NEWS

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MAY FESTIVAL CHORUS & CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHOSEN FOR *SPRING FOR MUSIC 2013 AT CARNEGIE HALL*

Cincinnati --- The May Festival Chorus and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of May Festival Music Director James Conlon, have been chosen to participate in *Spring for Music's* third annual festival season at Carnegie Hall. *Spring for Music* is designed to allow chosen organizations to showcase their artistic philosophies through distinctive and creative programming in one of the world's most competitive musical environments. The May Festival and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra are among six organizations chosen with performances taking place in May 2013.

May Festival Music Director James Conlon reflects, "The May Festival has a long history of creative and innovative programming. Throughout the Festival's 138-year history, forty-nine works have received their World or American premieres in Cincinnati. In my tenure with the Chorus there have been five commissions by Alvin Singleton, Daniel Brewbaker, Stephen Paulus, Adolphus Hailstork, and Ian Krouse. Many of these premiered works have gone on to become staples in the choral repertoire. Participation in the 2013 *Spring for Music* Festival will represent an important milestone in the May Festival's commitment to advancing new or rarely performed works."

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra President and May Festival Executive Director Trey Devey commented, "This invitation to Carnegie Hall is a great honor for the May Festival and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and is a tribute to James Conlon's artistic vision and leadership. This is an important opportunity to showcase our chorus and orchestra on one of the world's most important stages."

It will have been twelve years since the May Festival Chorus has performed at Carnegie Hall. In 2001 the May Festival Chorus and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, led by May Festival Music Director James Conlon, performed Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* on October 9, one month after the tragedy of 9/11. "It is wonderful for the chorus to have the honor of performing again at Carnegie Hall. The 2001 performance was extremely moving and remarkable, especially given the circumstances. To be chosen for the S*pring for Music* Festival is a great privilege for the Chorus," said Tom Neyer, Jr., President of the May Festival Board of Trustees. This marks the fifth Carnegie Hall performance for the May Festival Chorus.

This *Spring for Music* performance will take place one year following the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati. It is the first time the event, known as the Olympics of choral music, will be held in the United States. The long, rich choral heritage of the May Festival, the oldest continuous choral festival in the Western Hemisphere, dates back to 1873. Music Hall, home to the May Festival and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, was built in 1878 for the third May Festival. These traditions were a key factor in the city being chosen to host the World Choir Games.

During the 2013 May Festival Music Hall will be undergoing major revitalization work. Steven Sunderman, May Festival's Director of Administration, Marketing and Development observed, "The timing of this invitation to participate in *Spring for Music* comes at a perfect time for the organization. For the first time in history, since Music Hall was built, the Festival is unable to perform in its home. This is the perfect occasion to bring Cincinnati's May Festival to Carnegie Hall."

Other organizations selected for the 2013 *Spring for Music* Festival are Baltimore Symphony, Albany Symphony, Buffalo Symphony, Oregon Symphony, and National Symphony. The repertoire to be performed will be announced at a later date.

BACKGROUND:

Spring for Music, a new and innovative festival of concerts by North American symphony and chamber orchestras presented annually at Carnegie Hall to broad music-loving audiences at affordable prices, is being sold through a unique marketing structure built around adventurous and creative programs. Introductory presentations by each orchestra will be incorporated into the actual concerts. The festival becomes a musical laboratory that can foster greater innovation in each orchestra's home market.

Spring for Music was created by three music industry veterans who serve as the project's directors: Thomas W. Morris, CEO and Artistic Director; David V. Foster, Production Director; and Mary Lou Falcone, Public Relations Director. On the Board of Trustees are Chair, Daniel R. Lewis; Treasurer, Catherine French; Secretary, Catherine Gevers; Michael Gehret; Ara Guzelimian; Joan Harris; and Lowell J. Noteboom.

For more information please visit the *Spring for Music* website: www.springformusic.com

JAMES CONLON, Music Director
One of today's preeminent conductors, James Conlon has cultivated a vast symphonic, operatic and choral repertoire. Through worldwide touring to North and South America, Asia, and Europe, an extensive discography, and frequent television appearances, Mr. Conlon has become one of today's most recognized conductors.

Mr. Conlon is Music Director of the Cincinnati May Festival, where he has provided the artistic leadership for more May Festivals than any other Music Director in the Festival's 138-year history and holds a place amongst the longest-tenured Music Directors of any major classical music institution in the country. He is also Music Director of Los Angeles Opera; and Music Director of the Ravinia Festival, summer home of the Chicago Symphony. Mr. Conlon served as Principal Conductor of the Paris National Opera (1995-2004); General Music Director of the City of Cologne, Germany (1989-2002); and Music Director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic (1983-1991).

Mr. Conlon has conducted more than 250 performances at the Metropolitan Opera since his debut in 1976. He is also known for his work with young musicians, and for his efforts to raise public consciousness to the significance of works of composers whose lives and compositions were suppressed by the Nazi regime. For his efforts in championing these works he received the Crystal Globe Award from the Anti-Defamation League.

Mr. Conlon was chosen to be a member of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of two Grammy Awards, and one of five first recipients of the *Opera News* Award given in recognition for distinguished achievement in opera. He was awarded honorary doctoral degrees by The Juilliard School, Chapman University and Brandeis University and he received the Zemlinsky Prize for his efforts in bringing the composer's music to international attention. His other honors include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Los Angeles, the Music Institute of Chicago's Dushkin Award, the Medal of the American Liszt Society, and Italy's Premio Galileo 2000 Award.

Mr. Conlon was named an Officier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government in 1996, and in 2004 was promoted to Commander. In 2002, James Conlon received France's highest distinction from the President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac—the Légion d'Honneur.

The world-renowned **May Festival Chorus** has been the core artistic element of the Cincinnati May Festival for over 130 years. The all-volunteer Chorus was established as the Festival's official local body of singers in 1880. Composed of 140 dedicated volunteer singers from the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana "Tri-state" region, the Chorus is a year-round ensemble that rehearses on a rigorous weekly schedule. Robert Porco, Director of Choruses has been recognized as one of the leading choral musicians in the United States and from more than 20 years has been preparing the May Festival Chorus for its many concerts each season. As the official chorus of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Chorus regularly performs and records with both the Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Pops Orchestras.

In 2004, Telarc released the world premiere recording of Liszt's *St. Stanislaus,* featuring James Conlon, the May Festival Chorus and the CSO; the CD was awarded the 30th International Franz Liszt Record Grand Prix by the Franz Liszt Society of Budapest, Hungary. The May Festival Chorus has earned national and international acclaim with appearances at New York's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, a tour of Europe and appearances at the prestigious Dubrovnik Festival. In 1998 the chorus earned special honors from the Ohio Arts Council's annual Governor's Awards for the Arts—the Irma Lazarus Award.

The **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** is one of America's finest and most respected ensembles. The fifth oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and the oldest orchestra in Ohio, the internationally acclaimed CSO has performed the American premieres of works by such composers as Debussy, Mahler, Ravel and Bartók, and commissioned works that have since become mainstays of the classical repertoire including Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*. The Orchestra has toured extensively, sold millions of recordings, and continues to commission new works and program an impressive array of music.

The CSO is engaged in an extensive search for the Orchestra's next music director following the hugely successful tenure of Paavo Järvi. For the 2011-12 season, conductor Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, pianist Lang Lang and composer Philip Glass are each serving as creative directors for the Orchestra's three classical music series, Masterworks, Ascent and Boundless.

MAY FESTIVAL PREMIERES (American and World)
A = American, NA = North American, W = World

1873	A	George Frideric Handel	*Dettingen* Te Deum in D Major
1875	A	Johann Sebastian Bach	Magnificat
	A	Johannes Brahms	*Triumphal Hymn* ("Triumph Lied"), Opus 55
1878	W	Otto Singer	Cantata, *Festival Ode* (composed for May Festival and opening of new Music Hall)
1880	W	Dudley Buck	Scenes from Longfellow's *Golden Legend* (prize composition)
1882	W	William Wallace Gilchrist	Psalm 46 (prize composition)
1888	W	John Knowles Paine	*Song of Promise,* Cantata, Opus 43 (composed for May Festival)
1894	A	Carl Goldmark	*Sappho,* Overture, Opus 44
	A	Anton Rubinstein	*Moses,* Oratorio, Opus 112, tableaux 3 and 4
1914	A	Gustav Mahler	Symphony No. 3
1916	A	Richard Strauss	*An Alpine Symphony,* Opus 64
1918	W	Edgar Stillman Kelley	*The Pilgrim's Progress,* A Musical Miracle Play, Opus 37 (May Festival commission)
	W	Eugene Ysaÿe	*Exil,* Poem for String Orchestra without Basses
1923	W	Henry Hadley	*Resurgam,* Opus 98
1925	A	Lodewijk Mortelmans	*Young America,* a Children's Cantata
1927	A	Johann Sebastian Bach	*Der zufriedengestellte Aolus* (*Aeolus Appeased*), Secular Cantata No. 205
	A	Jesús Guridi	*Thus Sang the Little Ones,* Three Spanish Childhood Scenes
1935	W	Martin Dumler	*Stabat mater*

	A	Sir Granville Bantock	*Atlanta in Calydon,* Symphony for Chorus
	A	Cyril Scott	*La belle dame sans merci,* for Baritone, Chorus and Orchestra
1937	W	Robert Nathaniel Dett	*The Ordering of Moses,* A Biblical Folk Scene
1939	W	James Heller	*Watchman, What of the Night?,* Oratorio
1944	W	Bernard Rogers	*The Passion,* Oratorio
1946	W	Martin Dumler	Te Deum
	A	Frederick Delius	A Mass of Life (first complete performance)
1954	A	Franz Schmidt	*The Book with Seven Seals,* Oratorio
1956	W	Wallace Berry	*Spoon River,* Song Cycle for Soprano and Baritone
	W	Feliks Labunski	*Images of Youth*
	A	Benjamin Britten	*Gloriana,* Opus 53
	A	Franz Reizenstein	*Voices of Night,* Cantata, Opus 27
1958	A	Jenö Takacs	*The Chant of the Creation*
1960	W	Margaret Johnson Bosworth	*Queen City* Suite
1963	W	Gian Carlo Menotti	*The Death of the Bishop of Brindisi,* Dramatic Cantata (May Festival commission)
1965	W	Franz Waxman	*The Song of Terezin,* Song Cycle
1968	W	Hans Werner Henze	*Moralities,* Three Scenic Cantatas
1969	W	Peter Mennin	*The Pied Piper of Hamelin,* Cantata de Virtute
1970	W	Wilfred Josephs	*Mortales,* Opus 62
1974	W	Donald Erb	*New England's Prospect,* for Narrator, Chorus and Orchestra
1988	W	Giuseppe Verdi	*Luisa Miller* (Jeffrey Kallberg's restored edition)
1992	A	Carl Maria von Weber	*Oberon,* Complete Opera (Gustav Mahler's 1913 version)
1998	W	Alvin Singleton	*PraiseMaker* (May Festival commission)
1999	W	Gideon Lewensohn	*Serenata Concertante* for Woodwinds, Keyboards, Percussion & Strings
	NA	Kurt Weill	*Propheten* from *Der Weg der Verheissung* (devised by David Drew)
2000	W	Daniel Brewbaker	*Cincinnatus Psalm* (May Festival commission)
2002	W	Leonard Bernstein	Symphony No. 3, *Kaddish* (first performance of a revised narration by Jamie Bernstein Thomas)
2003	W	Franz Liszt	*St. Stanislaus*
2004	W	Stephen Paulus	All Things Are Passing (May Festival commission)
2006	W	Adolphus Hailstork	*Earthrise* (May Festival commission)
2010	W	Ian Krouse	Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking (May Festival commission)

The May Festival gratefully acknowledges support from the following:

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