

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

LIGETI

Mifiso la sodo (US Premiere)

LIGETI

Concert Românesc

Elena FIRSOVA

Piano Concerto (New York Premiere)

BRAHMS

Serenade No. 1

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

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, arr. for solo cimbalom

BARTÓK

Romanian Folk Dances

LIGETI

Piano Concerto

MUSORGSKY / Orch. Ravel

Pictures at an Exhibition

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

Poème 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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Programs are made possible, in part, by the **New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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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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