



Alan Gilbert
Music Director
The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair

2011/12 Season News

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Eric Latzky
Vice President, Communications
212 875 5700
212 875 5717 Fax

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Contact: Katherine E. Johnson
(212) 875-5718; johnsonk@nyphil.org

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC TO PRESENT NINTH SEASON OF
SUMMERTIME CLASSICS, CONDUCTED AND HOSTED BY
BRAMWELL TOVEY
JULY 3–5 AND JULY 6 AND 9–10, 2012**

**Concerts To Feature Soprano Tracy Dahl, Pianist Simon Trpčeski
And the West Point Band**

The New York Philharmonic will present its ninth season of *Summertime Classics*, July 3–10, 2012, featuring six post-season, themed concerts with Bramwell Tovey — who has been the host and conductor of the series since its founding in 2004. The first program — July 3–5 — titled “**A New York Fourth**,” will offer music by Bernstein and Gershwin, featuring soprano Tracy Dahl, and works for band and orchestra, with The Hellcats and Jazz Knights from the West Point Band. The second program — July 6, 9, and 10 — titled “**All-Tchaikovsky**,” will celebrate the great Russian composer with performances of his *Festival Coronation March*, Piano Concerto No. 2 with pianist Simon Trpčeski, selections from Act IV of *Swan Lake*, and the *1812 Overture*.

Artists

Bramwell Tovey is in his 12th season as music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO), and makes annual summer appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. In 2008 the New York Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Philharmonic co-commissioned his *Urban Runway*, which the New York Philharmonic premiered in 2008.

Mr. Tovey has worked with orchestras in the United States and Europe including the London Philharmonic, London Symphony, and Frankfurt Radio orchestras. In North America he has made guest appearances with the orchestras of Baltimore, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Seattle, and Montreal as well as ongoing performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where his Trumpet Concerto, commissioned by that orchestra, received its premiere in winter of 2009. His first full-length opera, *The Inventor*, premiered in Calgary in winter 2011. In 2011 he also made his debut with The Cleveland Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra as well as a return visit to The Philadelphia Orchestra.

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Highlights of the 2010–11 season in Vancouver included Verdi's Requiem, the Canadian premiere of John Adams's *Dr. Atomic Symphony*, and a *Bach and Beyond* series. In 2009 he toured China and South Korea with the VSO and violinist Hillary Hahn; the ensemble was the first orchestra from Canada to perform in China in 30 years.

Bramwell Tovey is the first artist to win a Juno Award in both conducting and composing. He received the Best Canadian Classical Composition 2003 Juno Award for his *Requiem for a Charred Skull*, performed and recorded by the Amadeus Choir and the Hannaford Band in Toronto. He is also an accomplished jazz pianist, with two recordings to his name, and he has made memorable appearances on television, including two documentaries with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and a 1996 CBC TV broadcast of Victor Davies's *Revelation*, a full-length oratorio based on the Book of Revelation, with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. His recording with the VSO and violinist James Ehnes of the Walton, Korngold, and Barber concertos received both Grammy and Juno Awards in 2007.

Awarded numerous honorary degrees, Mr. Tovey received a fellowship from the Royal Academy of Music in London, honorary doctorates of law from the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, and Kwantlen University College, as well as a fellowship from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. In 1999 he received the M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction, a prestigious Canadian prize awarded to premier artists for outstanding contributions in professional performing arts organizations.

Canadian coloratura soprano **Tracy Dahl** has performed at opera houses such as Milan's Teatro alla Scala, The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and the Théâtre Chatelet in Paris. In 2009 she was awarded the Opera Canada Award.

Highlights of her 2011–12 season include appearances with the Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, works by Bach with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and the title role in Donizetti's opera *Maria Stuarda* with Pacific Opera Victoria. In 2010–11 Ms. Dahl portrayed the quirky Violet Beauregard in the world premiere of Peter Ash's *The Golden Ticket* at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, where she will return this summer. Other highlights have included Zerbinetta in R. Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Vancouver Opera, Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with Calgary Opera, the title role in Donizetti's *Lucia de Lammermoor* with Boston Lyric Opera and Arizona Opera, and Madame Mao in John Adams's *Nixon in China* with Houston Grand Opera, Colorado Opera, and Portland Opera.

Notable debuts at major opera houses include Adele in J. Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus* at The Metropolitan Opera, and Olympia in the San Francisco Opera's production of
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Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* opposite Plácido Domingo (where she returned as Oscar in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*).

Ms. Dahl's discography includes *A Disney Spectacular* with the Cincinnati Pops (Telarc), *Glitter and Be Gay* with the Calgary Philharmonic (CBC), *A Gilbert and Sullivan Gala* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (CBC), and *Love Walked In*, a Gershwin collection with the Bramwell Tovey Trio (Red Phone Box Company). She last performed with the New York Philharmonic during *Summertime Classics* in July 2004, conducted by Bramwell Tovey.

The **West Point Band** provides world-class music to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets and to serve as ambassadors of the United States Military Academy to the local, national, and international communities. The United States Army's oldest active band and the oldest unit at the United States Military Academy traces its roots to the Revolutionary War. At that time, fifers and drummers were stationed with companies of minutemen on Constitution Island, across the river from West Point. With the establishment of the United States Military Academy in 1802 came an increased demand for military music. As the academy grew, it needed fifers, drummers, and buglers to drill the new cadets and provide an audible order to their duty day. In 1817 the ensemble was named the "West Point Band," and by this time was performing on a full range of instruments, which included two bassoons, two Royal Kent bugles, a tenor bugle, ten clarinets, three French horns, a serpent (an early bass horn), cymbals, a bass drum, eight flutes, and two trumpets.

Today's band consists of four components: the Concert Band, the Jazz Knights, the Hellcats, and Support Staff. They combine to form the Marching Band. The organization fulfills all of the official musical requirements of the Academy, including military and patriotic ceremonies, public concerts, sporting events and radio and television broadcasts, as well as social activities for the Corps of Cadets and the West Point community. As the senior premier musical representative of the United States Army, the band has appeared at many historical events, including the dedication of the Erie Canal; the Chicago and New York World's Fairs; and the funerals of Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin D. Roosevelt as well as the inaugurations of numerous presidents. Members of the Band performed in the New York Philharmonic's Holiday Brass Concert in December 2010.

Macedonian pianist **Simon Trpčeski** appears with the world's leading orchestras and conductors. In North America, he performs regularly with many of the major orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra; Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Baltimore, and Toronto symphony orchestras; and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additional orchestral appearances include the Blossom Music Festival, Chorégies d'Orange, and BBC Proms. He has given solo concerts in Amsterdam (on the main stage of the Concertgebouw), Atlanta, Bilbao, Lisbon, Hamburg, London, Milan, Munich, New York, Paris, Prague, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Tokyo,

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Toronto, and Vancouver. He also performs chamber music regularly and works with young musicians in Macedonia, with the support of KulturOp, the country's leading culture and arts organization.

Mr. Trpčeski's first EMI recital recording — featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Scriabin, Stravinsky, and Prokofiev — received both the Editor's Choice and Debut Album Awards at the *Gramophone* Awards. Subsequent recordings of music by Rachmaninoff and Chopin, and an all-Debussy disc were equally well received. A recording of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 3, with Vasily Petrenko and The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, released in 2010, won the Diapason d'Or de l'Année in France.

Born in the Republic of Macedonia in 1979, Simon Trpčeski has won prizes in international piano competitions in the U.K., Czech Republic, and Italy, and was awarded the Young Artist Award by the Royal Philharmonic Society in 2003. He is a 2002 graduate of the School of Music at the University of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in Skopje, where he is currently on the faculty. In 2009 he received the Presidential Merit of Honor of the Republic of Macedonia. He last performed with the Philharmonic in September 2007.

Repertoire

Program I, "All-American" (July 3–5, 2012)

In 1943 a last-minute substitution for Bruno Walter vaulted **Leonard Bernstein** from New York Philharmonic Assistant Conductor to household name. Soon after, he teamed with choreographer Jerome Robbins and lyricists Betty Comden and Adolph Green for the 1944 Broadway musical ***On the Town***, which follows three sailors searching for love and adventure in wartime New York City. Bernstein later created a concert suite of **Three Dance Episodes** from the complete score, noting that the sequences captured the essence of the show. Bernstein's relationship with the Orchestra was cemented by the time he composed ***Candide***, which premiered on Broadway in 1956; music from that operetta has since become a New York Philharmonic staple, with "**Glitter and Be Gay**" providing coloratura fireworks.

While Bernstein, the first American-born Music Director of the New York Philharmonic, also put his stamp on musical theater history, no visit to the American Songbook would be complete without the immeasurable contributions of **George and Ira Gershwin**. "**The Man I Love**" has been an oft-recorded standard since being cut from three different musical productions in the 1920s. "**They Can't Take That Away From Me**," "**A Foggy Day in London Town**," and "**Fascinating Rhythm**" were all introduced by Fred Astaire in his collaborations with the Gershwins, and he even handled ***Promenade*** ("Walking the Dog") duties in the film, *Shall We Dance*.

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Program II, “All-Tchaikovsky” (July 6, 9, and 10, 2012)

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky was in Paris in 1883 when he received an unexpected commission from the city of Moscow to compose a march and a cantata for the coronation of Alexander III. The composer was not pleased about being pulled away from work on his opera *Mazeppa*, but he managed to complete the assignment in about 10 days. The ***Festival Coronation March*** includes a melody from the Russian anthem, *God Save the Czar* (which is also heard in the *1812 Overture*). Tchaikovsky himself conducted its first performance with the New York Symphony (which merged with the New York Philharmonic in 1928 to form today’s New York Philharmonic) for the opening of Carnegie Hall in 1891. It was last performed by the Philharmonic in July 2006 at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, led by Xian Zhang.

Tchaikovsky dedicated his **Piano Concerto No. 2** to Russian pianist Nikolai Rubinstein, who had initially been harshly critical of his Piano Concerto No. 1 (and later recanted and made it part of his repertoire). The world premiere was given in the U.S. by the New York Philharmonic, led by Theodore Thomas, in November 1881 with Madeline Schiller as soloist. It was last performed by the Orchestra in November 1992, with Kurt Masur conducting and Elisabeth Leonskja as soloist.

Tchaikovsky’s scores lie at the heart of ballet repertoire and yet are superbly effective in the concert hall. After the lukewarm initial reception of his first ballet, ***Swan Lake***, the composer intended to distill an orchestral work from the score. While this project was never realized, orchestras have frequently programmed selections extracted directly from the ballet. The Philharmonic first performed music from *Swan Lake* in March 1941, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli, and most recently, in October 2008, led by Lorin Maazel.

Tchaikovsky wrote the ***1812 Overture*** in 1880 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Russia’s defeat of Napoleon. The two armies can be heard marching into battle against each other, one side spurred on by “La Marseillaise,” the other by the Russian hymn also heard in the *Festival Coronation March*. Scored for cannon fire and church bells, among other things, it is a sonic spectacle that has become a staple of July 4 celebrations. The New York Symphony (which merged with the New York Philharmonic in 1928 to form today’s New York Philharmonic) first performed the work in 1901, led by Walter Damrosch. It was most recently performed in July 2008 in Bethel, New York, led by Bramwell Tovey.

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Single tickets for *Summertime Classics* start at \$40. All tickets may be purchased online at nyphil.org or by calling (212) 875-5656, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office** or the **Alice Tully Hall Box Office** at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 65th Street. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. A limited number of \$12.50 tickets for select concerts may be available through the Internet for students within 10 days of the performance, or in person the day of. Valid identification is required. To determine ticket availability, call the Philharmonic's Customer Relations Department at (212) 875-5656. [Ticket prices subject to change.]

For press tickets, call Lanore Carr in the New York Philharmonic Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at carrl@nyphil.org.

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SUMMERTIME CLASSICS

Avery Fisher Hall

Program I — “All-American”

Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 5, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Bramwell Tovey, conductor and host

Tracy Dahl soprano

The Hellcats and Jazz Knights from the West Point Band

Lt. Colonel Jim Keene, commander/conductor

BERNSTEIN

Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*

BERNSTEIN

“Glitter and Be Gay” from *Candide*

(Tracy Dahl, soprano)

GERSHWIN/

Arr. Hugo Montenegro *Promenade from Shall We Dance*”

GERSHWIN/arr.

Bramwell Tovey

Songs (Tracy Dahl, soprano)

“The Man I Love”

“They Can’t Take That Away from Me”

“A Foggy Day in London Town”

“Fascinating Rhythm”

Program also to include marches by the West Point Band and New York Philharmonic
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SUMMERTIME CLASSICS

Avery Fisher Hall

Program II — “All-Tchaikovsky”

Friday, July 6, 2012, 8:00 p.m.

Monday, July 9, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Bramwell Tovey, conductor

Simon Trpčeski, piano

TCHAIKOVSKY

Festival Coronation March

TCHAIKOVSKY

Piano Concerto No. 2

TCHAIKOVSKY

Selections from Act IV of *Swan Lake*

TCHAIKOVSKY

1812 Overture

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