nyphil.org/parks; registration begins June 16.

Another new feature is the ***New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks Photo Contest***, open to audience members attending any of the *Concerts in the Parks* taking place throughout the five boroughs and in New Jersey and on Long Island. Beginning
(more)

Interactive Features of *New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks/2*

June 25, participants can submit photos taken during any of the *Parks* concerts, or vote on those taken by others, at nyphil.org/parks. Selected photos will be posted on the site, and the winners will receive a free pair of tickets to an upcoming New York Philharmonic concert at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall.

Lastly, while attending the parks concerts taking place between July 8 and 15, audience members can sign up via text message sent from their phone for E-Notes, the New York Philharmonic's e-mail newsletter. Anyone who does so will receive a **free download** of a track of the New York Philharmonic's live recordings available on DG Concerts. More information about how to sign up will be available at nyphil.org/parks.

"The New York Philharmonic is proud of our deep ties to our home town, which we celebrate every summer with our *Concerts in the Parks*," says New York Philharmonic President and Executive Director Zarin Mehta. "We are always seeking new ways to communicate with our neighbors, and we are excited to offer new interactive features during our parks concerts this summer. They join our podcasts, our YouTube page, and other ongoing initiatives that utilize newer forms of technology to connect with our audiences in a variety of ways."

The New York Philharmonic's annual free parks concerts have become an integral part of summer in New York, drawing loyal Philharmonic fans from all walks of life. Each year these concerts transform parks throughout the New York area into a patchwork of picnickers, and provide music lovers with an opportunity to hear the best classical music under the stars. Since their inception in 1965, the performances have delighted more than 14 million listeners, including 137,500 last summer alone.

Interactive Dates

June 24, Central Park — "Vote for Your Encore"

June 24, Central Park — Concert Status Updates (*register at nyphil.org/parks beginning June 16*)

June 24 & July 8–15, all venues — Photo Contest (*submissions/voting at nyphil.org/parks, starting June 25*)

July 8–15, all venues — Sign up for E-Notes and receive a free download

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The New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks are presented by **Didi and Oscar Schafer**. Major support is also provided by **The City of New York**, through the **Department of Cultural Affairs, Kate D. Levin, Commissioner**, and **The Starr Foundation**. Additional support is provided by the **Bodman Foundation, Herman Goldman Foundation, Marc Hass Foundation, Victor Herbert Foundation**, the **Oenslager Endowment Fund**, and the **Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation**.

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Interactive Features of *New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks/3*

The Concerts in the Parks are presented in cooperation with the **City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation, Michael Bloomberg, Mayor; Adrian Benepe, Commissioner;** the five **Borough Presidents;** and the **City Council of New York.**

Fireworks by Bay Fireworks in Central Park, Cunningham Park, Prospect Park, Van Cortlandt Park, and Snug Harbor. Fireworks by Grucci in Heckscher State Park

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

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***2008 NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS,
PRESENTED BY DIDI AND OSCAR SCHAFFER***

All concerts at 8:00 p.m.

Program I

Bramwell Tovey, conductor

SHOSTAKOVICH

Festive Overture

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 4, *Italian*

TCHAIKOVSKY

1812 Overture

SOUSA

Selected Marches

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan

- Westside entrances: West 81st or 86th Streets at Central Park West
- Eastside entrances: East 79th or 85th Streets at Fifth Avenue

Program II

Xian Zhang, conductor

Sheryl Staples, violin

Michelle Kim, violin

MOZART

Divertimento in D major, K.125a

J.S. BACH

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

ELGAR

Enigma Variations

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Interactive Features of *New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks/4*

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Richmond County Bank Ballpark, Staten Island

- Take the 4 or 5 subway to Bowling Green; the R or W to Whitehall Station; or the 1 or 9 to South Ferry, then a 25 minute ride on the free Staten Island Ferry. Exit the ferry from the upper deck and follow signs to the ballpark.
- By car from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island: take lower level of Verrazano Bridge, stay right to toll booths. Take Bay Street Exit and follow school road to Bay Street; make a left on Bay Street. Follow Bay Street 2.3 miles past the Staten Island Ferry Terminal and make a right turn at the parking sign right before the Ballpark. Go down the ramp to the parking lot and enter the Ballpark.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, New Jersey

- Take the Garden State Parkway to exit #116

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Cunningham Park, Queens

- Enter at 193rd Street, near 81st Avenue or Union Turnpike. Concert site is at 193rd Street Field

Friday, July 11, 2008

Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx

- Enter the park from Broadway, near West 251st Street. Concert site is north of the baseball fields

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Heckscher State Park, East Islip, Long Island

- Take the Heckscher State Parkway to Heckscher State Park. Concert site is at the North Field

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Interactive Features of *New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks/5*

Program III

Alan Gilbert, conductor
Sheryl Staples, violin
Michelle Kim, violin

J.S. BACH
BEETHOVEN
SIBELIUS

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043
Symphony No. 4
Finlandia

Monday, July 14, 2008

Prospect Park

- Enter at Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park West at 9th Street or Bartel-Pritchard Circle at the intersection of Prospect Park West, Prospect Park Southwest and 15th Street

Program IV

Alan Gilbert, conductor
Lang Lang, piano

TCHAIKOVSKY
BEETHOVEN
SIBELIUS

Piano Concerto No. 1
Symphony No. 4
Finlandia

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan

- Westside entrances: West 81st or 86th Streets at Central Park West
- Eastside entrances: East 79th or 85th Streets at Fifth Avenue

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Concerts will be followed by fireworks in all New York locations.

All programs subject to change

A full range of color and black & white photographs is available by contacting the New York Philharmonic Public Relations department: (212) 875-5700 or PR@nyphil.org.