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For immediate release  
Alan Gilbert's Bernstein concerts

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

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**ALAN GILBERT, MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE OF NEW YORK  
PHILHARMONIC, JOINS IN CITYWIDE BERNSTEIN  
CELEBRATIONS WITH TWO NOVEMBER CONCERTS**

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL  
ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 MARKS 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
BERNSTEIN'S HISTORIC DEBUT WITH ORCHESTRA**

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC PRESENTATION OF JUILLIARD ORCHESTRA  
AT AVERY FISHER HALL ON NOVEMBER 24 WILL FEATURE GILBERT  
CONDUCTING THIRD SYMPHONIES OF BEETHOVEN AND BERNSTEIN**

**NEW ALL-ROUSE RECORDING FROM GILBERT AND ROYAL STOCKHOLM  
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA NOW AVAILABLE FROM BIS**

Following his triumphant debut at the Metropolitan Opera, leading the company in John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* (the first Met production of an opera by the acclaimed American composer), **Alan Gilbert**, the Music Director Designate of the New York Philharmonic, joins the citywide celebration of Leonard Bernstein's legacy and singular contribution to New York's cultural life, with two special concerts.

The first concert takes place at **Carnegie Hall** on **Friday, November 14**, when Gilbert will lead the **New York Philharmonic** in an **all-Bernstein program** featuring *On The Waterfront* Symphonic Suite, *Serenade*, and *West Side Story* Suites Nos. 1 and 2. The performance marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bernstein's historic debut there with the orchestra and is part of a citywide festival, ***Bernstein: The Best of All Possible Worlds***, which the Philharmonic is presenting in collaboration with Carnegie Hall to honor 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".

Alan Gilbert comments:

It's really exciting to perform Bernstein's music, especially during this occasion that is resonant with historical meaning. The Carnegie program showcases compositions from the three areas that Bernstein worked in as a composer: film, serious music, and Broadway. No other orchestra has as natural a way with Lenny's music as the New York Philharmonic.

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 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 past 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.

### **Other Fall Highlights**

#### **John Adams and *Doctor Atomic***

On **Saturday, November 8**, Gilbert will conduct the first of his two remaining performances with the Metropolitan Opera of **John Adams's *Doctor Atomic***. This performance will be part of the Met's Emmy award-winning series of "**Live in HD**" broadcasts to movie theaters. Gilbert's performances of the opera have been enthusiastically and widely acclaimed. Anthony Tommasini wrote in the *New York Times*, "The big news may be the work of the conductor Alan Gilbert, in his overdue Met debut. The performance he draws from the Met orchestra and chorus is a revelation." In *New York*, Justin Davidson called the opening night performance, "spectacularly conducted," noting, "Gilbert has a gift for seeing the lucid core in mountains of complex detail, and he reveals a score of microscopic clarity and panoramic sweep." Appropriately, Gilbert will present a 2008 Opera News Award to Adams at a gala event at New York's Plaza Hotel on November 16 (further information is available at [www.metguild.org](http://www.metguild.org)).

#### **A new all-Rouse recording for BIS**

On October 28, the BIS label issued the first of two recordings of music by **Christopher Rouse** (b. 1949) featuring Alan Gilbert conducting the **Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra**. The program comprises Rouse's *Iscariot* for chamber orchestra (described by the composer as his most privately autobiographical piece), the **Clarinet Concerto** – the frenetic atmosphere of which was inspired in part by 1950s game shows – with soloist **Martin Fröst**, and the powerful **First Symphony**. The last of these works is a somber and introspective score, inspired by the 19<sup>th</sup>-century concept of heroism – and its subsequent dismantling in the 20<sup>th</sup>. Those familiar with Bruckner's music will note Rouse's use of a motif from the adagio of the Austrian composer's Symphony No. 7, a work in which Bruckner paid special tribute to his own hero, Richard Wagner.

Alan Gilbert calls Rouse's music, "deeply heartfelt and absolutely sincere," noting, "This recording is a strong representation of important music by this composer, especially his work as a symphonist. BIS does terrific work and I'm very happy with the sound quality on this release."

After hearing the new disc, Christopher Rouse sent this note to his colleagues at BIS:

I've just had a chance to listen to the new CD, and I'm very much overwhelmed. The sound is gorgeous, and Alan's interpretations are so on the mark and so full of musical understanding that I can only marvel. Thank you all so much for making this happen! If there's one piece whose performance I'm especially grateful for, it's the Clarinet Concerto. Alan and the RSPO have found the *music* in the piece, and Mr. Fröst's performance is beyond superhuman! (I hope you

will forward my profoundest thanks to him.) It's still a work of musical lunacy, but Messrs. Gilbert and Fröst have played it the way I meant it to be played. I can't thank you all enough!

*ClassicsToday* has already given the album its highest rating, 10/10 for Artistic Quality/Sound Quality, calling the First Symphony “wholly gripping” and giving the BIS engineers special credit for capturing “the work’s volcanic climaxes with aplomb.”

Alan Gilbert was Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra from January 2000 through June 2008, after which he was named Conductor Laureate of the orchestra. The final program of his tenure with the RSPO featured Mahler’s valedictory Ninth Symphony, which Gilbert also recorded with the orchestra for release later this season on BIS.

### **Other fall engagements**

Alan Gilbert will round out his fall season with performances in the U.S. and Europe. On **December 5 and 6** he will lead an all-Tchaikovsky program with the **Cincinnati Symphony**. Later in the month he heads to Germany for performances with **Hamburg’s NDR Symphony Orchestra**, where he has been principal guest conductor since 2004.

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

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

#### **November 8 (Live in HD webcast) and November 13**

Last two of nine performances of John Adams’s *Doctor Atomic* at the Metropolitan Opera

#### **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”

Jennifer Zetlan, soprano; Samuel Pizar, speaker

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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