



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

2009/10 Season News
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THE RUSSIAN STRAVINSKY: A PHILHARMONIC FESTIVAL
CONDUCTED BY VALERY GERGIEV
APRIL 21–MAY 8, 2010

Festival To Explore How Stravinsky’s Russian Roots Informed His Works

Festival To Offer a Wide Range of Compositions, Including *The Firebird*, *Petrushka*, *Jeu de Cartes*, *The Rite of Spring*, *Les Noces*, *Orpheus*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *Symphony of Psalms*, with Performances by the Mariinsky Theatre Chorus and Soloists from the Mariinsky Theatre Opera; Violinist Leonidas Kavakos; Mezzo-Soprano Waltraud Meier; Tenor Anthony Dean Griffey; and Pianists Denis Matsuev and Alexei Volodin

**Multimedia *Insights Series* Event on May 1 with Mr. Gergiev
To Explore “Stravinsky’s Russian-American Odyssey,”
Curated and Hosted by Joseph Horowitz**

Alec Baldwin To Narrate *L’Histoire du Soldat*, May 2

The New York Philharmonic will present *The Russian Stravinsky: A Philharmonic Festival* conducted by Valery Gergiev on April 21–May 8, 2010. The three-week festival — one of several initiatives launched during Alan Gilbert’s first season as Music Director — will offer an in-depth look at Stravinsky, exploring how his Russian roots informed his works, both those with explicit nationalist influences, such as *The Firebird* and *Les Noces*, and those where the Russian element is less apparent. Led by the Russian-born Mr. Gergiev, the concerts will offer a wide range of works performed by many Russian soloists and the chorus of the Mariinsky Theatre — the opera house where Stravinsky’s father performed for many years in St. Petersburg. The Festival will feature eight programs over three weeks, including concerts, lectures, pre-concert talks, radio broadcasts, podcasts and an Archives exhibit. [A complete overview and listing of events follows in this press release. Weekly press releases with further details are forthcoming.]

As a youth, Igor Stravinsky absorbed many of the ever-present folk traditions of his native land: although he left Russia in 1910 and lived in Switzerland, France, and finally the United States, his Russian heritage remained a vital part of his life and creative

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vision. While his compositional career spanned three stylistic periods — the “Russian” Period (ca. 1908–19), the Neoclassical Period (ca. 1920–54), and the Serial Period (ca. 1954–68) — his Russian influences were always present, sometimes in the foreground, other times in the background. “At the end of his life,” says Mr. Gergiev, “Igor Stravinsky was saying, ‘I think in Russian, I hear in Russian, my worth is Russian, my tongue is Russian.’” For Mr. Gergiev, this “Russian voice” is a key to understanding Stravinsky’s entire output.

Highlights of *The Russian Stravinsky* will include the ballets *The Firebird*, *Petrushka*, *Jeu de cartes*, *Orpheus*, and *The Rite of Spring*, and the Philharmonic debut of the **Mariinsky Theatre Chorus** in the choral masterwork *Symphony of Psalms* and the dance cantata *Les Noces*, based on a Russian folk wedding, which will include soloists from the Mariinsky Theatre Opera Company. Other soloists in the festival will be **Leonidas Kavakos** performing the Violin Concerto (April 28–29); mezzo-soprano **Waltraud Meier**, in her New York Philharmonic debut as Jocasta, and tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey**, performing the title role, in the opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex* (April 28–29); Russian pianists **Denis Matsuev**, in his Philharmonic debut in the Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra (May 5–6), and **Alexei Volodin**, also in his Philharmonic debut in the Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments (May 7–8). Emmy Award-winning actor **Alec Baldwin** will be The Narrator in *L’Histoire du soldat* (May 2).

The festival will also include an *Insights Series* event with Valery Gergiev titled “Stravinsky’s Russian-American Odyssey,” Saturday, May 1, 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Gilder Lehrman Hall, The Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street. Joseph Horowitz, curator and host, is joined by Mr. Gergiev and pianists from The Juilliard School and the New York Philharmonic Education Department Teaching Artists Ensemble for this multimedia event that includes performances of piano and chamber works, film, and a one-hour colloquy.

Related Events

- **Pre-Concert Talks**

Composer/conductor **Victoria Bond** will introduce the program one hour before performances on April 21–22, May 2, and May 5–6. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and University Professor at Adelphi University **Paul Moravec** will introduce the program on April 23–24, April 28–29, and April 30–May 1. Author and lecturer **Joseph Horowitz** will introduce the program on May 7–8. 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***

The producers and hosts of the award-winning *New York Philharmonic Podcast* are Elliott Forrest, Peabody Award-winning broadcaster, producer, and weekend host on Classical 105.9 FM WQXR, and Mark Travis, a producer for the WFMT Radio Network since 1999 and the producer of the 52-week-per-year nationally syndicated (more)

radio series, *The New York Philharmonic This Week*. 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**

The programs of April 21–22, April 28–29, May 5–6, and May 7–8 will be broadcast on *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, a radio concert series syndicated nationally to more than 295 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.

- **Archives Exhibit: Stravinsky at the New York Philharmonic**

Bruno Walter Gallery, April–May 2010. The New York Philharmonic Archives will have on view correspondence, scores, programs, and photographs focusing on Stravinsky's particular relationship with the Philharmonic as well as on the conductors who championed his works with the Orchestra over the years.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Stravinsky Ballets

Many of Stravinsky's most groundbreaking and popular works were those he wrote for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes; in them there is a core deeply rooted in his Russian background. Two of the ballets are featured in the program on April 21–22, 2010: *Les Noces* and *The Firebird*. On April 23–24, 2010, Mr. Gergiev will conduct *Jeu de cartes* and *The Firebird*; the April 30–May 1, 2010, program will include *Orpheus*. On May 5–6, 2010, the original 1911 version of *Petrushka* will be featured. The festival's finale, on May 7–8, 2010, closes with what is perhaps Stravinsky's most famous work, *The Rite of Spring* — the shocking ballet that sparked a riot because of its innovative use of complex rhythms and dissonant chords.

Oedipus Rex

Stravinsky's opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex* will receive four performances on two different programs during the festival. Premiered in Paris in 1927, the libretto, based on the famous Greek tragedy by Sophocles, was written in French by Jean Cocteau, then translated into Latin by Abbé Jean Daniélou. In the story, the people of Thebes call on King Oedipus to save them from a plague that has apparently been sent because the

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murderer of the previous king is still living in the city. Oedipus eventually realizes that he himself is the murderer, and his wife, Jocasta, learns that he is her long-lost son. Jocasta kills herself and Oedipus puts out his eyes and leaves Thebes forever.

Conducted by Mr. Gergiev, the Philharmonic will perform *Oedipus Rex* on two programs, on April 28–29 and April 30–May 1, 2010. The cast will include mezzo-soprano Waltraud Meier as Jocasta and tenor Anthony Dean Griffey as Oedipus.

The Mariinsky Theatre Chorus

Mr. Gergiev will lead Stravinsky's dance cantata, *Les Noces*, on April 21 and 22, 2010, in a program that includes *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* and *The Firebird*. *Les Noces*, which is based on a Russian folk wedding, was written for the Ballets Russes and received its world premiere in 1923. The work will be performed by the Orchestra, the Mariinsky Theatre Chorus in its Philharmonic debut, and soloists. The Chorus will also feature in the performances of the *Symphony of Psalms* (April 22–23, 2010) and *Oedipus Rex* (April 28–29 and April 30–May 1, 2010). [See listing at end of release].

The Mariinsky Theatre Chorus, an integral part of Mr. Gergiev's work at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre, is renowned for its powerful singing, broad scale of sound, and acting. The ensemble has a vast repertoire that includes Russian and Western European opera classics, cantatas, oratorios, and a cappella choral works, and is a regular participant at international festivals, where it has premiered numerous new works.

STRAVINSKY: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Igor Stravinsky was born in Oranienbaum (now Lomonosov), a Baltic resort near St. Petersburg, in 1882. The third son of Feodor Stravinsky, one of the principal basses at the Mariinsky (for a time, known as the Kirov) Theatre in St. Petersburg, the younger Stravinsky's musical education began with piano lessons at home when he was ten. He studied law at St. Petersburg University and music theory with Fyodor Akimenko and Vasily Kalafati, but his most important teacher was Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, with whom he studied informally from the age of 20, taking regular lessons from 1905 until 1908.

Although Stravinsky's first substantial composition was a Symphony in E-flat major, Op. 1, written under the tutelage of Rimsky-Korsakov, it was *The Firebird* — a ballet commissioned by Serge Diaghilev and premiered by his Ballets Russes in Paris in 1910 — that brought Stravinsky into sudden international prominence. The next year he consolidated his reputation with *Petrushka*. The composer's next major score — a third ballet commission from Diaghilev — is one of the landmarks in the history of music: *The Rite of Spring*. The work marked the coming of modernism in music and was met with a mixture of astonishment and hostility, and Stravinsky became known as one of the most radical composers of the age.

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Also active as a performer of his own music, initially as a pianist and later as a conductor, Stravinsky was the first composer to leave a nearly complete legacy of recordings of his own music, initially released on Columbia Records, now Sony Classical. His conducting career continued until 1967, when advancing age and illness forced him to retire. He died on April 6, 1971, in New York, and his body was flown to Venice for burial on the island of San Michele, near Diaghilev's grave.

STRAVINSKY AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Igor Stravinsky's long history with the New York Philharmonic began on January 8, 1925, when the composer conducted the Orchestra in an all-Stravinsky program; he was 42 years old. Forty-one years later, on July 23, 1966, he conducted his *Symphony of Psalms* at age 84, at the Philharmonic's *Festival of Stravinsky: His Heritage and His Legacy*. In the intervening years, Stravinsky conducted the Philharmonic 32 times — including the world premiere of his *Symphony in Three Movements* in 1946, a New York Philharmonic Commission — and also performed three times as pianist. His works have appeared on Orchestra or Ensembles programs almost 1,100 times.

The Philharmonic has released 37 recordings of Stravinsky's works, led by various conductors. Stravinsky recorded nine of them as conductor: *Circus Polka* (1945); *The Firebird: 1945 Suite* (1946); *Fireworks* (1946); *Four Norwegian Moods* (1945); *Ode* (1945); *Persephone* (1957); *Petrushka: Suite* (1940); *The Rite of Spring* (1940); *Scènes de Ballet* (1945); and *Symphony in Three Movements* (1946). Stravinsky also recorded the works of two other Russian composers with the Philharmonic: Glinka's *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla* (1945), and Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* (1940) and *Symphony No. 2, Little Russian* (1940).

VALERY GERGIEV

Valery Gergiev is general director and artistic director of the Mariinsky Opera and Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia, home to the Kirov Opera and Ballet. He is also principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra; first principal guest conductor of The Metropolitan Opera; and artistic director of St. Petersburg's White Nights Festival. He has worked with all the world's major international orchestras and opera companies.

Born to Ossetian parents in Moscow, Mr. Gergiev studied conducting at the Leningrad Conservatory with Ilya Musin, and at the age of 23 he won Berlin's Herbert von Karajan Competition. He made his Kirov Opera debut in 1978 with Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, and later became assistant conductor to Yuri Temirkanov. Mr. Gergiev was elected artistic director of the Mariinsky Opera Company in 1988 at the age of 35, and in 1996 the Russian government gave him complete control over the orchestra, opera, and ballet. He has appeared with all the leading orchestras of the former Soviet Union and for four years was chief conductor of the Armenian State Orchestra.

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Mr. Gergiev has guest conducted most of the world's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, London's Royal Philharmonic, Rome's Santa Cecilia, and the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Tokyo's NHK Symphony, and Berlin Philharmonic orchestras. He is also the organizer of the Rotterdam Philharmonic/Gergiev Festival, and is director and founder of the Mikkeli International Festival in Finland, the Peace to the Caucasus Festival, and the Red Sea International Music Festival in Eilat, Israel. Among Mr. Gergiev's numerous international honors are Russia's Dmitri Shostakovich Award, the Golden Mask National Theatre Award, and being named *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year as well as the People's Artist of Russia.

Mr. Gergiev made his New York Philharmonic debut in 1990 in the *New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks*, and has returned numerous times to lead the Orchestra. His most recent appearance was in March 2000, conducting works by Hindemith and Tchaikovsky.

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Valery Gergiev's appearance on May 5-6 is made possible through the **Daisy and Paul Soros Endowment Fund**.

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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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Tickets

Single tickets for the **April 21–22** performances are \$39–\$119; for **April 23–24**, \$34–\$124; for **April 28–29**, \$31–\$109; **April 30–May 1**, \$31–\$112; **May 2**, \$29–\$72; **May 5–6**, \$31–\$109; **May 7–8**, \$29–\$109. Tickets for the **May 1 *Insights Series* event** are \$35.

Tickets for Pre-Concert Talks are \$5. 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

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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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**THE RUSSIAN STRAVINSKY: A PHILHARMONIC FESTIVAL
CONDUCTED BY VALERY GERGIEV**

Program I

Avery Fisher Hall

Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 22, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Mlada Khudoley, soprano*

Olga Savova, mezzo-soprano*

Alexander Timchenko, tenor*

Gennady Bezzubekov, bass*

Alexander Mogilevsky, piano*

Youliya Zaichkina, piano*

Maxim Mogilevsky, piano*

Svetlana Smolina, piano*

Mariinsky Theatre Chorus*

STRAVINSKY

Les Noces

STRAVINSKY

Symphonies of Wind Instruments

STRAVINSKY

The Firebird (complete)

Program II

Avery Fisher Hall

Friday, April 23, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Mariinsky Theatre Chorus

STRAVINSKY

Jeu de cartes

STRAVINSKY

Symphony of Psalms

STRAVINSKY

The Firebird (complete)

**denotes New York Philharmonic debut*

Program III

Avery Fisher Hall

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

Waltraud Meier, mezzo-soprano (Jocasta)*

Anthony Dean Griffey, tenor (Oedipus)

Mikhail Petrenko, bass (Tiresias, April 28)*

Alexei Tanovitski, bass (Creon and A Messenger, April 28)*

Alexander Timchenko, tenor (A Shepherd)*

Narrator tba

Mariinsky Theatre Chorus

STRAVINSKY

Le Roi des étoiles

STRAVINSKY

Violin Concerto

STRAVINSKY

Oedipus Rex

Program IV

Avery Fisher Hall

Friday, April 30, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Waltraud Meier, mezzo-soprano (Jocasta)

Anthony Dean Griffey, tenor (Oedipus)

Mikhail Petrenko, bass (Tiresias April 30)

Alexei Tanovitsky, bass (Creon and A Messenger April 30)

Alexander Timchenko, tenor (A Shepherd)

Narrator tba

Mariinsky Theatre Chorus

STRAVINSKY

Orpheus

STRAVINSKY

Oedipus Rex

*denote New York Philharmonic debut

Program V

Insights Series: Stravinsky's Russian-American Odyssey

Gilder Lehrman Hall
The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Joseph Horowitz, curator and host
Valery Gergiev, speaker
Pianists from The Juilliard School
New York Philharmonic Education Department Teaching Artists Ensemble

11:00 a.m. A Conversation with Valery Gergiev: How Russian Was Stravinsky?
1:30 p.m. The Piano Music of Igor Stravinsky

Program VI

Avery Fisher Hall

Sunday, May 2, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor
Alexander Timchenko, tenor
Dmitry Voropaev, tenor*
Gennady Bezzubenkov, bass
Andrei Serov, bass*
Alec Baldwin, narrator
Actor tba
Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

STRAVINSKY
STRAVINSKY

Renard
L'Histoire du soldat

**denotes New York Philharmonic debut*

Program VII

Avery Fisher Hall

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 6, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Denis Matsuev, piano*

STRAVINSKY

STRAVINSKY

STRAVINSKY

Symphony in C

Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra

Petrushka (1911 version)

Program VIII

Avery Fisher Hall

Friday, May 7, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Alexei Volodin, piano*

STRAVINSKY

STRAVINSKY

STRAVINSKY

Symphony in Three Movements

Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments

The Rite of Spring

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**denotes New York Philharmonic debut*

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