

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, February 7, 2007

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra

2007.2008 Season

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The **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** and **Music Director Peter Oundjian** are thrilled to announce their **2007.2008 Season** of powerful symphonic works and the world's most popular classics. Leading the **TSO** into their 86th year, his fourth as Toronto Symphony Orchestra Music Director, Oundjian will conduct thirteen weeks of concerts in a variety of series including Masterworks, Light Classics, the Dvorák Signature Series, Casual Concerts, the Matinee Series, Young People's Concerts, a three-week festival of Russian and American music, his annual Mozart@252 Festival, and the Fourth Annual New Creations Festival.

In 07.08, the **TSO** will host internationally renowned conductors, soloists, and the hottest young musicians of the next generation. "2007.2008 is a very special year for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra with a remarkable lineup of artists from today's classical music world," remarked Maestro Oundjian. "**Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Evgeny Kissin, Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Itzhak Perlman, and Mstislav Rostropovich** are but a few of the giants who will share the stage with the **TSO**. It is also an honour to salute previous **TSO** decades on the podium as my illustrious predecessors **Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Günther Herbig** and **Sir Andrew Davis** return as distinguished guest conductors. It is a privilege to carry on their legacies as music directors of the **TSO**."

TSO 2007.2008 SEASON ARTIST HIGHLIGHTS

GUEST CONDUCTORS

- Conductors gracing the Roy Thomson Hall stage during the **TSO** 07.08 Season include three decades of **TSO** music directors, internationally acclaimed maestros and rising podium stars!
- Conductor Laureate **Sir Andrew Davis**, **TSO** music director from 1975-1988 and current music director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, will conduct two concerts featuring Grammy Award-winning virtuoso pianist **Evgeny Kissin** in October and **TSO** principal clarinet **Joaquin Valdepeñas** in March.
- Steeped in the German classical tradition, **Günther Herbig**, **TSO** music director from 1988-1994, will conduct **Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C "Great"**.
- After a five-year absence, **TSO** music director from 1994-2001 and current music director of the Oslo Philharmonic, **Jukka-Pekka Saraste** makes a much-anticipated return! Maestro Saraste will conduct **Mahler's** last completed score, **Symphony No. 9**, and the Canadian premiere of a work by fellow Finn **Magnus Lindberg** commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic specifically to accompany Mahler's Ninth.
- The **TSO** is exceedingly honoured to welcome **Mstislav Rostropovich** and his miraculous spirit to the podium! Considered one of history's greatest cellists and ambassadors of classical music, Mstislav Rostropovich - or "Slava" - holds more than 40 honorary degrees and over 130 major awards, musical and humanitarian, from 30 nations. He has recorded virtually the

entire cello repertoire and inspired many of this century's finest composers to create works especially for him including **Shostakovich** whose **Symphony No. 1 in F Minor** he will conduct along with **Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor "Pathétique"**.

- Electricity will be the *idée fixe* as the dynamic **Charles Dutoit** leads the highly-charged French string-wielding **Capuçon** brothers, violinist **Renaud** and cellist **Gautier** in their **TSO** debut with **Brahms's Double Concerto for Violin and Cello**. Their unabashed virtuosity will only be rivaled by Dutoit's expert direction of **Symphonie Fantastique**, **Berlioz's** semi-autobiographical work from his love-struck youth.
- Giants of man and music will merge as **Itzhak Perlman**, a superstar by every standard, will conduct **Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor** and **Mozart's Symphony No. 25 in G Minor, K. 183**. Doubling as a violin virtuoso, Perlman will be joined by principal oboe **Sarah Jeffrey** for **J.S. Bach's Concerto for Violin and Oboe**.
- Dutch triple-sensation **Reinbert deLeeuw**, internationally known as a conductor, composer, and keyboard player, is the perfect choice to share the podium with **Peter Oundjian** in two concerts in the Fourth Annual New Creations Festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of **Olivier Messiaen's** birth and contemporary keyboard works.
- Favourite maestros also return! Skyrocketing **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** will conduct two **TSO** concerts. The 31-year old Montrealer was recently appointed to follow Russian super-maestro Valery Gergiev as principal conductor for the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Nézet-Séguin's first concert is part of the Dvorak Signature Series; his second features an all-Brahms programme with pianist **Stephen Kovacevich** making his **TSO** debut with his powerful interpretation of the Romantic master's music. Also returning are Bach-expert **Helmuth Rilling**; Danish conductor **Thomas Dausgaard**; and BBC Philharmonic principal conductor **Gianandrea Noseda**, whose zesty performance last year in Toronto drew raves.
- Making their **TSO** debuts in the Light Classics Series are associate conductor for the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas, **James Gaffigan**; and Canadian-born, Trinidad-raised music director of Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, **Kwamé Ryan**. Returning to conduct the Light Classics is another Canadian, 35-year old Toronto-born **Charles Olivieri-Munroe**, praised for his interpretation of Slavic repertoire, in a programme of Dvorák and Smetana.

GUEST SOLOISTS

International heavyweights and the new generation of classical stars come together in the **TSO's** 07.08 season. Guest artists joining the **TSO** include twenty pianists, seven violinists, one violist, four cellists, twenty-four vocal soloists, an accordionist, organist, and player of the rarely-heard ondes martenot (Martenot waves), an electronic instrument invented in 1928 by Maurice Martenot.

DEBUT ARTISTS

The **TSO** is thrilled to welcome an exciting array of artists in their **TSO** debuts including 24-year old American cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**; 26-year-old pianist **Jonathan Biss** representing the third generation in a family of musicians; 34-year old Argentinean pianist **Ingrid Fliter**, recipient of the prestigious Gilmore Artists Award; 16-year old Korean piano prodigy **Ji Yong**, who made his debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of ten; 24-year old Chinese pianist **Yundi Li**, who won Warsaw's illustrious International Frédéric Chopin Piano Competition; and the phenomenal French-born **Renaud** and **Gautier Capuçon**, brothers whose rapport on stage has been called 'uncanny'.

TSO PRINCIPALS

This year the **TSO** will offer audiences the opportunity to become better acquainted with their orchestral players as soloists. **TSO** principals featured in the 07.08 Season are:

- Concertmaster **Jacques Israelievitch** with **Joan Tower's Violin Concerto**
- Principal violist **Teng Li** in **Bartók's Viola Concerto**, completed three weeks before the composer's death
- Principal double bass **Jeffrey Beecher** in **Mozart@252**
- Principal oboe **Sarah Jeffrey** performing **J.S. Bach's** playful **Concerto for Violin and Oboe**
- Principal clarinet **Joaquin Valdepeñas** with **Copland's Clarinet Concerto**, originally written for the late-Benny Goodman
- Principal French horn **Neil Deland** playing **Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-Flat**, inspired by Strauss's horn-playing father
- Principal trumpet **Andrew McCandless** with one of the most important trumpet pieces of the 20th century, **Jolivet's Concertino for Trumpet, Piano and Strings**

GUEST ARTISTS - PIANO

Favourite pianists also return for the 07.08 Season including 35-year old **Evgeny Kissin**, hailed by *The Independent, UK* as "the greatest pianist of his generation," with **Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1**. **Jon Kimura Parker** will play **Rachmaninoff's** hauntingly melodic **Piano Concerto No. 2**. The prolific **Garrick Ohlsson** will perform **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27, K. 595**, the composer's final piano concerto. A major force in Europe, US-born **Stephen Kovacevich** will perform **Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2**. Four Beethoven piano concertos will be heard including the serenely contemplative **Piano Concerto No. 4 in G** performed by the multi-award-winning **Emanuel Ax**. **Anton Kuerti's** refined brilliance will grace the resplendent **Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-Flat "Emperor"**.

GUEST ARTISTS - STRINGS

The late-Yehudi Menuhin called violin virtuoso **Vadim Repin** "the most perfect violinist" he had ever heard. Repin is the first string soloist in the 07.08 Season with **Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2**. Also performing Prokofiev, this time his **Sinfonia Concertante**, will be Italian cellist **Enrico Dindo**. Dutch violinist **Janine Jansen**, the iTunes chart-topper who performed Shostakovich last June, returns with **Britten's Violin Concerto**, his wartime plea for peace. On the bill from Brandon, Manitoba, the phenomenal **James Ehnes** will play both violin and viola for a British-themed evening of works by Walton, Vaughan Williams and Elgar.

GUEST ARTISTS - VOCAL

07.08 features several major symphonic works for vocal soloists and chorus including **Orff's Carmina Burana**, the season opener, and **J.S. Bach's St. John Passion**, a **TSO** collaboration with the Toronto International Bach Festival and Maestro **Helmuth Rilling**, featuring six soloists including University of Toronto graduates, sopranos **Agnes Zsigovics** and **Laura Albino**, and the **University of Toronto MacMillan Singers**. Certain to be a season highlight, the fearless soprano **Barbara Hannigan** who *The New York Times* called a "demonic presence", will sing Rimbaud's seductive poetry in **Britten's Les Illuminations**. Audiences may recall Hannigan's breathtaking performance of **Dutilleux's Correspondences** in the 2005 inaugural New Creations Festival.

GUEST ORCHESTRAS

The **TSO** will welcome two visiting orchestras to Roy Thomson Hall for a musical exchange. As artistic advisor and principal guest conductor of the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**, Maestro Oundjian will bring this fine orchestra to Toronto and the **TSO** to Detroit's Max M. Fisher Music Center next

season. Under Maestro Oundjian, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert will feature pianist **Anton Kuerti** and a programme of **Beethoven**, **Tchaikovsky** and composer **Joan Tower**, who celebrates her 70th birthday in 2008. **Pinchas Zukerman** and the **National Arts Centre Orchestra** return in 2007 with the work of acclaimed Toronto composer **Alexina Louie** and 19-year old wunderkind pianist **Yuja Wang** who will perform **Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor** in her **TSO** debut. Likewise, for its third straight year, the **TSO** will perform in Ottawa at the National Arts Centre.

TSO 2007.2008 SEASON SERIES AND FESTIVALS

TSO OPENING NIGHT – SEPTEMBER 19.07

Opening night will be hot as the **TSO** presents two riotously popular and rhythmically pulsating works, **Orff's Carmina Burana** and **Ravel's Bolero!** It is impossible to deny the universal appeal of **Bolero** and its reputation as a symbol of passion. Similarly, **Carmina Burana** explores themes of love, lust, and the pleasures of drinking which are conveniently camouflaged by Latin and old German texts! At its largest, **Carmina Burana** employs a chorus of 200 voices, an orchestra of 100, a children's choir of 50, and three soloists. On September 19, the **TSO** will rise to the challenge performing it with **The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir**, the **Canadian Children's Opera Chorus**, countertenor **Daniel Taylor**, baritone **Hugh Russell**, and soprano **Simona Saturová** whose magical performance so captivated audiences in last autumn's Mozart Mass in C Minor that she was immediately invited to open the 07.08 Season! Opening night will be one of three 07.08 concerts broadcast live nationally on CBC Radio Two as part of the CBC Radio Two Live Series.

AIM TRIMARK MOZART@252 FESTIVAL – GENIUS AT EVERY AGE!

Spending time with the music of Mozart is a wonderful way to start a new year. Since the sold-out Mozart@250 Festival, **TSO** audiences couldn't agree more! Two years later, the late-great composer's popularity continues and so does the **TSO's** annual celebration of his works. Led by Maestro Oundjian, Mozart@252 Festival comprises three concerts offering a variety of his most beloved symphonies, arias and piano concertos including **Symphonies No. 35 in D, K. 385 "Haffner"**, **No. 36 in C, K. 425 "Linz"** and **No. 40 in G Minor, K. 550**.

Also in Mozart@252 Festival is the seldom-encountered aria **Per questa bella mano** for bass and double bass performed by Samoan bass-baritone **Jonathan Lemalu** and **TSO** principal double bass **Jeffrey Beecher**, plus a selection of popular arias sung by Canadian soprano **Karina Gauvin**. **TSO** principals will also perform the sole festival chamber piece, **Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Winds, K. 452** with 34-year old Argentinean pianist **Ingrid Fliter**, one of two rising talents making their **TSO** debuts in Mozart@252 Festival. Known for her vivacious temperament and colossal technique, Fliter will also perform **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 488**. Dazzling 16-year old Korean prodigy **Ji Yong** will perform **Piano Concerto No.12, K. 414**.

DVORAK SIGNATURE SERIES

The music of **Antonín Dvorák**, the man behind the crowning piece of the cello repertoire, anchors this year's **TSO** Signature Series. The **TSO** welcomes two exciting young conductors of the highest caliber: **Stéphane Denève** for the thoroughly Bohemian **Symphony No. 8 in G**, and **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** for the joyously pastoral **Symphony No. 6 in D**. Maestro Oundjian will conduct the **Cello Concerto** performed by the 24-year old American **Alisa Weilerstein** in her **TSO** debut. The series also features Mozart's aptly-named **Symphony No. 38 in D, K. 504 "Prague"**, and a work by Dvorak's compatriot Czech composer **Bohuslav Martinu** whose **Concerto for 2 String Orchestras, Piano and Timpani** will feature Toronto's own **Andrew Burashko**. **Tchaikovsky**, Dvorak's contemporary, will be represented by his heartfelt **Piano Concerto No. 1** played by 24-year old Chinese pianist **Yundi Li** in his **TSO** debut. Of note is the Canadian premiere

of French composer **Guillaume Connesson's Symphonic Dances**, a three-way commission between Denève's Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Miami's New World Symphony and the **TSO**.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL NEW CREATIONS FESTIVAL

"Messiaen is the greatest colourist of the twentieth century." – Peter Oundjian

Born in December 1908, composer and pedagogue **Olivier Messiaen** was one of the most pivotal figures in 20th century music. The Fourth Annual New Creations Festival celebrates the 100th anniversary of Messiaen's birth with three concerts showcasing his works. Messiaen found inspiration in religion and music in the songs of birds. Audiences can listen for at least 40 different birdsongs in **Couleurs de la cité céleste**, **Oiseaux Exotiques**. The **TSO** will also perform **Trois petites liturgies de la Présence Divine** for female chorus and orchestra, and the ten-movement large-scale orchestral work **Turangalîla Symphony**, premiered in 1949 by Leonard Bernstein and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. For these works, the **TSO** welcomes the technically astounding **Marc-André Hamelin** and renowned Messiaen exponent **Peter Serkin**.

A keyboard-lovers heaven, the New Creations Festival will also showcase new works by a variety of composers for the piano, harpsichord, accordion, organ, and the rarely-heard ondes martenot. These include **Malcolm Forsyth's Accordion Concerto** performed by Quartetto Gelato-member **Alexander Sevastian**; **Philip Glass's Harpsichord Concerto** performed by **Anthony Newman**; and **Jeffrey Ryan's Concerto for Piano Trio and Orchestra**, a joint commission with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performed by the Toronto-based **Gryphon Trio**. **Jacques Hétu** will return for his third festival with **Concerto for Organ** performed by Cathedral of Notre-Dame's organist **Olivier Latry** on Roy Thomson Hall's impressive Canadian-built Gabriel Kney pipe organ.

And the **TSO** is thrilled to present the Canadian premiere of **Esa-Pekka Salonen's Piano Concerto** written for the sensational **Yefim Bronfman** who will perform the work in Toronto. A new creation indeed, Bronfman gave its world premiere with the New York Philharmonic just one week ago on February 1!

SEASONAL CONCERTS

The **TSO** continues their sold-out seasonal programming with a concert conceived by Windsor Symphony music director **John Morris Russell** featuring **Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol** narrated by **Scott Coopwood** with music by **Michael Runyan**, and a Christmas sing-along with the **Canadian Children's Opera Chorus**. By popular demand, the **TSO** will continue the recent tradition of hosting special 'extended intermissions' where kids can decorate cookies and participate in other festive activities.

In 07.08, the **TSO** returns to **Handel's** original version for **Toronto's Favourite Messiah!** Baroque music expert Maestro **Nicholas Kraemer** will conduct five performances of the magnificently stirring and relentlessly catchy 265-year-old oratorio from the harpsichord keyboard. Since their first performance of **Messiah** in 1949, the **TSO** has captured the hearts of over 350,000 fans. The tradition continues with **The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir** and soloists soprano **Suzie LeBlanc**, mezzo-soprano **Laura Pudwell**, tenor **Michael Schade**, and baritone **Stephen Morscheck**.

TSO POPS CONCERTS SERIES

Pulling out all the stops, the **TSO** offers another fantastic season of Pops! Grammy Award-winning "Prince of Pops", Maestro **Erich Kunzel**, celebrates his 33rd straight year conducting the **TSO** with two unforgettable concerts. First up is **Symphonic Pops Spectacular** including marches, overtures and anthems from **Verdi**, **John Williams**, **David Foster** and more! Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens, Christmas with the **von Trapp Children** and **Erich Kunzel** will be one of your favourite

things! The **TSO** welcomes the great-grandchildren of Captain Georg von Trapp for an unforgettable holiday concert.

The Pops Concerts Series continues with tributes to two icons featuring vocalists **Judy McLane** and **Steve Lippia**. **Gershwin Galore** features favourite hits from the man who conquered Broadway and the concert hall, **Rhapsody in Blue**, **Someone to Watch Over Me** and **Porgy and Bess**. Ol' Blue Eyes is remembered in **Celebrate Sinatra**, an evening jam-packed with timeless standards including **Come Fly With Me**, **New York, New York** and **That's Life**.

And what would a year of Pops be without the grand finale **Last Night of the Proms!** The engaging **Bramwell Tovey**, music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, will lead the **TSO** in the jovial flag-waving songs **Rule Britannia**, **Jerusalem** and **Land of Hope and Glory**. (For pops-loving snowbirds, the **TSO** has created a special fall-spring Pops series.)

DESJARDINS YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS SERIES

The **TSO's** Young People's Concerts Series, created for audiences ages 5 –12, has introduced generations of children to classical music and the wonders of a live symphony concert, a connection that lasts a lifetime. The 07.08 series offers five affordable outings to spark young musical imaginations. From the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, **Roald Dahl's** feisty **Little Red Riding Hood** is a hilarious twist on the classic tale performed by the actors and puppeteers of Calgary's **Dandi Productions** with music by **Paul Patterson**.

Family-concert conductor and composer par excellence, **Rob Kapilow's** knack for engaging listeners of all ages has earned him the title of the "pied piper of classical music". In **And Furthermore They Bite!**, Kapilow will bring the bumblebee to flight and **Saint-Saëns's Carnival of the Animals** to life!

An alien plot grips Roy Thomson Hall in **Orchestra From Planet X** featuring **Magic Circle Mime Company!** The future of earth music hangs in the balance in a concert that is out of this world.

The talents of the **Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra** will be showcased in **Musical Heroes** with conductor **Alain Trudel**.

The **TSO** is throwing a birthday party for Glenn Gould and kids of all ages are invited! **Happy 75th Birthday Glenn Gould** celebrates the life of the late-legendary pianist who was born in September 1932 and made his debut with the **TSO** at 14 years old.

GREAT PERFORMANCES

Hailed as some of the most talented artists in the world, ever, the **TSO** welcomes violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, pianist **Lang Lang**, and cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** for three blockbuster concerts!

The spellbinding multiple Grammy Award-winning German über-star **Anne-Sophie Mutter** will travel to 13 countries in 2007 including this rare Canadian appearance with the **TSO** and **Maestro Oundjian**. Visually and technically mesmerizing, Mutter will perform **Brahms's Violin Concerto**, one of the largest and most challenging works in the solo violin repertoire. "She played like a goddess when she first hit the headlines at 13, and she plays like one still." – *Andante*

Virtuoso pianist **Lang Lang** has been compared to "a cat with eleven fingers". Part Mozart, part MTV, he has attracted a new generation of classical music fans. One of the supreme talents to emerge in years, **Lang Lang** will perform **Beethoven's** youthful **Piano Concerto No. 1** with **Maestro Oundjian**. Always the showman, Lang Lang will wrap audiences around his dazzlingly dexterous fingers!

Two cello greats, one performing and one conducting, unite on stage for one monumental concert. **Yo-Yo Ma** will perform **Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1** under the baton of **Mstislav Rostropovich**, to whom the concerto was dedicated by the composer.

TSO COMPOSER ADVISOR AND COMPOSER AFFILIATES

"At the TSO, we embrace our role as innovators." – Peter Oundjian

One of Canada's most active composers and conductors, **Gary Kulesha** is the **TSO's** composer advisor. A new music specialist, Kulesha advises Maestro Oundjian on the selection and preparation of contemporary works. As a conductor he has premiered hundreds of pieces and his own **Fireworks and Procession** will be featured in the 2007 New Creations Festival. **The True Colour of the Sky**, premiered by the **TSO** under Jukka-Pekka Saraste in 2000, will also be performed in 07.08 alongside Mahler and Britten.

Shaping the future of Canadian music, Peter Oundjian and the **TSO** appointed two young Composer Affiliates in 2006: **Abigail Richardson** and **Andrew Staniland**. Richardson studied with Chan Ka Nin, Gary Kulesha and Allan Gordon Bell and in addition to the **TSO**, has had works commissioned by the Vancouver and Victoria symphonies, Radio France, Tapestry New Opera Works and New Music Concerts. In May 2007, the **TSO** will present the world premiere of her new work. Between 2002 – 2006, Andrew Staniland won six prizes in the SOCAN young composers competition and among others. Staniland's **TSO** commission, entitled **Gaia**, will receive its world premiere this March in the 2007 New Creations Festival.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

The **TSO** wishes to thank CBC Radio for their ongoing support with the CBC Radio Two Live Series and recordings of **TSO** performances for national broadcast. The **TSO** also acknowledges the Government of Canada through the Canada Council for the Arts, The Government of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the City of Toronto for their ongoing support.

TSO ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Peter Oundjian, Music Director
Sir Andrew Davis, Conductor Laureate
Gary Kulesha, Composer Advisor

TSO 2007.2008 SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

A variety of Toronto Symphony Orchestra subscription packages are available starting at \$73. There are no service charges and GST is included in all prices. For full pricing schedule, refer to pages 40-42 in the 07.08 season brochure or visit www.TSO.ca

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