

For immediate release
Alan Gilbert conducts Magnus Lindberg's *Kraft*

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Alan Gilbert Conducts NY Premiere of Magnus Lindberg's *Kraft* This Week

Alan Gilbert returns to the music of **Magnus Lindberg** this week when he conducts the New York Philharmonic in the **New York premiere** of the Finnish composer's ***Kraft*** (1983-85), a theatrical tour-de-force employing a large orchestra, unusual instruments (including, for this performance, scrap metal from a Staten Island junkyard), electronics, soloists (including the New York Philharmonic debut of Lindberg at the piano), and groups of instruments placed around the hall. The landmark work, which Lindberg calls "my breakthrough piece and my biggest and most complex work," will be performed on **October 7, 8 and 12**, along with Debussy's *Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun"* and Sibelius's Violin Concerto, with **Joshua Bell** as soloist.

Alan Gilbert comments:

"What Magnus did with *Kraft* is to rethink what music is about. The title refers to the German word for power but also to the English word 'craft' – as in construction, building things, putting things together, skill. He uses pure sound as the main element, which in this case is produced by the full orchestra as well as by found percussion instruments, junkyard scrap metal. The orchestra is using sound as building blocks to create structures in time – creating musical structures. There's this visceral sense of construction and destruction happening with pure sound.

"The spatial element is very important. You have to hear this piece live in a hall; you can't really experience its impact on a recording. There are stations placed in the four corners of the hall where the musicians go to play. If you sit in the middle you get the sense that the sound is spinning around you because of the way it's written.

"The concept of melody doesn't come into *Kraft*: it's about the building blocks of sound creating this edifice. It's going to thrill a lot of people and probably annoy some others! It's loud: a kind of organized chaos. It has an alternative, heavy-metal kind of aesthetic to it. It's an amazing piece."

Magnus Lindberg is the Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence of the New York Philharmonic, and he and his music have figured prominently in Alan Gilbert's first two seasons at the helm of the orchestra. Lindberg's *EXPO*, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, was the first work Gilbert conducted with the orchestra when he began his tenure last fall. A new work by Lindberg will be on the program in November when Gilbert conducts *CONTACT!*, the New York Philharmonic's new-music series, at Symphony Space and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Additional information about *Kraft*, including a video interview with Alan Gilbert, can be found at the New York Philharmonic web site: <http://tinyurl.com/25u5lrm>

Alan Gilbert: upcoming engagements – fall 2010

Oct 6

Debussy: *Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun"*
Sibelius: Violin Concerto (with Joshua Bell, violin)
R. Strauss: *Don Juan*
Hindemith: *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*

Oct 7, 8, 12

Debussy: *Prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun"*
Sibelius: Violin Concerto (with Joshua Bell, violin)
Magnus Lindberg: *Kraft* (New York premiere)
Magnus Lindberg, piano
Chen Halevi, clarinets
Carter Brey, cello
Christopher S. Lamb, percussion
Daniel Druckman, percussion
Markus Rhoten, timpani
Juhani Liimatainen, electronics

Oct 9

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, Long Island University, Brookville, NY
Sibelius: Violin Concerto (with Joshua Bell, violin)
R. Strauss: *Don Juan*
Hindemith: *Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*

Oct 14-16

Webern: *Passacaglia*, Op. 1
Brahms: Violin Concerto (with Pinchas Zukerman, violin)
Brahms: *Symphony No. 4*

Oct 19

Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture*
Brahms: Violin Concerto (with Pinchas Zukerman, violin)
Brahms: *Symphony No. 4*

Oct 24 – Nov 4

"Europe / Autumn 2010": European tour with the New York Philharmonic

Nov 10, 11, 13

Mendelssohn: *Elijah*
With Carolyn Sampson, soprano; Alice Coote, mezzo-soprano; Allan Clayton, tenor; Gerald Finley, bass-baritone; New York Choral Artists / Joseph Flummerfelt, director

Nov 12

New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall
Beethoven: Violin Concerto (with Midori, violin)
John Adams: *Harmonielehre*

Nov 19

CONTACT! (the New York Philharmonic's new-music series at Symphony Space, NYC)
Magnus Lindberg: new work (world premiere)
Gérard Grisey: *Quatre chants pour franchir le seuil* (with Barbara Hannigan, soprano)

Nov 20

CONTACT! (the New York Philharmonic's new-music series at the Metropolitan Museum of Art , NYC)

Magnus Lindberg: new work

Gérard Grisey: *Quatre chants pour franchir le seuil* (with Barbara Hannigan, soprano)

Nov 26-27

Paris, France; Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France

School concert, Nov 26

Schoenberg: *Pelleas und Melisande*

Family Concert, Nov 27, matinee

Schoenberg: *Pelleas und Melisande*

Concert, Nov 27, evening

Zemlinsky: *Sechs Gesänge After Poems by Maurice Maeterlinck*, Op. 13

(with Yvonne Naef, contralto)

Schoenberg: *Pelleas und Melisande*

Dec 9-10, 12

NDR Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg

Hamburg, Germany (Dec 9)

Lübeck, Germany (Dec 10)

Hamburg, Germany (Dec 12)

Mahler: Symphony No. 6

Dec 17

CONTACT!, the New York Philharmonic's new-music series at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Julian Anderson: *The Comedy of Change* (U.S. premiere)

James Matheson: New work (world premiere)

Jay Alan Yim: New work (world premiere)

Dec 18

CONTACT!, the New York Philharmonic's new-music series at Symphony Space (NYC)

Julian Anderson: *The Comedy of Change* (U.S. premiere)

James Matheson: New work (world premiere)

Jay Alan Yim: new work (world premiere)

Dec 28-30

Vivaldi: Concerto for Four Violins, Op. 3, No. 10

Aaron Jay Kernis: *a Voice, a Messenger* (world premiere, New York Philharmonic commission)

Hindemith: Horn Concerto

Christopher Rouse: Oboe Concerto (New York premiere)

Ravel: *Boléro*

Dec 31

Tchaikovsky: "Polonaise" from *Eugene Onegin*

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 (with Lang Lang, piano)

Tchaikovsky: *The Nutcracker*, Act II

(broadcast on *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS stations)

www.alangilbert.com

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