
ALAN GILBERT
Conductor / Chamber Musician
Music Director of the New York Philharmonic

Biographical information:

- Born February 23, 1967 in New York City and began playing violin at a young age
- Studied at Harvard, Curtis and Juilliard
- Currently resides in New York City with his wife Kajsa, a cellist with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and their two children

Highlights of 2009-10 season:

- Sept 16: begins his tenure as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic (the first native New Yorker to hold the post), conducting its opening-night gala
- Oct 8–24: takes New York Philharmonic on a continent-spanning tour of Asia, with performances at the Hanoi Opera House (the orchestra's debut in Vietnam), in Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Abu Dhabi (also a debut)
- Dec 31: celebrates an all-American New Year's Eve with the New York Philharmonic and baritone Thomas Hampson singing works by Copland and Gershwin and songs from Broadway musicals. The performance will be broadcast on PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center*
- Jan 14 – Jan 16 conducts John Adams's *Wound-Dresser*, an opera based on Walt Whitman's devastating poem
- May 27 – 29: conducts Hungarian composer György Ligeti's darkly comic (and only) opera, *Le grand macabre*, which has never before been performed in New York
- Leads brass players from NY Philharmonic in *Star Spangled Banner* at Yankee Stadium on Sept 13

Musical affiliations and activities:

- Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. He is one of the youngest music directors in the orchestra's history and the only native New Yorker to hold the post.
- Named Conductor Laureate of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in June 2008, following the last concert of his eight-and-a-half-year tenure as its Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor.
- Metropolitan Opera debut in October 2008 with first Met production of a John Adams opera (*Doctor Atomic*). Named Santa Fe Opera's first Music Director in October 2003 and conducted the North American premiere of Thomas Adès's *The Tempest* in summer 2006. He has also led opera productions at Zurich Opera, Los Angeles Opera and Vienna State Opera.
- Principal Guest Conductor NDR Symphony Orchestra – Hamburg since 2004.
- Regularly guest conducts the top orchestras in Europe, America and Asia. In the U.S. he has led the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the San Francisco Symphony; in Europe has conducted such prestigious ensembles as Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic

- An active chamber musician, Gilbert plays violin and viola at many prestigious venues and festivals, including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Society.
- Co-founder of the MMCK Festival (Music Masters Course in Kazusa, Japan)

What the critics are saying:

“The Real Thing. A deeply musical conductor.” – *The New York Times*

“The quietly dynamic young American whose work seems more revelatory with each new encounter.”
– *San Francisco Chronicle*

“An exceptional young talent at the podium, steeped in artistic commitment, an animated love for music-making, and...a keen rapport with the orchestra.” – *Washington Post*

“Gilbert is a conductor destined to make his mark on the music world.” – *Chicago Tribune*

Some interesting facts:

- The young Gilbert’s first violin teachers were his parents, who were both violinists with the New York Philharmonic (his father retired from the orchestra but his mother still plays there)
- Has played as substitute violinist in the Philadelphia Orchestra and with other ensembles
- Gilbert has an extraordinarily wide range of musical interests both as a conductor and as a chamber musician. His repertoire ranges from standard chamber, symphonic and operatic works of the Classical and Romantic periods to 20th-century masterpieces and new music.
- Loves to cook, eat at interesting restaurants, and to read murder mysteries
- A golf enthusiast – both on the course and as a fan
- Made his unscheduled debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in February 2006 to rave reviews: “He is the embodiment of a conducting ‘event’.” – *Berliner Morgenpost*

Awards and Media Recognition

- Won the prestigious Seaver/National Endowment for the Arts Conductors Award in 1997
- Named member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, founded in 1771 by King Gustav III
- In August 2006, *Gramophone* named Alan Gilbert one of the “classical superstars of the future”: one of the artists destined to become “household names” and the “icons of tomorrow”
- Has been profiled in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* and was the cover subject of the June 2006 issue of *Opera News*
- Was profiled earlier this year on NY-1’s “One On 1” series with Budd Mishkin: the interview can be seen at this link: <http://ny1.com/Default.aspx?ArID=102226>

Key engagements: 2009/2010 season

(events are at New York’s Avery Fisher Hall unless otherwise stated)

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| Sep 16 | Opening-night gala:
Magnus Lindberg: <i>Expo</i> ; Messiaen: <i>Poèmes pour Mi</i> ; Berlioz: <i>Symphonie fantastique</i> |
| Sep 17-22 | Mahler: Symphony No. 3 |
| Sep 24-26 | Schoenberg: <i>Pelleas and Melisande</i> ; Brahms: Violin Concerto |
| Sep 30, | Magnus Lindberg: <i>Expo</i> ; Ives: Symphony No. 2, The Unanswered Question; |

Alan Gilbert at-a-glance

August 2009

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Oct 1, 3 Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4
Oct 2 Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4, Symphony No. 7
(Caramoor Center for the Performing Arts, NY)
Oct 8-24 Asian Horizons: NY Philharmonic tour
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4, Symphony No. 7; Mahler: Symphony No. 1;
Brahms: Violin Concerto; Berlioz: *Symphonie fantastique*; Mozart: Symphony No. 41
(Tokyo 8-10; Seoul 12, 13; Hanoi 16, 17; Singapore 19, 20; Abu Dhabi 23, 24)
Dec 29, 30, Webern: *Im Sommerwind*; Symphony, Op. 21
Jan 2 Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23; Schumann: Symphony No. 2
Dec 31 All-American New Year's Eve concert:
Copland, Gershwin, selection from Broadway musicals
Jan 1 2010 tour of Europe (cities TBA)
Jan 6 Rush Hour Concert: Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2
Jan 7-12 Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 2; Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2
(NYC: AFH: Jan 7, 8, 12; Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, L.I.: Jan 9)
Jan 14-16 Haydn: Symphony No. 49, "La Passione"; Adams: *The Wound-Dresser*
Schubert: Symphony in B minor, Unfinished; Berg: Three Orchestral Pieces
Jan 22-Feb 4 Adams: *The Wound-Dresser*
(Barcelona 22; Madrid 24; Cologne 28; Dortmund 30; Paris Feb 2;
Barbican/London Feb 4)
Feb 10-16 Mozart: Sinfonia concertante for winds, Symphony No. 41, Jupiter
Christopher Rouse: *Zhin* (world premiere – NY Phil commission)
Feb 13 Wagner: Overture to *Rienzi*; Magnus Lindberg: Clarinet Concerto (U.S. premiere);
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2
Mar 3 Rush Hour Concert: Mozart: Sinfonia concertante for Winds; Symphony No. 41, Jupiter
Apr 16, 17 NY Philharmonic's New-Music series:
3 world premieres by Sheherd, Muhly, Pintscher
(NYC: Symphony Space)
May 19-21 School Day Concerts
May 27-29 Ligeti: *Le Grand Macabre* (NY premiere)
May 31 Memorial Day Concert
(NYC: Cathedral of St. John the Divine)
Jun 10-15 Magnus Lindberg, Sibelius, Brahms
Jun 12 Saturday matinee: Brahms: String Sextet No. 2, Symphony No. 2
Jun 17-19 Wagner: Siegfried Idyll, Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan and Isolde*;
Mozart: Symphony No. 5; HK Gruber: *Aerial*
Jun 23, 24, 26 World premiere by Magnus Lindberg; Beethoven: *Missa solmnis*
Jun 25 Beethoven: *Missa solemnis*
(New Jersey Performing Arts Center)

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