

NEWS



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MAY FESTIVAL CHORUS & CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MOVE TO *SPRING FOR MUSIC* 2014 AT CARNEGIE HALL

May Festival and CSO Originally Scheduled for the 2013 Festival

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 fourth annual festival season at Carnegie Hall in 2014. *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.

Originally, the May Festival Chorus and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra were to be a part of the 2013 *Spring For Music*. Due to the delay in the timetable for the revitalization of Music Hall the organizations asked to be deferred to the 2014 festival. *Spring For Music* was able to accommodate the request and happily the Detroit Symphony, which had been chosen as an alternate for 2013, was available to step in.

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and May Festival President Trey Devey commented, "This shift to 2014 allows us to focus our full efforts on the May Festival concerts that will immediately precede the renovation of Music Hall in 2013. Built nearly a century and a half ago for the May Festival, it is fitting that the final concerts celebrate the origins, heritage and beauty of Music Hall and the May Festival. We are thrilled to be invited to perform in this prestigious festival and look forward to representing the rich musical heritage of Cincinnati at Carnegie Hall in May of 2014"

Other organizations selected for the 2014 *Spring For Music* Festival are the New York Philharmonic, the Seattle Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The repertoire to be performed will be announced at a later date.

BACKGROUND:

Spring For Music, is an annual festival each May at Carnegie Hall showing and celebrating the quality and creativity of North American orchestras. During its inaugural season, SPRING FOR MUSIC was categorized by the press as “bold,” “gripping,” “vibrant,” inspired,” “virtuosic,” “brilliant.” *The New Yorker* hailed it as “fresh at every turn,” while *The New York Times* stated that Spring For Music gives “power to the listener.” The festival, which began in 2011, has made the commitment to continue yearly through 2014. Tickets originally priced at \$25 for any seat in the house, still remain at this very popular price.

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 for 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. In 2011 the May Festival Chorus received the Erich Kunzel Queen City Advocate Award from the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau acknowledging the positive national recognition they have generated for Cincinnati.

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.

The May Festival gratefully acknowledges support from the following:

