

For immediate release

Alan Gilbert: new honors on heels of triumphant LSO debut

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New Honors for Alan Gilbert on Heels of Triumphant LSO Debut



Alan Gilbert (photo: Chris Lee)

When [Alan Gilbert](#) gave the first of his two recent concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra earlier this month, the *Guardian* ran its review under the headline: “**New York maestro hands audience an adrenaline rush.**” This auspicious debut marks the latest in a string of successes for the Grammy Award-winning conductor, who was recently named an **Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** by the French government, and has been chosen to

receive an **honorary doctorate** from **Westminster Choir College** later this spring. Meanwhile, after returning to conduct a special gala evening at his alma mater, the **Juilliard School**, Gilbert looks forward to concluding his seventh season as **Music Director** of the **New York Philharmonic** with a wealth of programs at home in New York, on **tour in California**, and in the second **NY PHIL BIENNIAL**, a flagship project that represents one of the most significant innovations of his distinguished tenure.

For his first appearances with the London Symphony Orchestra, Gilbert led a pair of programs featuring the music of Scandinavia. *Classical Source* observed: “**Gilbert seems to have hit the ground running. ... There was a palpable positive connection.**” In Sibelius’s stirring tone poem *En Saga*, he “**presided over a tension-filled, vivid and enchanted account that sported a wide dynamic range**” (*Classical Source*), while in the Finnish master’s classically economical Third Symphony, *The Times’* critic found that “**Gilbert’s incisive way with dynamic shifts brought positive results, and I ... came home humming liling morsels.**” In Nielsen’s mighty Fourth Symphony, “The Inextinguishable,” *Classical Source* considered “**Gilbert authoritative and the LSO hugely responsive.**” Likewise, in the overture to the Danish composer’s opera *Maskarade*:

“There was a real sense of theatre and movement, as if we were eavesdropping on vivacious conversations as the dancers at a ball spun by. Gilbert struck a fine balance between Mozartian grace and Straussian fun ... in this fleet and exuberant performance” (*Seen and Heard International*).

All told, as *The Standard* concluded, “**Judging from Gilbert’s debut concert, a long-term relationship seems likely.**”

Gilbert is already a regular and favored guest of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and a longtime champion of French music, whether as conductor on *Poèmes*, Renée Fleming’s Grammy Award-winning Decca release, or violinist in the New York Philharmonic’s recent “Messiaen Week.” The significance of his contribution to promoting the arts in France and beyond was recognized this past November, when the conductor – already elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the recipient of a 2015 Foreign Policy Association Medal – was named an **Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** by the French government.

He also looks forward to receiving an **honorary doctorate** from **Westminster Choir College**, where he serves as the **commencement speaker** on May 14. His long association with the Princeton school has seen Gilbert lead the Westminster Symphonic Choir in collaboration with the New York Philharmonic in a variety of repertoire including Handel’s *Messiah*, Mahler’s Third Symphony, and Christopher Rouse’s Requiem. Of the latter, the *New York Times* stated: “**It is hard to imagine Mr. Rouse’s work receiving a more rapt reception – or a more passionate performance.**”

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NY PHIL BIENNIAL and other upcoming highlights

Meanwhile, at the **New York Philharmonic**, Gilbert looks forward to co-curating the second **NY PHIL BIENNIAL**, a citywide new-music immersion that proved a resounding success at its launch two years ago, when the *New York Times* called it “**perhaps the most ambitious and extensive contemporary-music festival yet overseen by an American orchestra.**” Highlights include his leadership of premieres by William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Per Nørgård, and the late Steven Stucky (June 10 & 11) as well as of *Ligeti Forward*, a three-part series with the Ensemble of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ALUMNI at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (June 3–5). Further Philharmonic highlights include the **world premiere** of a new commission from **Franck Krawczyk**, alongside Brahms’s Second Symphony and Schumann’s Cello Concerto with Principal Cello Carter Brey (April 27–30). Brahms’s Second is also the vehicle for the Philharmonic’s 25th **Annual Free Memorial Day Concert** at New York’s Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, which this year features a tribute to Kurt Masur, including addresses and performances honoring the late Music Director Emeritus from Gilbert, trumpet player Wynton Marsalis, and baritone Thomas Hampson (May 30). Gilbert and the Philharmonic reprise both Brahms and Schumann in Costa Mesa and San Francisco during the **CALIFORNIA 2016 tour** that also takes them to San Diego for the seventh symphonies of Beethoven and Sibelius (May 3–7).

As the **Director of Conducting and Orchestral Studies** at New York’s **Juilliard School**, Gilbert returns to the venerable conservatory to conduct a special **gala evening** titled “**A Midsummer Night’s Dream.**” Weaving together Shakespeare’s words with Mendelssohn’s music, this features his fellow alums – Broadway actors Phillipa Soo (now appearing in *Hamilton*), **Gabriel Ebert** (winner of a Tony Award for *Matilda*, in which he was an original cast member), and **Nick Choksi** (now appearing in *Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812*) – with the support of the Juilliard Orchestra and Brooklyn Youth Chorus (April 25).

For high-resolution photos, click [here](#).

www.alangilbert.com

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Alan Gilbert: upcoming engagements

Except where noted, the New York Philharmonic concerts listed below take place at David Geffen Hall in New York, NY.

April 20–22

New York Philharmonic

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 7

MAHLER: *Das Lied von der Erde* (with Stefan Vinke, tenor; Thomas Hampson, baritone)

April 25

Juilliard School Biennial Gala

Peter Jay Sharp Theater

Mendelssohn: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Juilliard Orchestra

Brooklyn Youth Chorus

April 27–30

New York Philharmonic

Franck KRAWCZYK: *Après* (world premiere of New York Philharmonic commission, with the support of the Kravis Prize for New Music)

SCHUMANN: Cello Concerto (with Carter Brey, cello)

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2

May 3–7: New York Philharmonic CALIFORNIA 2016 tour

May 3: Costa Mesa, CA (Seegerstrom Center for the Arts)

May 7: San Francisco, CA (Davies Symphony Hall)

BRAHMS: *Tragic Overture*

SCHUMANN: Cello Concerto (with Carter Brey, cello)

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2

May 4: San Diego, CA (Copley Symphony Hall)

May 6: San Francisco, CA (Davies Symphony Hall)

BEETHOVEN: *Egmont Overture*

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 7

SIBELIUS: *Finlandia*

Annual Free Memorial Day Concert. A Tribute to Kurt Masur

May 30

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

New York Philharmonic

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2

May 23–June 11: NY PHIL BIENNIAL

June 3

NY PHIL BIENNIAL

Ensemble of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ALUMNI

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Ligeti Forward, Program I

Alexandre LUNSQUI: *Kinetic Study 2* and Three Short Pieces

Unsuk CHIN: *Fantaisie mécanique*

LIGETI: Piano Concerto (with Conor Hanick, piano)

June 4

NY PHIL BIENNIAL

Ensemble of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ALUMNI

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Ligeti Forward, Program II

Marc-André DALBAVIE: *Axiom*

LIGETI: Cello Concerto (with Jay Campbell, cello)

Dai FUJIKURA: *ice*

June 5

NY PHIL BIENNIAL

Ensemble of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ALUMNI

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Ligeti Forward, Program III

GRISEY: *Talea*

John ZORN: *The Remedy of Fortune*

LIGETI: Violin Concerto (with Pekka Kuusisto, violin)

June 10

NY PHIL BIENNIAL

New York Philharmonic

William BOLCOM: Trombone Concerto (world premiere of New York Philharmonic co-commission with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra; with Joseph Alessi, trombone)

John CORIGLIANO: *Conjurer*: Concerto for Percussionist and String Orchestra (New York premiere; with Martin Grubinger, percussion)

June 11

NY PHIL BIENNIAL

New York Philharmonic

Pierre BOULEZ: *Messagesquise* (with Eric Bartlett, solo cello; Patrick Jee, Qiang Tu, Sumire Kudo, Maria Kitsopoulos, Alexei Yupanqui Gonzales, Wendy Sutter, ensemble)

Steven STUCKY: *Second Concerto for Orchestra* (New York premiere)

Per NØRGÅRD: Symphony No. 8 (U.S. premiere)

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