



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

2010/11 Season News

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THE NIELSEN PROJECT

ALAN GILBERT AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC TO PERFORM AND RECORD CARL NIELSEN'S SIX SYMPHONIES AND THREE CONCERTOS, FOR RELEASE ON DACAPO RECORDS

**Concerto Soloists To Be Philharmonic Principal Flute Robert Langevin,
Philharmonic Principal Clarinet Designate Ricardo Morales, and
Violinist Nikolaj Znaider**

The New York Philharmonic, conducted by Music Director Alan Gilbert, The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair, will over several seasons perform and record the six symphonies and three concertos of Carl Nielsen (1865–1931) — the national composer of Denmark — for release on Denmark's Dacapo label. The soloists for the individual concertos — for flute, violin, and clarinet — will be Philharmonic Principal Flute Robert Langevin, Philharmonic Principal Clarinet Designate Ricardo Morales, and violinist Nikolaj Znaider. Each of the four discs will be released separately — the first, in the fall of 2012 — with all being integrated into a set in the fall of 2015 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Nielsen's birth; they will be distributed worldwide by the Naxos group.

This will be the first recording released by the New York Philharmonic of Nielsen's complete symphonies and concertos. Leonard Bernstein, who championed the Danish composer, recorded the Fifth Symphony with the New York Philharmonic in 1962, and the Third with the Royal Danish Orchestra — these, released by Columbia Records, were the first Nielsen symphonies recorded on an American label. With the New York Philharmonic Bernstein also recorded the Clarinet Concerto, with Principal Clarinet Stanley Drucker (1967), the Flute Concerto, with Principal Flute Julius Baker (1966), the Symphony No. 2 (1973), and the Symphony No. 4 (1970). Before this new project, Bernstein was the only Philharmonic conductor ever to record Nielsen's music.

“Carl Nielsen's music comes out of a classic Germanic symphonic tradition, but it's so distinctly Danish,” Mr. Gilbert has said. “It's very gripping and has a craggy edge to it that is characteristic of life in the high North. The fact that Nielsen's music has tended to be neglected in the concert hall ... has always baffled me, but it's incredibly accessible, beautiful, and brilliantly written for the orchestra. I'm sure that Nielsen's time is coming, and I'm looking forward to sharing this wonderful music with the audience.” The New

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York Philharmonic has performed works by Nielsen on 76 concerts, including, most recently, the Symphony No. 2, *The Four Temperaments*, which Alan Gilbert conducted in January–February 2011.

Said Henrik Rørdam, CEO of Dacapo Records: “The collaboration with the New York Philharmonic on the recording and concert performances of Nielsen’s symphonies and concertos is quite exceptional. It will give a crucial boost to awareness of Carl Nielsen’s music abroad.”

The Nielsen series will be recorded in the DXD audio format (Digital eXtreme Definition) in stereo and surround sound. The recordings will be released as Super Audio CD & Pure Audio Blue-ray and will also be available for high-resolution download. The producers will be Preben Iwan and Mikkel Nyman from Timbre Music of Copenhagen.

Dacapo Records was launched in 1989 in Denmark and is dedicated to producing music of the best international standards, with Danish music throughout 1,000 years as its point of departure. The label has received Gramophone and American Grammy Awards, as well as the Cannes Classical Award.

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About the Composer

Carl Nielsen, the son of a painter and village musician who played the cornet and violin at parties and dances, was born in 1865. The boy took up the cornet and piano, began composing at the age of eight, and played in bands. At the age of 18 he left to study violin and composition at the Copenhagen Conservatory, and for 16 years he made a living as an orchestral violinist while becoming established as a composer. Four of his brothers and sisters immigrated to the United States, but the composer himself never crossed the Atlantic. For many years Nielsen’s portrait appeared on the Danish hundred-kroner banknote. Of his six symphonies, the best known are the Symphony No. 2, *The Four Temperaments*, and the Symphony No. 4, *The Inextinguishable*. The Symphony No. 5, written after World War I, represents the composer’s struggle to develop new and stronger rhythms and more advanced harmony.

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About the Artists

New York Philharmonic Music Director **Alan Gilbert**, The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair, began his tenure at the New York Philharmonic in September 2009, the first native New Yorker to hold the post. 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; The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, held in 2010–11 by violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter; an annual three-week festival, which in 2010–11 was titled *Hungarian Echoes*, led by Esa-Pekka Salonen; and *CONTACT!*, the New York Philharmonic’s new-music series. In the 2010–11 season Mr. Gilbert led the Orchestra on two tours of European music capitals; two performances at Carnegie Hall, including the

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venue's 120th Anniversary Concert; and is concluding the season with a staged presentation of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Mr. Gilbert holds the William Schuman Chair in Musical Studies at The Juilliard School, where he will become Director of Conducting and Orchestral Studies in the fall of 2011. He is also 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; Los Angeles Philharmonic; Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras; and the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich's Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In November 2008 he made his acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut conducting John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*. His recordings have received a 2008 Grammy Award nomination and top honors from the *Chicago Tribune* and *Gramophone* magazine.

Robert Langevin joined the New York Philharmonic as Principal Flute, The Lila Acheson Wallace Chair, at the start of the 2000–1 season. In May 2001 he made his solo debut with the Orchestra in the North American premiere of Siegfried Matthus's Concerto for Flute and Harp with Philharmonic Principal Harp Nancy Allen and then Music Director Kurt Masur. Prior to the Philharmonic, Mr. Langevin held the Jackman Pfouts Principal Flute Chair of the Pittsburgh Symphony and was an adjunct professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He served as associate principal flute of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra for 13 years, performing on more than 30 recordings. As a member of Musica Camerata Montreal and l'Ensemble de la Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec, he premiered many works, including the Canadian premiere of Pierre Boulez's *Le Marteau sans maître*.

Born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Mr. Langevin studied with Jean-Paul Major at the Montreal Conservatory of Music, graduating with two first prizes, one in flute, the other in chamber music. Subsequently, he won the prestigious Prix d'Europe, a national competition open to all instruments with a first prize of a two-year scholarship to study in Europe, which enabled him to work with Aurèle Nicolet at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany. Mr. Langevin has given recitals and master classes throughout the United States and as well as in Canada, Spain, Costa Rica, Japan, North Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam. He is currently on the faculties of The Juilliard School, The Manhattan School of Music, and the Orford International Summer Festival.

New York Philharmonic Principal Clarinet Designate **Ricardo Morales** was the principal clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra. Previously, he was principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, a position he assumed at the age of 21. He has also performed as guest principal clarinet with the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Saito Kinen Festival Orchestra in Japan. Mr. Morales's professional career began as principal clarinet of the Florida Symphony Orchestra. He has been a featured

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soloist with numerous orchestras, including The Philadelphia, Chicago Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, Cincinnati Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, and Flemish Radio Symphony orchestras. During his tenure with The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, he performed as soloist under the baton of James Levine in Carnegie Hall and on two European tours. He has been a frequent soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by both Charles Dutoit and Christoph Eschenbach.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Morales has performed with the MET Chamber Ensemble's series at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Saratoga Chamber Music Festival, and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He gives recitals and master classes around the world, and currently serves on the faculties of The Juilliard School, The Curtis Institute of Music, and Temple University. His debut solo recording, *French Portraits*, is available on the Boston Records label. Ricardo Morales, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, began his studies at the Escuela Libre de Musica and continued them at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and at Indiana University, where he received his Artist Diploma.

Danish violinist, conductor, and chamber musician **Nikolaj Znaider** was appointed principal guest conductor of the Mariinsky Orchestra in St. Petersburg this season by Valery Gergiev. Also this season he appears as guest conductor with numerous orchestras in the U.S. and abroad. As a soloist, he is regularly invited to work with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, and he performs in recital and chamber music in all the major concert halls. In the 2008–09 season the London Symphony Orchestra presented an "Artist Portrait of Znaider," and in the 2012–13 season he will perform in a "Carte Blanche" at the Musikverein in Vienna.

An exclusive RCA Red Seal recording artist, Mr. Znaider has most recently added to his discography the Elgar Violin Concerto with Sir Colin Davis and the Dresden Staatskapelle. His award-winning recordings include the Brahms and Korngold violin concertos with the Vienna Philharmonic and Valery Gergiev; Beethoven and Mendelssohn violin concertos with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; and Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto and Glazunov concertos with Mariss Jansons and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. He also released Brahms's complete works for violin and piano with Yefim Bronfman. For EMI Classics he has recorded the Nielsen and Bruch concertos with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Mozart piano trios with Daniel Barenboim. A native of Copenhagen, Denmark, Nikolaj Znaider plays the Kreisler Guarnerius del Gesù 1741 on extended loan to him by The Royal Danish Theater through the generosity of the Velux Foundations and the Knud Højgaard Foundation.

Founded in 1842, the **New York Philharmonic** is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and one of the oldest in the world; on May 5, 2010, it performed its 15,000th concert. Music Director Alan Gilbert, The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair, began his tenure in September 2009, succeeding a distinguished line of 20th-century musical giants that goes back to Gustav Mahler and Arturo
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Toscanini. The Orchestra has always played a leading role in American musical life, commissioning and premiering works by each era's leading composers. Renowned around the globe, the Philharmonic has appeared in 430 cities in 63 countries — including the February 2008 historic visit to Pyongyang, DPRK, for which the Philharmonic earned the 2008 Common Ground Award for Cultural Diplomacy.

The Philharmonic, which appears annually on PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*, is the only American orchestra to have a 52 week per year nationally syndicated radio series — *The New York Philharmonic This Week* — also streamed on nyphil.org. The Philharmonic has made nearly 2,000 recordings since 1917, with more than 500 currently available. The most recent initiative is *Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic: 2010–11 Season* — downloadable concerts, recorded live, available either as a subscription or as 12 individual releases. Famous for the long-running Young People's Concerts, the Philharmonic has developed a wide range of education programs, among them the School Partnership Program that enriches music education in New York City, and Learning Overtures, which fosters international exchange among educators.

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