

For immediate release
Alan Gilbert: late summer concerts, August 2008

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**ALAN GILBERT, MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE OF THE NEW YORK
PHILHARMONIC, FINISHES SUMMER SEASON WITH PERFORMANCES AT
TWO PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS WITH TWO STAR VOCALISTS**

**RENÉE FLEMING SINGS AT POLAR MUSIC PRIZE CONCERT IN
STOCKHOLM ON AUGUST 25, WHILE RENÉ PAPE JOINS GILBERT AND
HAMBURG'S NDR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON AUGUST 31 FOR FINAL
CONCERT OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN FESTIVAL**

**GILBERT RETURNS TO U.S. IN SEPTEMBER TO BEGIN REHEARSALS
FOR HIS METROPOLITAN OPERA DEBUT, CONDUCTING NEW
PRODUCTION OF JOHN ADAMS'S *DR. ATOMIC*, OPENING OCTOBER 13**

New York-born conductor **Alan Gilbert** finishes his remarkable summer season with two high-profile concerts in Europe, before heading back to his hometown to prepare for his Metropolitan Opera debut.

In early June, following the final concerts of his more than eight-year tenure as Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the **Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra**, Gilbert was named its **Conductor Laureate**. Now he rejoins the orchestra for a performance with the superstar American soprano **Renée Fleming**, at Sweden's annual **Polar Music Prize**. The festivities begin with a gala concert on **Monday, August 25** at Stockholm's Concert Hall, followed the next day by a banquet at Stockholm Grand Hotel, where His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden will present the 2008 awards to Fleming and rock legend Pink Floyd. Each year, the Polar Music Prize concert and ceremony draws a prestigious guest list of international musicians, media, celebrities, and government officials. Details of the music to be performed by Fleming, Gilbert, and the orchestra follow below.

On **Sunday, August 31**, Alan Gilbert will lead Hamburg's **NDR Symphony Orchestra** in the final concert of this year's **Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival**, which will be **broadcast on television throughout Europe**. Once again, one of the world's greatest singers is featured on the program: German bass **René Pape**, who will sing scenes from Wagner's *Meistersinger von Nürnberg* und *Die Walküre*. In addition to these works, Alan Gilbert will also conduct Mahler's powerful Symphony No. 5. He has been

principal guest conductor of Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra since 2004.

Following these two concerts in Europe, Alan Gilbert returns for a long stay in New York City, where he will open the 2008-09 season with his **Metropolitan Opera debut, conducting** a new production of **John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*** (nine performances October 13 – November 13).

Soon after, Gilbert gives the first of several concerts this season with the **New York Philharmonic**, leading the orchestra at **Carnegie Hall** on **November 14**. Commemorating Leonard Bernstein's historic debut with the orchestra there, 65 years ago, Gilbert and the orchestra will play an all-Bernstein program of the Symphonic Suite from *On The Waterfront*, *Serenade*, and *West Side Story* Suites 1 and 2. Leonard Bernstein was the first leader of the New York Philharmonic to be given the title "Music Director", and Gilbert officially takes on that same title with the beginning of the 2009-10 season.

Ten days after the Carnegie concert, Gilbert leads the **Juilliard Orchestra** at Avery Fisher Hall in a performance of Bernstein's Symphony No. 3, "Kaddish", and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica" (November 24). Both the New York Philharmonic and Juilliard Orchestra performances are part of the citywide Bernstein festival, presented by Carnegie Hall and the New York Philharmonic to observe Bernstein's 90th birthday.

Alan Gilbert last conducted in New York City when he gave his first concerts with the New York Philharmonic in Brooklyn's Prospect Park and Manhattan's Central Park, the latter drawing an audience of more than 63,000 to the Great Lawn. Anthony Tommasini was on hand for the Central Park concert and called it "terrific" in his *New York Times* review: "Mr. Gilbert, a good partner [for Lang Lang in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto], drew an incisive, lucid, and refreshingly straightforward performance of this staple from the Philharmonic players. After intermission, Mr. Gilbert conducted an intelligent and lively performance of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and ended the program with a rhapsodic account of Sibelius's *Finlandia*."

Complete details of Alan Gilbert's 2008-09 season will follow shortly.

Alan Gilbert: Upcoming Performances

Monday, August 25: Polar Music Prize concert with Renée Fleming and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra at Stockholm's Concert House. Music from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* (the Letter Scene), Verdi's *Otello* (including "Ave Maria" and the "Willow Song"), and his *Vespri Sicilliani* ("Elena's bolero").

Sunday, August 31: Final concert of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival with the NDR Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg and René Pape. Scenes from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Die Walküre*, and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.