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Makes Great Music Accessible to All,
Announcing All Seats for All Performances: \$25.00

American Symphony Orchestra Launches 2009-2010 Season,
Its 17th as Part of "Lincoln Center Presents Great Performers,"
with Unprecedented Pricing Exemplifying Its Founding Mission

Founded by Leopold Stokowski 46 years ago, **American Symphony Orchestra** forges new ground with the mission to showcase the talents of American musicians through, as Stokowski put it, "concerts of great music within the means of everyone." Now entering its 2009-2010 season and 17th as part of "Lincoln Center Presents Great Performers," American Symphony Orchestra (**Leon Botstein**, music director and principal conductor) honors that longtime mission with an unprecedented initiative: **\$25 tickets for all seats, all performances, all season.**

American Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has been an innovator since its inception, attracting and expanding audiences for orchestral music and ensuring that great music continues to thrive. ASO combines the discovery of rare and under-performed works with an accessible thematic approach, linking music to other listener interests such as visual art, history, literature and politics. With thrilling, acclaimed performances, ASO reinforces the connection between great orchestra music and the daily lives and interests of contemporary audiences. No other orchestra in New York offers such extensive exposure to works of historical significance.

Of this bold new approach offering all tickets at \$25.00 as **American Symphony Orchestra** begins its 2009-2010 season, **Leon Botstein** comments, "ASO was founded with the goal of putting classical music within the reach of audiences all ages, backgrounds and means. This new structure speaks to the democratic sensibility of that mission. We're aiming to keep it simple and encourage the same adventurous spirit in audiences that's present in our programs. Music should be an essential part of daily life as opposed to a prohibitively expensive "luxury" experience and this new pricing strategy upholds that. To keep music accessible, you have to open your doors and appeal to people's curiosity. Price should not be a barrier."

American Symphony Orchestra's 2009-2010 Lincoln Center season of six concerts at Avery Fisher Hall opens **October 14** with the latest in a series of Romantic French operas-in-concert – Vincent d'Indy's rarely-heard *Fervaal*. Before the season closes, **Leon Botstein**, in his 17th season as ASO music director, will also conduct concerts devoted to a single composer – America's unique and infrequently performed **Henry Cowell**; Robert Schumann's *Scenes from Goethe's Faust*, the third in the orchestra's trilogy of his grand oratorios; a concert of **Soviet music** written after the thaw caused by Stalin's death; a concert demonstrating the continued life of **Romanticism** after the 20th century's modernism failed to kill it off; and a concert of 20th-century European music illustrating the contrast between reason and sensual pleasure, or **Apollo and Dionysus**. For complete season information, please visit www.AmericanSymphony.org.

As before, **American Symphony Orchestra** presentations commence with **enlightening pre-concert lectures** in the auditorium of Avery Fisher Hall. Lectures are free to ticket holders. Leon Botstein began giving the lectures during the 2008-09 season and will continue this season. In addition, the orchestra continues its popular "**Classics Declassified**" series, now at Symphony Space and expanded to five concerts in the new season. The concerts, preceded by illuminating lectures, will include five Beethoven Symphonies and provide a definitive look at these key works of the symphonic canon. "Classics Declassified" kicks off on October 18.

Leon Botstein is music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the radio orchestra of Israel. He is the founder and co-artistic director of the Bard Music Festival. Since 1975 he has been president of Bard College in New York. He also maintains a busy schedule as a guest conductor around the world. In addition, Mr. Botstein is the editor of *The Musical Quarterly* and the author of numerous articles and books. For his contributions to music he has received the award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award, as well as the Cross of Honor, First Class from the government of Austria.

The New York Times has noted American Symphony Orchestra's performances as "exciting" with "typically a thrilling execution." *The Village Voice* has said, "It's more and more obvious how necessary the American Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, Leon Botstein, are to New York's art-music life." With its innovative programming, accessible presentations, and excellence in performance, ASO is devoted to disproving the image of orchestra music as beyond the average listener in terms either of experience or expense, and thereby bring great music to as large an audience as possible.

The American Symphony Orchestra's 2009-010 season and programs are made possible, in part, through support from National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer. Additional support is provided by The Winston Foundation, Faith Golding Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Fan Fox and Leslie Samuels Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, HBO, Carroll, Guido, & Groffman LLP, GG Group Inc, DuBose & Dorothy Heyward Memorial Trust, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, and Solon E. Summerfield Foundation.

Tickets to all concert presentations in American Symphony Orchestra's 2009-2010 Lincoln Center season are \$25.00 (all seats, all performances).

For complete schedule and information, see www.americansymphony.org

Avery Fisher Hall is located at Columbus Avenue at 65th Street.

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