FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2023

LIGETI AT 100
Multifaceted Focus Marking the Composer’s Centennial To Begin October 19

Three Orchestral Programs Present the US Premiere of Mifiso la sodo, Plus Concert Românesc, the Piano Concerto, and Atmosphères

Pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard Explores the Études in Context, on Both Artist Spotlight and Kravis Nightcap

Newly Added:
The Unanswered Questions: “Appropriation or Celebration?”
Ligeti and His World: An Exhibit Curated by the NY Phil Archives

The New York Philharmonic focuses on the oeuvre of György Ligeti — one of the most important musical figures of the 20th century — to mark his centennial. Ligeti (1923–2006) was a prolific composer of concertos, orchestral and chamber-music works, as well as pieces for solo piano. A major figure in 20th-century avant-garde music, Ligeti was influenced by a wide variety of cultural traditions, reflecting his own international upbringing, about which he once remarked: “I belong everywhere. That’s how one should be considered: a citizen of the world.” The Orchestra spotlights the Hungarian-Austrian composer’s works in orchestral concerts and in recitals throughout the fall.

The following orchestral concerts take place in the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall:

- David Robertson conducts the US Premiere of Ligeti’s Mifiso la sodo, as well as his Concert Românesc, on concerts that also include the New York Premiere of Elena Firsova’s Piano Concerto, composed for and performed by Yefim Bronfman; and Brahms’s Serenade No. 1; October 19–21, 2023.

- Susanna Mälkki leads Ligeti’s Piano Concerto, featuring pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard — one of the leading interpreters of 20th- and 21st-century music — as soloist, marking his first NY Phil appearance in ten years. The concerts also feature Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, arranged for solo cimbalom by Jenő Lisztes, who performs (NY Phil debut); Bartók’s Romanian Folk Dances; and Musorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, arranged by Ravel; November 2–4, 2023.
Dima Slobodeniouk conducts Ligeti’s *Atmosphères*, a piece that entered the popular consciousness through its use in Stanley Kubrick’s 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Also on the program are Perry’s *Stabat Mater*, sung by mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges (NY Phil subscription debut); and Holst’s *The Planets*, with The Dessoff Choirs, Malcolm J. Merriweather, director; November 22, 24, and 25, 2023.

**Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, who worked closely with Ligeti, expands the NY Phil’s focus by performing his solo piano works.

- On *Kravis Nightcap*, Aimard is joined by jazz pianist Joachim Kühn in an improvisational performance that builds on Ligeti’s Études and *Musica ricercata* as a musical foundation for an examination of his incorporation of jazz influences. This event takes place in the Kenneth C. Griffin Sidewalk Studio, David Geffen Hall, November 4, 2023.

- On *Artist Spotlight*, Aimard performs several works by Ligeti, including *Poème symphonique*, *Musica ricercata*, and a selection of his Études, alongside études by Chopin and Debussy and Beethoven’s Bagatelles. This concert takes place in the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall, November 7, 2023.

The NY Phil’s focus on Ligeti is complemented by the following newly added presentations:

- **Ligeti and His World**, a New York Philharmonic archival exhibit that traces the Orchestra’s championing of Ligeti’s works, beginning with the US Premiere of *Atmosphères* in 1964, led by Leonard Bernstein. The exhibit is anchored by Ligeti’s original sketches and manuscripts from his Piano Concerto, Études, and *Atmosphères*, generously on loan from the Paul Sacher Stiftung in Basel, Switzerland. On display in the Katherine and Gary W. Parr Gallery on the Leon and Norma Hess Grand Promenade, October 13, 2023–January 24, 2024.

- “**Appropriation or Celebration?**” the first event in the 2023–24 *Unanswered Questions* series, is inspired by the multicultural influences in Ligeti’s work, and opens a dialogue among composers, performers, and scholars about how an orchestra can host a variety of cultural perspectives. The discussion — moderated by Curtis Stewart, artistic director of the American Composers Orchestra, and featuring panelists including composer Anthony Cheung and NY Phil Director of Archives and Exhibits Gabryel Smith — will be followed by a Q&A. Co-presented with Lincoln Center, the event takes place at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, November 1, 2023.

**Biographies**

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, J’Nai Bridges, Yefim Bronfman, Joachim Kühn, Susanna Mälkki, David Robertson, Dima Slobodeniouk, New York Philharmonic

**Tickets**

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at 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 Welcome Center at David Geffen Hall. The Welcome Center opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Welcome Center closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or carrl@nyphil.org.

**Event Listing**

**DAVID ROBERTSON CONDUCTS LIGETI AND THE US PREMIERE OF ELENA FIRSOVA’S PIANO CONCERTO WITH YEFIM BRONFMAN**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 20, 2023, 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

David Robertson, conductor  
Yefim Bronfman, piano

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**SUSANNA MÄLKKI CONDUCTS BARTÓK, MUSORGSKY, AND LIGETI WITH PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, November 3, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday, November 4, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Susanna Mälkki, conductor  
Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano  
Jenő Lisztes*, cimbalom

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KRAVIS NIGHTCAP: PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD AND JOACHIM KÜHN

Kenneth C. Griffin Sidewalk Studio, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10:30 p.m.

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano
Joachim Kühn, piano

Pierre-Laurent Aimard is joined by jazz pianist Joachim Kühn for a session of jazz-inflected improvisation, using Ligeti’s Études and Musica ricercata as a foundation.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD PLAYS LIGETI’S ÉTUDES

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano

Artist Spotlight

LIGETI Poême symphonique
LIGETI Musica ricercata
LIGETI Select Études
BEETHOVEN Ten Bagatelles
CHOPIN Select Études
DEBUSSY Select Études
DIMA SLOBODENIOUK CONDUCTS LIGETI, HOLST, AND PERRY’S STABAT MATER WITH J’NAI BRIDGES IN HER SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 24, 2023, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 25, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor
J’Nai Bridges**, mezzo-soprano
The Dessoff Choirs
  Malcolm J. Merriweather, director

LIGETI
  Atmosphères

PERRY
  Stabat Mater

HOLST
  The Planets

*New York Philharmonic debut
**New York Philharmonic subscription debut

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Lead support for the October 19–21 concerts is provided by Maggie and Richard Tsai.

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Generous support for Yefim Bronfman’s and Pierre-Laurent Aimard’s appearances is provided by The Donna and Marvin Schwartz Virtuoso Piano Performance Series.

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Generous support for Yefim Bronfman’s appearances is also provided by Michael P. N. A. Hormel.

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic’s online press room, nyphil.org/pressroom, or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or pr@nyphil.org.

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