

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 4, 2007  
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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR XIAN ZHANG TO  
LEAD THE ORCHESTRA IN NEW YORK PREMIERE OF  
SELECTIONS FROM HUANG RUO'S THREE PIECES FOR ORCHESTRA,  
AND WORKS BY LALO AND BEETHOVEN, NOVEMBER 8-10, 2007**

***Violinist Vadim Repin To Be Soloist in Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole****

New York Philharmonic Associate Conductor Xian Zhang will conduct the Orchestra in the New York premiere of *Fanfare* and *Announcement* from Huang Ruo's Three Pieces for Orchestra; Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*, with violinist Vadim Repin as soloist; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, November 9, at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, November 10, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.

**Related Events**

• **Pre-Concert Talk**

Composer and conductor Victoria Bond 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 December 10, 2007,\* on *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, a radio concert series syndicated nationally to more than 250 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 broadcast 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.

• ***New York Philharmonic Podcast***

The New York Philharmonic's downloadable podcasts continue. The producer and host is Elliott Forrest, Peabody Award-winning broadcaster, producer, and afternoon host of 96.3 FM WQXR. These previews of upcoming programs, through musical selections as well as interviews with guest artists, conductors, and Orchestra musicians, are available at [nyphil.org/podcast](http://nyphil.org/podcast) or from **iTunes**.

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- **The New York Philharmonic Offstage at Barnes & Noble**

Violinist Vladimir Repin will discuss music and his life with Jeff Spurgeon of 96.3 FM WQXR on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, Lincoln Triangle (Broadway at 66th Street), third floor performance space. Free.

### Artists

**Xian Zhang** is the New York Philharmonic's Associate Conductor, The Arturo Toscanini Chair, a post she has held since 2005, after serving as Assistant Conductor for one year. Since making her Philharmonic debut conducting a Young People's Concert on February 7, 2004, Ms. Zhang has led numerous concerts with the Orchestra, including three Annual Free Memorial Day Concerts at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine; a series of New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks; and performances during two of the Orchestra's residencies at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

Xian Zhang's upcoming North American guest-conducting appearances include the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, National, and Toronto symphony orchestras; and the Orchestra of St. Luke's, with whom she appears in Carnegie Hall with pianist Hélène Grimaud. Following a successful debut in May 2005, Ms. Zhang now works with the London Symphony Orchestra each season; other appearances in the United Kingdom have included the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and BBC Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming European engagements include the orchestras in Bamberg and Berlin, Germany; Basel, Switzerland; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France; and Vienna Symphony Orchestra at the Bregenz Festival. With the Dresden Staatskapelle she will lead a special New Year's concert. This season she will make her debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo.

An enthusiastic opera conductor, Xian Zhang made her English National Opera conducting debut with Puccini's *La bohème* in the spring of 2007. She has previously conducted *La bohème* with the Valencia and Cincinnati operas. Future plans include performances of Puccini's *Tosca* with Frankfurt Opera in September 2008, and a return to English National Opera in 2009–10. Born in Dandong, China, Ms. Zhang made her professional conducting debut at the age of 20 leading Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Central Opera House in Beijing. She trained at Beijing's Central Conservatory, earning both her bachelor and master of music degrees, and served one year on its conducting faculty before moving to the United States in 1998. Ms. Zhang served as assistant professor of conducting, and music director of the concert orchestra at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and music director of the Lucca Festival Orchestra at the Opera Theatre of Lucca in 2000. She last conducted the New York Philharmonic at the Annual Free Memorial Day Concert on May 28, 2007.

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Born in Siberia in 1971, **Vadim Repin** began playing the violin at age five. At 11 he won the gold medal in the Wieniawski Competition and gave recital debuts in Moscow and St. Petersburg. At 14 he made debuts in Tokyo, Munich, Berlin, and Helsinki, and a year later in Carnegie Hall. Two years later, he became the youngest-ever winner of the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition. Since then he has performed with the world's greatest orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, Cleveland Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, London's Philharmonia, and Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw.

Vadim Repin has been a frequent guest at festivals such as Tanglewood, Ravinia, Rheingau, Gstaad, Verbier, and the BBC Proms. Last season he performed with the Vienna Philharmonic in the Musikverein; made extensive tours of Australia, and a tour with Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra; and participated in a four-part artist-in-residence series with the Bamberg Symphony under Jonathan Nott. Mr. Repin's many CDs include prize-winning recordings of Russian violin concertos by Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Tchaikovsky (Warner Classics). He recently signed an agreement with Deutsche Grammophon, and his first recording on that label — Beethoven's Violin Concerto and the *Kreutzer* Sonata, with the Vienna Philharmonic, Riccardo Muti, and Martha Argerich — will be released this season.

### **Repertoire**

The 31-year-old Chinese-American composer **Huang Ruo** uses elements from many genres of music, including both Chinese and Western influences, to create fresh new stylistic syntheses. Of *Announcement* and *Fanfare* from his Three Pieces for Orchestra, which he composed to open the new century, Huang Ruo writes: "*Fanfare* (1998) is a wild, chaotic, and dramatic piece, beginning with immediate intensity and shifting relentlessly between the sections of the orchestra. The constantly changing relationship between the horizontal and vertical dimensions creates an interaction between the visual and aural senses. In contrast, *Announcement* is a solemn, dignified, and ceremonious statement, full of passionate emotion. The opening melody of the piece was inspired by the ancient *Boatman Song*, a folk tune from northwestern China. The performers are asked to sing the Chinese words 'Ni Xiao De' at the end of the piece, which translates to 'Do you know?' Often, in composing and experiencing music, no definitive final truth exists, and thus a question is its own answer." These performances mark the New York premieres of these works.

**Édouard Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole***, despite its "symphony" title and having a suite-like five-movement form, is nothing less than a full-fledged violin concerto, composed for the great Spanish virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate, who premiered it in 1875. Lalo was born and lived his whole life in France, but he was of Spanish ancestry and worked in an era when many French composers had become fascinated with the sounds of Spain.

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Incorporating the *seguidilla*, the *malagueña*, and other forms from Spanish folk music, the *Symphonie* gives its soloist opportunities for brilliant display against a vibrant orchestral backdrop. The Orchestra first performed the work in December 1910, with soloist Jaroslav Kocian, and Walter Damrosch conducting the New York Symphony (which merged with the New York Philharmonic in 1928 to form today's New York Philharmonic). Most recently it was performed with James Ehnes as soloist, and conducted by Bramwell Tovey, at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in July 2005.

**Ludwig van Beethoven** conducted the first performance of his **Symphony No. 7** on December 8, 1813, in Vienna, at a charity concert for soldiers wounded during the defense of the city against the invading forces of Napoleon. The premiere was so successful that popular demand called for a repeat performance of the symphony four nights later. The work had been completed in the eventful year of 1812, during which the composer — by that time almost completely deaf — met the German philosopher Goethe, penned the mysterious “immortal beloved” letter, interfered in his estranged brother's personal affairs, composed the last of his piano sonatas, and finished two symphonies. While Weber stated that the Seventh Symphony suggested that Beethoven was “ripe for the madhouse,” Wagner praised its Dionysian spirit and termed it the “apotheosis of the dance.” The New York Philharmonic performed the symphony's U.S. premiere on November 18, 1843, led by the Orchestra's founder, Ureli Corelli Hill. The symphony was most recently performed by the Philharmonic at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey, in January 2005, conducted by Music Director Lorin Maazel.

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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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Single tickets for these performances are \$29 to \$102. Tickets for Pre-Concert Talks are \$5. Tickets for Open Rehearsals are \$16. All tickets may be purchased online at **nypphil.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

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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 the New York Philharmonic Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700.

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### **New York Philharmonic**

Avery Fisher Hall

Thursday, November 8, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

*Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.*

Friday, November 9, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk (one hour before each concert) with composer and conductor Victoria Bond
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Xian Zhang, conductor  
Vadim Repin, violin

HUANG RUO

*Fanfare and Announcement* from Three Pieces for Orchestra

LALO

*Symphonie espagnole*

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 7

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<i>Photography is available in the New York Philharmonic online newsroom, <a href="http://nyphil.org/newsroom">nyphil.org/newsroom</a>, or by contacting the Public Relations Department: (212) 875-5700; <a href="mailto:PR@nyphil.org">PR@nyphil.org</a>.</i>
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