



Alan Gilbert
Music Director

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**WQXR to Present “Vixen on Varick” — a Preview of the
New York Philharmonic’s Production of Janáček’s
The Cunning Little Vixen
at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space,
Sunday, June 12, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.**

**Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, Director/Designer Doug Fitch, and
Choreographer Karole Armitage To Participate in Discussion of the Upcoming
Production Taking Place June 22–25 at Avery Fisher Hall**

**Musical Performance To Include Baritone Alan Opie and
Mezzo-Soprano Marie Lenormand**

Tickets on Sale Now

(NEW YORK, May 24, 2011) –WQXR 105.9 FM, New York City’s classical music station, will present “Vixen on Varick,” a live preview of the New York Philharmonic’s upcoming production of Janáček’s opera *The Cunning Little Vixen* at **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space**, New York Public Radio’s state-of-the-art, intimate live event venue, on Sunday, June 12 at 4:30 p.m. The evening will feature music and conversation with New York Philharmonic Music Director **ALAN GILBERT**, director/designer **DOUG FITCH**, choreographer **KAROLE ARMITAGE**, baritone **ALAN OPIE**, and mezzo-soprano **Marie Lenormand**. The New York Philharmonic’s upcoming fully staged June 22–25 performances of the opera, conducted by Mr. Gilbert and directed by Mr. Fitch, will transform Avery Fisher Hall into a fantastical forest environment in a tale of love, relationships, the cycle of life, and the interaction of man and nature.

JEFF SPURGEON, WQXR host, will lead a conversation with Mr. Gilbert, who has made the idea of bringing opera to the symphonic stage a central part of his artistic vision at the Philharmonic. Mr. Fitch and Ms. Armitage will join them in exploring how, collectively, they will bring to life a forest populated by humans and animals on the Avery Fisher Hall stage, illuminating the touching story set to what is known as some of Janáček’s “sunniest” and most beautiful orchestral music. The conversation will be interspersed with musical performance,

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including selections from the opera sung by baritone **ALAN OPIE** (who will portray The Forester in the Philharmonic's production), among others.

The event is open to the public. The program will be broadcast live on Classical 105.9 FM WQXR, and will also be available as a live video webcast at www.wqxr.org, www.thegreenespace.org, and nyphil.org/vixen.

WHAT: WQXR presents “Vixen on Varick” — a Preview of the New York Philharmonic's Production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*

WHEN: Sunday, June 12, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Jerome L. Greene Space at WQXR
44 Charlton Street (at Varick Street)
New York, NY 10014

TICKETS: \$20, available at www.thegreenespace.org or by calling (866) 811-4111

Live Webcast: www.wqxr.org, www.thegreenespace.org, and nyphil.org/vixen

About the New York Philharmonic's production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* (June 22–25, 2011)

New York Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair, will conduct the Orchestra, soloists, and chorus in Leoš Janáček's opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*, in a fully staged production directed by Doug Fitch, produced by Edouard Getaz, and created by Giants Are Small, Wednesday and Thursday, June 22–23, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, June 24–25, at 8:00 p.m. at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center.

The production, with an English language translation by Norman Tucker, will feature choreography by Karole Armitage, scenic design by G.W. Mercier and Doug Fitch; lighting design by Clifton Taylor; costume design by Doug Fitch; and make-up, hair, and body painting by Cookie Jordan. New York Philharmonic Assistant Conductor Daniel Boico will serve as assistant conductor. It will be broadcast live on Thursday, June 23, on *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, the Orchestra's national and international radio program (9:00 p.m. EST on Classical 105.9 FM WQXR).

Composed in 1922–23, *The Cunning Little Vixen* is based on a novel from a text originally written to accompany a comic strip. It tells the story of a clever and independent fox, reared as a cub by a forester and who escapes and raises a family. Included in the nearly three-dozen adult and child roles (plus a 40-voice chorus) are characters such as a drunken mosquito, an army of egg-laying hens, a hapless poacher, a sticky little frog, a grasshopper, owl, woodpecker, badger, dog, and a host of fox cubs singing Moravian folk songs. Janáček depicts the forest and its denizens through his own musical language, which he based on his “notebook” of animal sounds.

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Mr. Fitch plans to evoke an urban “metaphorrest” in Avery Fisher Hall, with the Orchestra performing amid a bed of giant sunflowers, some as large as 20 feet high. Much of the opera’s action will take place on a runway that extends into the audience, enveloping all in the drama taking place in the mystical forest. The costumes, designed by Doug Fitch, are influenced by punk culture and incorporate modern urban fashion trends such as fedoras, hoodies, and cargo shorts, and puffer vests, along with recycled materials used for accessories.

Leading the cast are soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian** as Vixen; baritone **Alan Opie** as Forester; mezzo-soprano **Marie Lenormand** as Fox; and tenor **Keith Jameson** as Schoolmaster and Mosquito, all in their New York Philharmonic debuts. Also in the cast are mezzo-soprano **Melissa Parks** (Forester/s Wife/Owl); bass **Wilbur Pauley** (Parson/Badger); baritone **Joshua Bloom** (Harašta, a poultry dealer); **Serena Benedetti** (Frantík, Pepík’s friend, debut); mezzo-soprano **Kelley O’Connor** (Lapák, a dog); soprano **Emalie Savoy** (Cock/Jay, debut); soprano **Devon Guthrie** (Chocholka, a hen, debut); and mezzo-soprano **Lacey Benter**(Woodpecker, debut); with the **New York Choral Artists**, Joseph Flummerfelt, director, and the **Metropolitan Opera Children’s Chorus**, Anthony Piccolo, director.

Director/designer Doug Fitch and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, who portrays the Vixen, will discuss the unique blend of movement and the strange mixing of animal and human worlds that inhabit this 20th-century opera at an *Insights Series* event on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at The Morgan Library and Museum.

For more information about the production and the *Insights Series* event, visit nyphil.org/vixen.

The Cunning Little Vixen is generously sponsored by Yoko Nagae Ceschina.

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international news reporting. In addition to its audio content, WQXR and WNYC produce content for live, radio, and web audiences from **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space**, the station's street-level multipurpose, multiplatform broadcast studio and performance space. For more information about New York Public Radio, visit www.nypublicradio.org.

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 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. The Philharmonic 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, and 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. Credit Suisse is the exclusive Global Sponsor of the New York Philharmonic.

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