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For immediate release  
Alan Gilbert's 2008-09 Season

Contact Glenn Petry (212) 625-2038  
[gpetry@21cmediagroup.com](mailto:gpetry@21cmediagroup.com)

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## **ALAN GILBERT: 2008-09 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE OF NEW YORK  
PHILHARMONIC, NEW SEASON BEGINS WITH  
METROPOLITAN OPERA DEBUT CONDUCTING NEW  
PRODUCTION OF JOHN ADAMS'S *DOCTOR ATOMIC***

**CONCERTS WITH NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC INCLUDE FALL  
PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL COMMEMORATING LEONARD  
BERNSTEIN'S HISTORIC DEBUT WITH ORCHESTRA AND TWO  
SPRING SUBSCRIPTION WEEKS; MAY CONCERTS FEATURE WORLD  
PREMIERE OF PETER LIEBERSON'S *THE WORLD IN FLOWER***

**OTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE PERFORMANCES WITH MAJOR  
ORCHESTRAS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE, INCLUDING BOSTON  
SYMPHONY, BERLIN PHILHARMONIC, AND AMSTERDAM'S ROYAL  
CONCERTGEBOUW, PLUS NEW RECORDINGS OF MUSIC BY ROUSE AND  
MAHLER WITH ROYAL STOCKHOLM PHILHARMONIC**

**Alan Gilbert**, the Music Director Designate of the New York Philharmonic, begins his new season across the plaza from the orchestra's Lincoln Center home when he makes his **debut at the Metropolitan Opera** leading a **new production of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*** directed by Penny Woolcock. Gilbert has conducted numerous performances of Adams's orchestral works in America and Europe, including an extensive festival of his music with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, where Gilbert was Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor from January 2000 through June 2008. In addition to the nine performances of the opera he will conduct through November 13, Gilbert will also participate in a public discussion with the composer and director of the opera at the Met on October 7 (from 6 to 7 pm) and will present an Opera News Award to Adams at a gala event at New York's Plaza Hotel on November 16 (further information about both events is available at [www.metguild.org](http://www.metguild.org)).

Gilbert will begin his tenure as the 25<sup>th</sup> music director of the **New York Philharmonic** with the start of the 2009-10 season, but he will have performances with the orchestra throughout this season, beginning in November with a special concert at **Carnegie Hall** commemorating the **65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's historic debut** there with the orchestra. The concert on November 14, featuring an all-Bernstein program (*On The Waterfront* Symphonic Suite,

*Serenade*, and *West Side Story* Suites Nos. 1 and 2), is part of a citywide festival, **Bernstein: The Best of All Possible Worlds**, which the Philharmonic is presenting in collaboration with Carnegie Hall in celebration of the legendary composer/conductor's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Music Director and his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday year. Soon after, Gilbert will lead the **Juilliard Orchestra** in another Philharmonic Bernstein festival presentation, this time at Avery Fisher Hall. Their concert on November 24 will feature two Third Symphonies: Bernstein's "Kaddish" and Beethoven's "Eroica". Later in the season, Gilbert will re-unite with the Philharmonic for two subscription weeks. The first, April 30 – May 5, will feature Saint-Saëns's Violin Concerto No. 3 with soloist Joshua Bell alongside Dvorák's *The Golden Spinning Wheel* and Martinu's powerful Symphony No. 4. The three concerts from May 7-9 will feature the **world premiere** of **Peter Lieberson's *The World in Flower***, a New York Philharmonic commission, to be sung by mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, baritone Russell Braun, and the New York Choral Artists.

Alan Gilbert made his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 2001 as the Diamond American Conductor, and has returned to conduct the orchestra numerous times, including during the acclaimed Philharmonic Festival, *Charles Ives: An American Original in Context*, in 2004. This summer, he made his debut with the orchestra in Brooklyn's Prospect Park and Manhattan's Central Park, where he and the Philharmonic drew an estimated crowd of more than 63,000 people to the Great Lawn. When the Manhattan-born conductor begins his tenure as Music Director of the orchestra next season, he will be one of the youngest ever to hold the post as well as the only native New Yorker to be so honored.

Guest conducting engagements for Gilbert in the U.S. this season include performances with the **Cincinnati Symphony** (December 5 & 6) and the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** (March 5-10).

Among the highlights of Alan Gilbert's 2008-09 season European engagements are multiple programs with **Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra**, where he has been principal guest conductor since 2004, as well as concerts with the **Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra**, where he now holds the title Conductor Laureate, Amsterdam's **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra**, and the **Vienna Symphony Orchestra**. In April, Gilbert will return to the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra** for his first concerts there since his triumphant debut in February 2006, when he replaced the ailing Bernard Haitink at short notice and to great acclaim.

Before leaving Sweden in June 2008, Gilbert recorded **Mahler's Symphony No. 9** and works by **Christopher Rouse** with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic. Mahler's Ninth and the first of two Rouse recordings are slotted for release by BIS during the coming season.

Highlights of Alan Gilbert's 2007-08 season in America included concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center; with the orchestra of his alma mater – Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music – at home and at Carnegie Hall; and with the San Francisco Symphony. In Europe – in addition to his many programs with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic – he made his debut with the Vienna State Opera; returned to the Zurich Opera House, and led the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra; and conducted the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in Paris. He led the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Hamburg and other German cities, on tour in Central and Eastern Europe, and in the final concerts of the 2008 Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. He also returned to Japan for concerts with the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo.

A list of concert dates and programs for Alan Gilbert follows.

**Alan Gilbert: 2008-09 season engagements**

**October 13 – November 13 (New York, NY)**

Metropolitan Opera debut

New production of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* (nine performances)

**November 14 (New York, NY)**

New York Philharmonic concert at Carnegie Hall

All-Bernstein program: *On The Waterfront* Symphonic Suite, *Serenade*, and *West Side Story* Suites Nos. 1 and 2

**November 24 (New York, NY)**

Juilliard Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall, presented by the New York Philharmonic

Bernstein: Symphony No. 3, "Kaddish"; Beethoven: Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

Oratorio Society of New York; Kent Tritle, director

Young People's Chorus of New York City; Francisco Núñez, director

**December 5 and 6 (Cincinnati, OH)**

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Tchaikovsky: *Rococo Variations* (with Johannes Moser) and *Manfred* Symphony

**December 21 and 22 (Hamburg, Germany)**

NDR Symphony Orchestra

Bach-Stokowski: Toccata and Fugue in D minor; Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto (with Janine Jansen); Bach-Elgar: Fantasia and Fugue in C minor; Elgar: "Enigma" Variations

**January 8 and 9 (Amsterdam, Holland)**

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Brahms: Violin Concerto (with Leonidas Kavakos); Schubert: *Rosamunde* Overture; Schumann: Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

**January 15 and 17 (Stockholm, Sweden)**

Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra

Mahler: Symphony No. 3

**January 29, 30, 31, and February 3 (Hamburg [1/29 and 30], Bremen [1/31] and Kiel [2/3], Germany)**

NDR Symphony Orchestra – Hamburg

Mahler: Symphony No. 3

**March 5, 6, 7, and 10 (Boston/MA)**

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Sibelius: *Night Ride and Sunrise*; Rachmaninoff: *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* (with Stephen Hough); Ives: Symphony No. 4

**March 18, 19, 20, and 21 (Vienna, Austria)**

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven: *Coriolan* Overture; Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 2 (with Heinrich Schiff);

Bartók: *Concerto for Orchestra*

**March 27 – 29 (Hamburg [3/27 and 29] and Kiel [3/28], Germany)**

NDR Symphony Orchestra – Hamburg

Maurice Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloé*, Suites 1 and 2; Debussy: *Three Nocturnes*

Program includes Messiaen: *Poèmes pour Mi* (3/27 and 3/29) and Haydn: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in C major (with Roland Greutter – 3/28)

**April 18 and 19 (Berlin, Germany)**

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Dvorák: Cello Concerto (with Steven Isserlis); Martinu: Symphony No. 4

**April 30, May 1, 2, and 5 (New York, NY)**

New York Philharmonic

Dvorák: *The Golden Spinning Wheel*; Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3 (with Joshua Bell);

Martinu: Symphony No. 4

**May 7-9 (New York, NY)**

New York Philharmonic

Lieberson: *The World in Flower* (world premiere and New York Philharmonic commission with Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano; Russell Braun, baritone; and the New York Choral Artists);

Mahler: Symphony No. 1

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