

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UPDATED December 3, 2014**

November 5, 2014

Contact: Katherine E. Johnson

(212) 875-5718; [johnsonk@nyphil.org](mailto:johnsonk@nyphil.org)**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC 2014 HOLIDAY CONCERTS****HOLIDAY BRASS****Former Principal Trumpet PHILIP SMITH To Host and Conduct  
New York Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble  
December 14, 2014****HANDEL'S MESSIAH****Conducted by Gary Thor Wedow  
December 16–20, 2014*****HOLIDAYS WITH THE PHILHARMONIC*****A Program of Holiday Songs, Classical Works, and a Carol Sing-Along  
WHOOPI GOLDBERG and MO ROCCA To Narrate *The Night Before Christmas*  
Conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos  
December 19–20, 2014****NEW YEAR'S EVE: A GERSHWIN CELEBRATION****Featuring Vocalists DIANNE REEVES and NORM LEWIS  
Conducted by Bramwell Tovey  
Nationally Telecast on *Live From Lincoln Center*  
December 31, 2014**

The New York Philharmonic's 2014 holiday season presents classic masterpieces and seasonal favorites, the return of a former Philharmonic principal and debuts, and continuing and new traditions. This year's schedule includes the annual Holiday Brass concert, this time with former Principal Trumpet Philip Smith returning to host and conduct the New York Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble; Handel's *Messiah*, led by Baroque specialist Gary Thor Wedow; the first-annual *Holidays with the Philharmonic*, led by Constantine Kitsopoulos and featuring a carol sing-along and *The Night Before Christmas*, narrated by Academy Award winner and New York Philharmonic Board Member Whoopi Goldberg (December 19) and humorist, journalist, and actor Mo Rocca (December 20), both in their Philharmonic debuts; and New Year's Eve: A *Gershwin Celebration* led by Bramwell Tovey and featuring vocalists Dianne Reeves, in her Philharmonic debut, and Norm Lewis, returning after his debut in the Philharmonic's production of *Show Boat*. The New Year's Eve concert will be telecast live nationally on *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS stations.

(more)

- **December 14, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. — Holiday Brass**  
Philip Smith, the longtime New York Philharmonic Principal Trumpet who retired in June 2014, is returning to join his New York Philharmonic Brass and Percussion colleagues for the annual Holiday Brass concert, a tradition that he helped introduce in 1995. Mr. Smith will host and conduct the program, which will include works by Bach and Gabrieli, Christmas carols and songs, and Chanukah music.
- **December 16–18, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.; December 19, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.; and December 20, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. — Handel’s *Messiah***  
Handel’s celebrated and celebratory oratorio returns, conducted by Baroque specialist Gary Thor Wedow, and sung by soprano Camilla Tilling (in her Philharmonic debut), countertenor Iestyn Davies, tenor Michael Slattery, baritone James Westman (in his debut), and boy soprano Connor Tsui (in his debut), as well as the Westminster Symphonic Choir, Joe Miller, director. The performances will feature an expanded continuo section, including a theorbo.

In the *Pre-Concert Insights*, which begin one hour before the start of each performance, author, pianist, and professor Arbie Orenstein will introduce the program.

- **December 19, 2014, at 8:00 p.m. and December 20, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. — *Holidays with the Philharmonic***  
The Orchestra’s virtuosity and spirit is on display in this first-annual blend of holiday and winter music ranging from classical works by Mozart, Prokofiev, and Humperdinck to popular favorites by Leroy Anderson and Irving Berlin, including a carol sing-along. Constantine Kitsopoulos conducts the Philharmonic, joined by special guests who will narrate *The Night Before Christmas* — Academy Award winner Whoopi Goldberg (in her Philharmonic debut) on December 19, and humorist, journalist, and actor Mo Rocca (in his Philharmonic debut) on December 20.
- **December 31, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. — New Year’s Eve: A *Gershwin Celebration***  
Bramwell Tovey returns to conduct the New York Philharmonic’s annual New Year’s Eve celebration, this time celebrating the music of New Yorker George Gershwin with a program including the Cuban Overture; *Catfish Row*, Gershwin’s own suite from *Porgy and Bess*; *Strike Up the Band*; and jazz-inspired selections from the Gershwin songbook sung by vocalists Dianne Reeves (in her Philharmonic debut) and Norm Lewis (who is making his debut in Kern & Hammerstein’s *Show Boat*, November 5–8). The concert will be telecast live nationally on *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS stations.

### Artists

#### **HOLIDAY BRASS (December 14, 2014)**

**Philip Smith** joined the New York Philharmonic as Co-Principal Trumpet in 1978, became Principal Trumpet, The Paula Levin Chair, in 1988, and retired from that position at the end of the 2013–14 season, completing 36 seasons of service to the Orchestra. In the fall of 2014 Mr. Smith began his tenure as William F. and Pamela P. Prokasy Professorship in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia, one of the most prestigious positions at the

(more)

University. He learned to play cornet at The Salvation Army, under the tutelage of his father, Derek Smith. A graduate of The Juilliard School, he was appointed to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1975 while still a student. Mr. Smith has appeared regularly as soloist with the Philharmonic with conductors Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, Erich Leinsdorf, Leonard Bernstein, Neeme Järvi, Lorin Maazel, Alan Gilbert, and Bramwell Tovey. He has also appeared with many symphonic wind ensembles, including the U.S. “President’s Own” Marine Band, the West Point Academy Band, and many major university wind ensembles. Mr. Smith has been guest soloist with the contesting brass bands of Black Dyke Mills and Rigid Containers Band (Britain), Goteborg Brass (Sweden), and Hannaford Street Silver Band and Intrada Brass (Canada). He has soloed with all of the Staff Bands of The Salvation Army worldwide, including the International Staff Band, New York, Chicago, Amsterdam, Melbourne, Germany, and Japan. He was featured soloist at the 1996 British Open Brass Band Championships in Manchester, England. Mr. Smith has been on the faculty of The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, and has appeared as recitalist and clinician at numerous International Trumpet Guild conferences. In 2005 Mr. Smith was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music (Hon RAM), and in 2006 he was given the International Trumpet Guild Honorary Award. He conducted the New York Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble at the opening of the 9/11 Museum in May 2014.

#### **HANDEL’S *MESSIAH* (December 16–20, 2014)**

Conductor **Gary Thor Wedow**, who specializes in historically informed performances, has appeared with opera companies, orchestras, and festivals throughout North America. A frequent guest of Seattle Opera, some of his recent successes there include the double bill of Poulenc’s *La Voix humaine* and Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, Gluck’s *Orphée*, and Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. For many years Mr. Wedow was closely associated with New York City Opera, where he led Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, in the Christopher Alden production, and conducted the New York Premiere of Telemann’s *Orpheus* in May 2012. Recently, he conducted *The Magic Flute* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the World Premiere of Paul Richards and Wendy Steiner’s *Biennale* at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, and Handel’s *Messiah* for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. In 2014 Mr. Wedow led J.S. Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* on tour with Juilliard 415, the historical performance ensemble, culminating with a concert in Alice Tully Hall; Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* for Arizona Opera; Mozart’s *The Abduction from the Seraglio* for Utah Opera; and *Don Giovanni* for Seattle Opera. Born in La Porte, Indiana, and now a resident of New York City, Gary Thor Wedow has been a member of The Juilliard School faculty since 1994, leading performances of Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, Mozart’s *La finta giardiniera*, Handel’s *Ariodante*, and *Don Giovanni*. He has prepared several performing editions of Baroque works in collaboration with countertenor Lawrence Lipnik, and his long association with director Stephen Wadsworth has included productions of Handel’s *Xerxes* and *Ariodante*, as well as Gluck’s *Iphigénie en Tauride*. He studied with piano virtuoso Jorge Bolet at the Indiana University School of Music and received his masters of music degree from Boston’s New England Conservatory of Music. Mr. Wedow has been a frequent guest of Wolf Trap Opera, Merola Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Glimmerglass Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Amherst Early Music Festival, and Pittsburgh Opera, among others. He has led choral and symphonic repertoire at the Seattle Symphony, Orchestra London–Ontario, Phoenix Symphony, The Berkshire Choral Festival, Edmonton

(more)

Symphony, and Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, where he was associate conductor for many years. Upcoming performances include Handel's *Semele* with Seattle Opera and *The Marriage of Figaro* at Juilliard with director Stephen Wadsworth. This concert marks Mr. Wedow's first return to the New York Philharmonic since his debut in 2012, when he also conducted Handel's *Messiah*.

After graduating in Archaeology and Anthropology from St John's College, Cambridge, countertenor **Iestyn Davies** studied at London's Royal Academy of Music. He has performed in concert at Milan's Teatro alla Scala with Gustavo Dudamel, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and Zurich's Tonhalle with Ton Koopman, and has appeared at London's Barbican Centre and BBC PRoms, Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, and New York's Lincoln Center. He recently made his recital debut at Carnegie Hall, and enjoys a successful relationship with London's Wigmore Hall where he curated his own residency in the 2012–13 season. His CD of Dowland songs, *The Art of Melancholy*, was released by Hyperion in April 2014. He sung major roles in operas by composers ranging from Handel and Mozart to Britten, George Benjamin, and Thomas Adès for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Zürich Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, English National Opera, La Scala, Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Munich and Vienna Festivals, and the Opéra Comique. Current and upcoming engagements include a Farinelli project at The Globe with Mark Rylance, as well as concerts with The Cleveland Orchestra and appearances at London's Wigmore Hall, Covent Garden, The Metropolitan Opera, and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Mr. Davies is the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's 2010 Young Artist of the year prize, 2012 Gramophone Recital Award, 2013 Critics' Circle Awards for Exceptional Young Talent (Singer), and 2014 Gramophone Recital Award for his disc *Arise, my muse* on the Wigmore Live label. He made his New York Philharmonic debut in March 2013 in a program of works by Bach and Mendelssohn conducted by Masaaki Suzuki.

**Michael Slattery** made his New York Philharmonic debut in November 2013 singing Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings in the Orchestra's celebrations of the composer's 100th birthday as an acclaimed last-minute substitute for an ailing singer. Career highlights include the title role in Bernstein's *Candide* at London's Royal Festival Hall; *The Very Best of Lerner & Loewe* with Kelli O'Hara, Paolo Szot, and the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall; Peter Sellars's *Tristan Project* with Esa-Pekka Salonen and Philip Glass's *Akhmaten* with John Adams, both with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; J.S. Bach's B-minor Mass with Iván Fischer and the National Symphony Orchestra; *Monteverdi Vespers of 1610* at the Berlin Staatsoper; and the title role in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. He has also performed at the Edinburgh, Spoleto, Holland, Athens, Aspen Music, Mostly Mozart, and Williamstown Theater festivals, and as a soloist with ensembles including The Philadelphia, Seattle Symphony, St. Paul Chamber, and Philharmonia Baroque orchestras, and the Houston, Charlotte, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Pacific, and Kansas City symphony orchestras. Mr. Slattery's solo recordings include *The Irish Heart* and *Dowland in Dublin*, chosen by *Opera News* as one of the best recordings of 2012. He has recorded a number of Handel's works, including *Saul* with René Jacobs, for Harmonia Mundi, and *Acis und Galatea*, *Atalanta*, *Samson*, and *Solomon* with Nicholas McGegan. Recent projects have included Britten's *Curlew River* with Olivier Py, and the World Premiere of Roland Auzet and Fabrice Melquiot's *Steve V (King different)*, the Steve Jobs digital

(more)

opera, with Opéra de Lyon. Michael Slattery will perform in Robert Carsen's production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence next summer. He is a long-time supporter of the organization *Sing for Hope* and resides in New York City.

A graduate of both the University of Gothenburg and London's Royal College of Music, Swedish soprano **Camilla Tilling** is a regular guest of the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, and the Bavarian Radio, NDR, and Boston symphony orchestras. Recent highlights include Berg's *Seven Early Songs* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic led by Lionel Bringuier, Richard Strauss's Four Last Songs at the Salzburg Festival with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Christoph von Dohnányi, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 at the BBC Proms with the London Symphony Orchestra and Bernard Haitink, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Berlin Philharmonic at Berlin's Waldbühne under Simon Rattle. She has sung major roles at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre, Brussels's Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Munich Festival, San Francisco Opera, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Bavarian Staatsoper, Opéra national de Paris, Glyndebourne Festival, De Nederlandse Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, and Salzburg's Mozart Week. In the current season Ms. Tilling appears with Opéra national de Paris, makes her Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden debut, and sings her first Contessa in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* at Drottningholms Slottsteater. She performs Handel's *La Resurrezione* with the Berlin Philharmonic under Emmanuelle Haim, Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with the Orchestre national de France under Robin Ticciati and with the Vienna Symphony under Philippe Jordan, and tours with the Berlin Philharmonic and Simon Rattle in performances of Peter Sellars's production of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. Her recordings include two recital discs of songs by Richard Strauss and Schubert with pianist Paul Rivinius, *Idomeneo* (Ilia) on DVD at Milan's Teatro alla Scala conducted by Daniel Harding, Mozart's Mass in C minor with Paul McCreech, and Haydn's *The Creation* with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Bernard Haitink, released in July 2014. These concerts mark Camilla Tilling's New York Philharmonic debut.

Canadian baritone **James Westman** is a versatile and dynamic performer who has appeared in many of the world's leading opera and concert halls. He began his career early as Jamie Westman, a successful boy treble touring with the American and Paris Boys' Choirs, and was the first boy ever to perform the fourth movement, sometimes known as *Child's View of Heaven*, of Mahler's Symphony No. 4, at the age of 12 touring in this work with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra in performances at Vienna's Musikverein, Toronto's Roy Thompson Hall, and New York's Carnegie Hall. As an adult Mr. Westman has sung his signature role, Germont in Verdi's *La traviata*, in more than 150 performances with major companies across the globe, including San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and English National Opera. His 2014–15 season includes performances with the Pacific Opera Victoria (as Enrico in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*), Opera Lyra Ottawa (Count Almaviva in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*), and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Nominated for two Grammy Awards and three Canadian Juno Awards, Mr. Westman has recorded for the Decca, Opera Rara, CBC, and BBC labels; his extensive discography will soon include the complete opera recording of Bramwell Tovey's *The Inventor* with Mr. Westman in the leading role, which he created when the opera was premiered in 2011 with Calgary Opera. These concerts mark his New York Philharmonic debut.

(more)

Eleven-year-old boy soprano **Connor Tsui** is a seventh-grade student at the Special Music School of America. He plays cello and piano, and as a member of The Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus he has been cast in Puccini's *Turandot*, Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. He is currently singing the role of First Spirit in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, reprising the role in which he appeared last season. Connor Tsui is a soccer fan and loves playing *Clash of Clans* on any type of screen. These concerts mark his New York Philharmonic debut.

Grounded in Westminster Choir College's tradition of choral excellence, the **Westminster Symphonic Choir** has recorded and performed with virtually every internationally acclaimed orchestra and conductor of the past 80 years. Members of the Chorus have participated in memorable performances, including Verdi's Requiem and J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin; Berg's *Wozzeck* with the London Philharmonia and Esa-Pekka Salonen; Villa-Lobos's Choros No. 10 and Estévez's *Cantata Criolla* with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and Gustavo Dudamel; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and Daniel Barenboim. Westminster Choir College is a division of Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts, which has campuses in Princeton and Lawrenceville, New Jersey; a professional college of music with a unique choral emphasis, Westminster prepares students at the undergraduate and graduate levels for careers in teaching, sacred music and performance. Choirs from Westminster have appeared with the New York Philharmonic since 1939, when the Westminster Choir performed Rossini's *Messa Solenne* conducted by John Barbirolli, most recently joining in the performances of The Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence Christopher Rouse's Requiem, conducted by Music Director Alan Gilbert at Carnegie Hall, in May 2014. **Joe Miller** is the conductor of the Westminster Choir and the Westminster Symphonic Choir, as well as director of choral activities at Westminster Choir College of Rider University and artistic director for choral activities for the renowned Spoleto Festival USA. His 2014–15 Westminster Choir season includes a tour of California, several national radio broadcasts, and their annual residency at the Spoleto Festival USA. His latest recording with the Choir is *The Heart's Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder*. As conductor of the Westminster Symphonic Choir, Dr. Miller has collaborated with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors. Recent seasons have included performances with the Berlin Philharmonic and Simon Rattle, in addition to The Philadelphia Orchestra with Nézet-Séguin and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela with Dudamel. Dr. Miller is also founder and conductor of the Westminster Summer Choral Festival Chamber Choir, a program that offers professional-level choral and vocal artists the opportunity to explore challenging works for each summer on the Westminster campus in Princeton.

#### ***HOLIDAYS WITH THE PHILHARMONIC (December 19–20, 2014)***

Conductor **Constantine Kitsopoulos** comfortably spans the worlds of opera and symphony (appearing in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Royal Albert Hall) and musical theater (leading orchestras on Broadway). In his eighth year as music director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra, he also continues as general director of Chatham Opera (which he founded in 2005), serves as music director of the Festival of the Arts BOCA (a multi-day cultural arts event in South Florida), and was recently appointed artistic director of Oklahoma's OK Mozart Festival, where he led his second season this past June. In addition to his ongoing music  
(more)

director commitments, in the 2014–15 season Mr. Kitsopoulos returns to the San Francisco, New Jersey, Houston, and North Carolina symphony orchestras, and makes debuts with the Florida Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, and Toledo Symphony. A frequent guest conductor at Indiana University, he leads Menotti's *Last Savage* and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* this season; in recent seasons he has led Indiana University Opera Theater productions of Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Verdi's *Falstaff*, Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge*, J. Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, and Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*. Other recent highlights include appearances with Baltimore, Colorado, Detroit, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras, as well as the Calgary Philharmonic, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the New York Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Summer concerts have included Saratoga Performing Arts Center with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony, Blossom Festival with the Blossom Festival Orchestra, Sun Valley Festival, Atlanta Symphony, and Dallas Symphony. Internationally he has conducted China's Macao Orchestra with the Cuban band Tiempo Libre, Tokyo Philharmonic, and Russian National Orchestra. As a theater conductor, both on Broadway and nationwide, he is currently music director and conductor of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* on Broadway; he held the same position for *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (the Tony Award–winning Broadway revival featuring Audra McDonald and Norm Lewis), *A Catered Affair*, *Coram Boy*, and the American Conservatory Theatre's production of Weill's *Happy End*, for which he recorded the cast album at Skywalker Ranch. He also served as music director and principal conductor of Baz Luhrmann's production of Puccini's *La Bohème*. Mr. Kitsopoulos made his New York Philharmonic debut in September 2013, leading *Hitchcock!* during THE ART OF THE SCORE: Film Week at the Philharmonic.

**Whoopi Goldberg** is an Oscar, Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award winner. She is equally well known for her humanitarian efforts on behalf of children and the homeless, in support of human rights and education, against substance abuse and AIDS, as well as efforts for other causes and charities. Among her many philanthropic activities, Ms. Goldberg is a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador. She is also a *New York Times* best-selling author of books for adults and children. Born and raised in New York City, she worked in theater and improvisation in San Diego and the Bay Area, where she created the characters that evolved into the eponymous hit Broadway show and Grammy Award–winning album, and the HBO special that helped launch her career, *Whoopi Goldberg: Direct from Broadway*. Ms. Goldberg made her motion-picture debut in Steven Spielberg's film version of Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, for which she earned an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe Award. Her performance in *Ghost* earned her the Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress. On television, Ms. Goldberg appeared for five seasons on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and hosted her own syndicated late-night talk show. In 2007 she was named moderator of ABC's *The View*. She has appeared on many television series and specials, including eight *Comic Relief* telecasts with Billy Crystal and Robin Williams, and has hosted both the Academy Awards and Tony Awards telecasts. She has produced and appeared in several Broadway productions and made her debut as a radio host in 2006. In addition to an Oscar, Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards, Ms. Goldberg has been honored with multiple NAACP Image Awards, as well as various honors for her many humanitarian efforts. This performance marks her New York Philharmonic debut.

(more)

Humorist, journalist, and actor **Mo Rocca** is a correspondent for Emmy-winning newsmagazine *CBS Sunday Morning* on the CBS Television Network, the creator and host of Cooking Channel's Emmy-nominated *My Grandmother's Ravioli*, the host of *The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation* (part of the "CBS Dream Team, It's Epic" Saturday morning programming block), and a regular panelist on NPR's hit news quiz show *Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* He spent four seasons as a correspondent for Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and four seasons as a correspondent for NBC's *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. He hosted *Food(ography)* on Cooking Channel and served as a judge on Food Network's *Iron Chef America*. His television credits also include the VH1 retrospective series *I Love the 90s*, *I Love the 80s*, and *I Love the 70s*; Bravo's *Things I Hate About You*; and Animal Planet's *Whoa! Sunday with Mo Rocca*. He made cameo appearances on CBS daytime soap opera *The Young and the Restless* and on the Telemundo telenovela *Amor Descarado*. In addition, Mr. Rocca hosted the PBS voting rights documentary *Electoral Dysfunction*, and wrote the satire book *All the Presidents' Pets: The Story of One Reporter who Refused to Roll Over*. Mr. Rocca began his career in television as a writer and producer for the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning PBS children's series *Wishbone*. He went on to write and produce for other children's series, including ABC's *Pepper Ann* and Nickelodeon's *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*. Mr. Rocca is the former president and author of Harvard University's *Hasty Pudding Show*, and his stage credits include Vice Principal Douglas Panch in the Broadway production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Doody on the Southeast Asian tour of *Grease*. A native of Washington, D.C., Mo Rocca lives in New York City. This performance marks his New York Philharmonic debut.

#### **ALL-GERSHWIN NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT (December 31, 2014)**

Grammy and Juno award-winning conductor/composer **Bramwell Tovey** was appointed music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) in 2000, since conducting complete symphony cycles of Beethoven, Mahler, and Brahms; establishing an annual festival dedicated to contemporary music; and touring China, Korea, Canada, and the United States. Mr. Tovey is also the artistic adviser of the VSO School of Music, a state-of-the-art facility and recital hall in downtown Vancouver. In 2018, the VSO's centenary year, he will become the orchestra's music director emeritus. In the 2014–15 season he makes guest appearances with orchestras across the globe including The Philadelphia Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, and the Kansas City, Helsingborgs, Melbourne, and Sydney symphony orchestras. Bramwell Tovey won the 2003 Juno Award for Best Classical Composition for his choral and brass work *Requiem for a Charred Skull*. He has been commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic (*Urban Runway*, 2008), as well as the Toronto Symphony and Calgary Opera, which premiered his first full-length opera, *The Inventor*, in 2011 (a recording featuring the VSO, UBC Opera, and original cast will be issued by Naxos). His trumpet concerto, *Songs of the Paradise Saloon*, was recently performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and soloist Alison Balsom, who reprises it with The Philadelphia Orchestra in December 2014. As a pianist, Mr. Tovey has appeared with ensembles including the Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Toronto, and Royal Scottish National orchestras. In the summer of 2014 he played and conducted Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and in Saratoga with The Philadelphia Orchestra. He has performed his own *Pictures in the Smoke* with the Melbourne and Helsingborg Symphony Orchestras and the Royal Philharmonic. Mr. Tovey was

(more)



music director of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (1989–2001), where he founded the organization's New Music Festival, and of Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg (2002–06), leading tours of Europe, the U.S., China, and South Korea. A fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London and Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, he holds honorary degrees from the universities of British Columbia, Manitoba, Kwantlen, and Winnipeg. In 2013 he was appointed an honorary Officer of the Order of Canada for services to music. Bramwell Tovey made his Philharmonic debut in October 2000 and his subscription debut in March 2002; his many returns include conducting and hosting the *Summertime Classics* series and appearing during the Orchestra's annual residency at Bravo! Vail.

**Dianne Reeves**, one of the world's preeminent female jazz vocalists, has recorded with Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim, was a featured soloist with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic, and has recorded and performed extensively with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. She received the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings — a Grammy first in any vocal category. Ms. Reeves was the first Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the first singer ever to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Featured in George Clooney's Academy Award-nominated film *Good Night, and Good Luck*, her sound track recording garnered Ms. Reeves's fourth Grammy Award. In addition to appearing in concert halls throughout the world, she has performed at the Olympics, was featured in *American Voices* — the nationally broadcast program curated by Renée Fleming at the Kennedy Center — and sang at The White House on numerous occasions. Dianne Reeves recently released her first album in five years, *Beautiful Life*, a captivating collection of covers and originals; produced by Terri Lyne Carrington, this release also features Richard Bona, Gerald Clayton, George Duke, Robert Glasper, Lalah Hathaway, Gregory Porter, and Esperanza Spalding. This concert marks her New York Philharmonic debut.

**Norm Lewis** made history in May 2014 as the first African-American Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. His most recent television appearances include CBS's *Blue Bloods* and his recurring role as Senator Edison Davis on ABC's drama *Scandal*. He received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*. Mr. Lewis had a year-long run in London as Javert in the West End production of Claude-Michel Schönberg's *Les Misérables*, and he performed in that role in the *Les Misérables 25th Anniversary Concert*, broadcast by PBS from London's O2 Arena. Mr. Lewis's solo debut album, *This Is the Life*, is available on Amazon.com and cdbaby.com. His other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim* with Vanessa Williams and Barbara Cook, Alan Menken's *The Little Mermaid* (as King Triton), *Les Misérables* (Javert, for which he received Drama League Nomination), Kander & Ebb's *Chicago* (Billy Flynn), Michel Legrand's *Amour* (Painter), Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (Eddie), Bill Russell's *Side Show* (Jake), Claude-Michel's Schönberg's *Miss Saigon* (John), and *The Who's Tommy* (The Specialist). Off-Broadway, Mr. Lewis has performed in Stephen Flaherty's *Dessa Rose* (Drama Desk nomination, AUDELCO Award), Shakespeare in the Park's *The Tempest* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Drama League nomination), Frederick Freyer's *Captains Courageous*, and William Finn's *A New Brain*. Regionally, he has been seen in *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (A.R.T.),

(more)

*Ragtime, Dreamgirls, First You Dream, Sweeney Todd, and The Fantasticks.* Norm Lewis's film credits include *Winter's Tale, Sex and the City 2, Confidences,* and *Preaching to the Choir.* Mr. Lewis makes his New York Philharmonic debut in the role of Joe in the Orchestra's production of Kern & Hammerstein's *Show Boat*, November 5–8, 2014.

\* \* \*

Major support for the Holiday Brass performance is provided by the **Gurnee and Marjorie Hart Endowment Fund.**

\* \* \*

Gary Thor Wedow's appearance is made possible through the **Daisy and Paul Soros Endowment Fund.**

\* \* \*

Programs are supported, in part, by public funds from **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council,** the **National Endowment for the Arts,** and the **New York State Council on the Arts,** with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

### **Tickets**

Single tickets for the **Holiday Brass** performance start at \$49. Single tickets for *Messiah* start at \$30. Single tickets for *Holidays with the Philharmonic* start at \$35. Single tickets for **New Year's Eve: A Gershwin Celebration** start at \$79. *Pre-Concert Insights* are \$7; discounts are available for multiple talks, students, and groups (visit [nyphil.org/preconcert](http://nyphil.org/preconcert) for more information). Tickets may be purchased online at [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org) or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office.** 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. 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 Marketing and Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at [carrl@nyphil.org](mailto:carrl@nyphil.org).

(more)

**HOLIDAY BRASS**

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Sunday, December 14, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Philip Smith, conductor and host  
New York Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble

Program to include:

BYRD/Arr. Howarth

*The Earl of Oxford's March*

GABRIELI

*Jubilate Deo*

J.S. BACH

Selections from *Christmas Oratorio* and  
*Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*

VARIOUS/Arr. G. Pascuzzi and P. Snedecor

*A Celebration of Chanukah*

VARIOUS

Christmas Carols including *Joy to the World*,  
*Coventry Carol*, *Carol of the Bells*,  
*Il est né*, and *Silent Night*

VARIOUS

*Christmas Toons*, featuring music from  
holiday television classics

L. ANDERSON/Arr. Wasson

*Sleigh Ride*

---

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 18, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 19, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

<p><i>Pre-Concert Insights</i> (one hour before each concert) with author, pianist, and professor Arbie Orenstein</p>
---

Gary Thor Wedow, conductor

Camilla Tilling\*, soprano

Iestyn Davies, countertenor

Michael Slattery, tenor

James Westman\*, baritone

Connor Tsui\*, boy soprano

Westminster Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller, director

HANDEL

*Messiah*

---

\*denotes New York Philharmonic debut

(more)

***HOLIDAYS WITH THE PHILHARMONIC***

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Friday, December 19, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor

Whoopi Goldberg\*, narrator (December 19)

Mo Rocca\*, narrator (December 20)

Program to include:

ANDERSON

*A Christmas Festival*

MOZART

*Sleigh Ride* from *Three German Dances*

Traditional/Arr. C. Dragon

“O Tannenbaum”

WELLS & TORMÉ/Arr. H. Mancini

“The Christmas Song”

ANDERSON

*Suite of Carols*

BERLIN/Arr. Larry Blank

*Irving Berlin Holiday Medley* (World Premiere—  
New York Philharmonic Co-Commission  
with the San Francisco Symphony)

Randol BASS

*The Night Before Christmas*

HUMPERDINCK

Prelude to *Hansel and Gretel*

PROKOFIEV

*Troika* from Suite from *Lieutenant Kijé*

Jeff TYZIK

*Chanukah Suite*

HOLST/Arr. B. Tovey

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

BERNARD/Arr. C. Dragon

“Winter Wonderland”

VARIOUS / Arr. C. Kitsopoulos

Christmas Carol Sing-Along

---

(more)

**NEW YEAR'S EVE: A GERSHWIN CELEBRATION**

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, December 31, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

*Live From Lincoln Center* telecast on PBS stations

Bramwell Tovey, conductor

Dianne Reeves\*, vocalist

Norm Lewis, vocalist

With Peter Martin, piano; Reuben Rogers, bass; Terri Lyne Carrington, drums

GERSHWIN/Arr. Rose	“Strike Up the Band” from <i>Strike Up the Band</i>
GERSHWIN	<i>Catfish Row</i> : Suite from <i>Porgy and Bess</i>
GERSHWIN/Arr. B. Tovey	“A Foggy Day”
GERSHWIN/Arr. B. Tovey	“They Can’t Take That Away From Me”
GERSHWIN	<i>Cuban Overture</i>
GERSHWIN	<i>Lullaby</i> for String Orchestra
GERSHWIN/Arr. V. Mendoza	“Nice Work If You Can Get It”
GERSHWIN/Arr. B. Childs	“Fascinating Rhythm”
GERSHWIN	“Our Love Is Here To Stay”
GERSHWIN/Arr. B. Childs	“Embraceable You”
GERSHWIN/Arr. V. Mendoza	“S’Wonderful”

---

\*denotes New York Philharmonic debut

###

[What's New](#) — Get the Latest News, Video, Slideshows, and More

Photography is available in the New York Philharmonic’s online newsroom, [nyphil.org/newsroom](http://nyphil.org/newsroom), or by contacting the Communications Department at (212) 875-5700; [PR@nyphil.org](mailto:PR@nyphil.org).