

For immediate release
Leon Botstein: 2008-09 Season

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LEON BOTSTEIN: 2008-09 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

SIX-CONCERT SERIES WITH AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT AVERY FISHER HALL, PART OF "LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS GREAT PERFORMERS", BEGINS OCTOBER 3 WITH OPERA-IN-CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF EDOUARD LALO'S RARELY HEARD BUT INFLUENTIAL *LE ROI D'YS*

BOTSTEIN AND ASO WILL ALSO GIVE CONCERTS AT BARD COLLEGE – INCLUDING THIRD AND FINAL WEEKEND OF BARD MUSIC FESTIVAL, "PROKOFIEV AND HIS WORLD", AND THREE "CLASSICS DECLASSIFIED" EVENTS AT MANHATTAN'S PETER NORTON SYMPHONY SPACE

WITH JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, BOTSTEIN WILL TOUR 16 U.S. CITIES BETWEEN OCTOBER 26 AND NOVEMBER 16, INCLUDING PERFORMANCES IN BERKELEY, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS CITY, CHICAGO, AND ANN ARBOR

***"Leon Botstein goes where other conductors fear to tread."* – New Yorker**

Leon Botstein and the **American Symphony Orchestra** return to New York's Avery Fisher Hall on Friday, October 3 to give the first of six concerts there as part of Lincoln Center's 2008-09 Great Performers series. The opera-in-concert performance of **Edouard Lalo's** rarely heard but enormously influential *Le roi d'Ys* ("The King of Ys") launches a thrilling new season that will feature Botstein and the ASO in 22 works – including **eleven U.S. premieres** – spanning an enormous breadth of repertoire. Highlights include rarely heard late-Romantic gems by Walter Braunfels, Joseph Marx, and Hermann Suter ("**Against the Avant-Garde**" on Dec 7), music by East German composers ("**Music of the Other Germany**" on Jan 25), powerful and politically charged modernist operas by Luigi Dallapiccola ("**Masterworks of Conscience**" on Feb 20), a profile of a pioneering but still unjustly neglected African-American composer ("**Revisiting William Grant Still**" on Mar 22), and a Lincoln Center season finale offering five U.S. premieres by five Israeli composers ("**Israel's Musical Patriarchs**" on May 31).

Adding further illumination to the already rich ASO concert experience, Botstein will now, for the first time, be giving **pre-concert talks** from the stage of Avery Fisher Hall, starting 75 minutes before each performance.

Botstein will also lead the ASO in its enormously popular **Classics Declassified** series – now in its twelfth season – beginning on September 21 with **Richard Strauss's** autumnal **Four Last Songs**, with two additional events in February and April. In this informal series, currently in its second season at Peter Norton Symphony Space, Leon Botstein discusses the work in detail, illustrating in music how each masterpiece came to be written. After a complete performance of the work, the audience is invited to share their questions and comments with Botstein and ASO musicians.

At the beautiful Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts on the Bard College campus in the Hudson Valley, Botstein and the ASO will give additional concerts this fall, including the third and final weekend of the world-renowned **Bard Music Festival**, which this year explores the music of “Prokofiev and His World” (October 24 and 25).

This season marks Botstein's 16th season as music director of the American Symphony, which celebrates its 46th season this year. Botstein is widely credited both for the innovative and imaginative programming and for the high quality of the performances. *New York* magazine called the Botstein/ASO offerings at Lincoln Center one of the best-programmed series in New York City, noting, “Trust Botstein to tweak every American Symphony Orchestra concert program with some intriguing discoveries from the past, all thematically related.” *Gramophone* observed, “As music director of the American Symphony Orchestra, [Botstein] has placed it on its firmest artistic footing since its founding by Leopold Stokowski Over the years his adventurous thematic programming has helped carve an invaluable place for ASO concerts in the highly competitive New York season.” The *New York Sun* added, “The days are long gone when we used to describe the ASO merely as important. Now it is just fabulous.”

Listings for each of the ASO's six Lincoln Center concerts follow. For additional information, visit www.americansymphony.org.

Botstein and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Now in his **sixth season as music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra**, Israel's radio orchestra, Botstein will lead the ensemble at home in programs showcasing both popular repertoire and off-the-beaten-track fare, with a special nod to music by Israeli composers. Botstein will also lead the JSO in their **second tour of the United States** since he began his tenure (their previous tour of East Coast cities in 2006 included an enthusiastically-reviewed performance at New York's Carnegie Hall). The **fall 2008 tour of sixteen Midwestern and West Coast cities** will begin on October 26 with a performance in Berkeley, CA and will end on November 16 in Ann Arbor. Complete program details and tour dates will follow in a separate press release.

Later in the season, Botstein and the Jerusalem Symphony will open the **2009 Leipzig Bach Festival** with a performance on June 11 of **Mendelssohn's *Elijah*** to commemorate the composer's bicentennial.

Botstein's tenure with the JSO has, by all accounts, been an enormous success. When he was appointed music director in July 2003, the orchestra was in a precarious position due to long-running managerial and financial turmoil. Although the orchestra still endures bureaucratic challenges and economic hardships endemic to the country, attendance is on the upswing and critics are consistently praising the innovative programming and what a writer for *Ma'ariv* called the "new sound of the Jerusalem Orchestra." Botstein's work with the orchestra in its home city has been so popular that his Jerusalem series is now presented in Tel Aviv as well. Radio broadcasts of Botstein's concerts with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra may be heard in syndication on the WFMT Radio Network throughout the United States.

Recordings

Leon Botstein has made a number of highly acclaimed recordings with various orchestras including the American Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and several others. This season, he will make his debut on the cpo label with the release of **Bruno Walter's Symphony No. 1** with the **NDR Symphony Orchestra (Hamburg)**. His debut album for Chandos earlier this year, featuring John Foulds's *A World Requiem*, was recorded live at the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. The website *ClassicsToday* gave the recording a "strong recommendation," noting, "The orchestral playing is superlative, the four choirs are wonderful, and Leon Botstein's performance soars." With the same orchestra, Botstein also recorded Paul Dukas's opera *Ariane et Barbe-bleue*, on the Telarc label (having previously conducted the opera with the American Symphony Orchestra in 1999 and with New York City Opera in 2005).

With the American Symphony Orchestra, he has recorded live performances of two operas by Richard Strauss: *Die ägyptische Helena* with Deborah Voigt and *Die Liebe der Danae* with Lauren Flanigan, both on the Telarc label; a recording of Copland, Sessions, Perle, and Rands; and discs of Dohnányi, Brahms, and Joachim, among others. His recording with the London Symphony Orchestra, of Gavriil Popov's epic Symphony No. 1 and Shostakovich's Theme and Variations, Op. 3, received a Grammy nomination in the category of Best Orchestral Performance.

American Symphony Orchestra: 2008-09 season at Lincoln Center

Friday, October 3, 2008, 8 pm

LE ROI D'YS

Edouard Lalo (1823-92): *Le roi d'Ys* (1875-88) [Opera-in-concert]

Sunday, December 7, 2008, 3 pm

AGAINST THE AVANT-GARDE: Romanticisms of the 1920s

Walter Braunfels (1882-1954): *Don Juan*, Op. 34 (1923) [U.S. premiere]

Hermann Suter (1870-1926): *Violin Concerto*, Op. 23 (1924) [U.S. premiere]

Josef Marx (1882-1964): *Herbstsymphonie* (1921) [U.S. premiere]

Sunday, January 25, 2009, 3 pm

MUSIC IN EAST GERMANY

Hanns Eisler (1898-1962): *Auferstanden aus Ruinen*, National anthem of the DDR (1949)

Rudolf Wagner-Regeny (1903-69): *Mythological Figures* (1951)

Paul Dessau (1894-1979): *In memoriam Bertolt Brecht* (1957) [U.S. premiere]

Udo Zimmermann (1943-): *Sinfonia come una grande lamento*, in memory of F. Garcia Lorca (1977) [U.S. premiere]

Hanns Eisler: *Goethe Rhapsody* (1949) [U.S. premiere]

Siegfried Matthus (1934-): *Responso* (1977) [New York premiere]

Friday, February 20, 2009, 8 pm

PERSECUTION AND FREEDOM: *Masterworks of Conscience*

Luigi Dallapiccola (1904-75): *Volo di notte* (Night Flight, 1939); *Il prigioniero* (The Prisoner, 1948)

Sunday, March 22, 2009, 3 pm

REVISITING WILLIAM GRANT STILL

George Whitefield Chadwick (1854-1931): *Rip Van Winkle Overture* (1879)

William Grant Still (1895-1978): *Darker America* (1924)

William Grant Still: *Africa* (1930)

Edgard Varèse: *Offrandes* (1921)

William Grant Still: *Symphony No. 2* (1937)

Sunday, May 31, 2009, 3 pm

COMPOSING A NATION: *Israel's Musical Patriarchs*

Erich-Walter Sternberg (1891-1974): *The Twelve Tribes of Israel* (1938) [U.S. premiere]

Mordecai Seter (1916-94): *Midnight Vigil*, Op. 39a (1958) [U.S. premiere]

Josef Tal (1910-): *Symphony No. 2* (1960) [U.S. premiere]

Odeon Partos (1907-77): *Ein gev*, Symphonic Fantasy (1952) [U.S. premiere]

Paul Ben-Haim (1907-84): *Symphony No. 2* (1948) [U.S. premiere]

Classics Declassified at Peter Norton Symphony Space

Sunday, September 21, 2008, 4 pm

Richard Strauss: *Four Last Songs*

Sunday, February 8, 2009, 4 pm

Silvestre Revueltas: *La noche de los mayas*

Sunday, April 19, 2009, 4 pm

Johannes Brahms: *Symphony No. 3*

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra U.S. Tour: October 26 – November 16

Sixteen cities beginning in Berkeley (October 26) and including performances in Los Angeles (October 28), Kansas City (November 8), Chicago (November 11), and Ann Arbor (November 16). Complete dates and tour information to follow separately.

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