
For immediate release
Alan Gilbert leads Curtis Symphony Orchestra

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**ALAN GILBERT, THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC'S MUSIC DIRECTOR-
DESIGNATE, CONDUCTS THE CURTIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
AT CARNEGIE HALL ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

**Gilbert, a Curtis Graduate, Leads the Acclaimed Curtis Symphony Orchestra in
Barber, Nielsen, and a Beethoven String Quartet Arranged by Mahler**

Alan Gilbert will conduct the orchestra of The Curtis Institute of Music, at New York's Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, February 12 at 8 p.m. The concert marks Mr. Gilbert's first appearance in New York since he was named music director-designate of the New York Philharmonic beginning with the 2009–10 season. A 1992 Curtis graduate, Mr. Gilbert will be the first native New Yorker to hold the Philharmonic post, and the second Curtis graduate (Leonard Bernstein was the first). His concert with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra in New York follows a performance of the same program at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia on Monday, February 11.

Mr. Gilbert's program for both concerts is Samuel Barber's Overture to *The School for Scandal*; a Mahler arrangement of Beethoven's String Quartet No. 11, Op. 95 ("Quartetto serioso"); and Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 3 ("Sinfonia espansiva"). Curtis student soloists Charlotte Dobbs, soprano, and Adrian Kramer, baritone, will be heard in the Nielsen work.

The concerts in Philadelphia and New York City mark the final stage of a Curtis-wide study of the Beethoven Op. 95 String Quartet, dubbed the Beethoven Op. 95 Project. In addition to rehearsing and performing Mahler's arrangement of the Beethoven piece, every student string quartet studied the work in its original form. At the same time, several classes analyzed the score and studied Beethoven's letters. The aim of the project, in the words of Curtis President Roberto Díaz, is to "take our students on a common journey with relevance to all, culminating in performance."

Both concerts are part of the 2007–08 series of Jack Wolgin Orchestral Concerts at Curtis. The Carnegie Hall performance is sponsored by Blank Rome LLP and Glenmede.

In March **Alan Gilbert** will spend two weeks with the New York Philharmonic, leading concerts that include “Hear & Now”, “Inside the Music”, and the world premiere of Marc Neikrug’s *Quintessence: Symphony No. 2*—a New York Philharmonic commission. He made his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 2001 as the Diamond American Conductor and has conducted the orchestra numerous times, including the acclaimed Philharmonic Festival: Charles Ives—An American Original in Context in 2004, and most recently, in March 2007, when he led works by Bach, Ligeti, and Schumann.

Mr. Gilbert has been chief conductor and artistic advisor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra since 2000 and principal guest conductor of Hamburg’s NDR Symphony Orchestra since 2004. He appears regularly with many of the world’s leading orchestras and opera companies and began the 2007–08 season with his Vienna State Opera debut, conducting Bizet’s *Carmen*. This season he also conducts concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in Paris. He returns to the Zurich Opera House and conducts several series of subscription performances with Hamburg’s NDR Symphony Orchestra (NDRSO) in Hamburg, Lübeck, and Bremen. He also takes the NDRSO on tour to Cologne, Vienna, Prague, and Ljubljana, Slovenia. In May he closes out his tenure with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra with Mahler’s Symphony No. 9.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* has called the **Curtis Symphony Orchestra**, composed of more than one hundred young musicians, “an orchestra that any city would be lucky to have as its professional ensemble.” It performs a three-concert season in Philadelphia’s Verizon Hall as well as programs elsewhere in the region and at Carnegie Hall. The real-world training has enabled Curtis alumni to assume prominent positions in major orchestras across the United States, Canada, and abroad. Seventeen percent of the principal chairs in America’s top twenty-five orchestras are held by Curtis-trained musicians.

The Curtis Institute of Music trains exceptionally gifted young musicians for careers as performing artists on the highest professional level. One of the world's leading music schools, Curtis provides full-tuition scholarships to all of its 162 students, ensuring that admissions are based solely on artistic promise. A Curtis education is uniquely tailored to the individual student, with personalized attention from a celebrated faculty and unusually frequent performance opportunities. This distinctive "learn by doing" approach to musical training has produced an impressive number of notable artists, from such legends as Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Barber to current stars Juan Diego Flórez, Alan Gilbert, Hilary Hahn, Jennifer Higdon, and Lang Lang.

The Curtis Symphony Orchestra

February 12 at 8 p.m., Carnegie Hall, New York

Alan Gilbert, conductor
Charlotte Dobbs, soprano
Adrian Kramer, baritone

BARBER: Overture to *The School for Scandal*

BEETHOVEN (trans. Mahler): String Quartet No. 11, Op. 95 ("Quartetto serio")

NIELSEN: Symphony No. 3 ("Sinfonia espansiva")

Tickets:

CarnegieCharge, 212-247-7800

www.carnegiehall.org