

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2011**Tickets & Information:** www.bphil.org; 646-397-2765

"The Brooklyn Philharmonic's first season under Alan Pierson is remarkably innovative, perhaps even revolutionary." — Alex Ross, The Rest Is Noise, 8/11/11

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC

Alan Pierson, Artistic Director

opens 2011-12 season with two free preview concerts:

BROOKLYN PHIL & MOS DEF**AT RESTORATION ROCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL****Saturday, October 8 at 8:00 pm**

Featuring performances by the Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players and Mos Def
Music by Mos Def (arr. Derek Bermel) and Frederic Rzewski

WNYC NEW SOUNDS LIVE PRESENTS THE BROOKLYN PHIL**Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm****The Winter Garden at World Financial Center, NYC**

Featuring performances by Mos Def, Mellissa Hughes, Corey Dargel,
Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Music by David T. Little, Lev Zhurbin, Mos Def (arr. Derek Bermel),
Frederic Rzewski, Shape Note Singing

Overview:

Hip hop legend and critically-acclaimed actor Mos Def, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, songstress Mellissa Hughes and other special guests join members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic in two lively samplings of things to come in 2011-12. The programs will feature small ensemble versions of music the full orchestra will play later in the season, including Derek Bermel's arrangements of Mos Def's original songs, 19th century Shape Note singing, and works by contemporary composers David T. Little and Lev Zhurbin.

Details:**Brooklyn Phil & Mos Def at Restoration Rocks Music Festival**

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 8:00 pm (30-minute set)

Bed-Stuy Restoration, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn

Tickets: Free

Featuring:

Mos Def, hip hop artist
Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players; Alan Pierson, conductor

Program:

Bed-Stuy Forever: The Sounds of Mos Def, arr. Derek Bermel (2011)
Frederic Rzewski, *Coming Together* (1972)

This preview concert is hosted by the **Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation** and will feature the first glimpses of collaborations between chamber players from the **Brooklyn Philharmonic** and rapper and actor **Mos Def**. Grammy-nominated composer and clarinetist **Derek Bermel** has arranged the hip hop artist's original songs, including his 2008 single "Life In Marvelous Times."

"Mos Def has always had a unique and powerful voice in hip-hop," explains Bermel. "We've talked about ways that partnering with the Brooklyn Philharmonic can unlock new and creative approaches to timbre and texture." The full collaborations will be presented alongside Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3* and Beethoven remixes with the full orchestra on **June 9, 2012** as part of the **Brooklyn Phil's "Bed-Stuy Series."**

The concert will also include American-born composer **Frederic Rzewski's** *Coming Together* (1972). One of Rzewski's better-known works, the piece is a musical and spoken text setting of the letters by Sam Melville, an inmate who was killed during the Attica State Prison riots in 1971.

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WNYC New Sounds Live presents the Brooklyn Phil

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 7:00 pm

The Winter Garden at the World Financial Center, NYC

Between 225 Liberty Street and 200 Vesey Street

Tickets: Free

Featuring:

Mos Def, hip hop artist
Mellissa Hughes, voice
Corey Dargel, voice
Brooklyn Youth Chorus; Dianne Berkun, director
Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players; Alan Pierson, conductor

Program:

Shape Note Singing
David T. Little, excerpt from *Am I Born* (2011)
Lev Zhurbin, excerpt from *Only Love* (2008)
Corey Dargel: *What Might Have Been* (2011)
Frederic Rzewski, *Coming Together* (1972)
Bed-Stuy Forever: The Sounds of Mos Def, arr. Derek Bermel (2011)

Mos Def and the **Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players** will be joined for the second free preview concert by a collection of artists also set to appear throughout the 2011-12 season. Vocalist **Mellissa Hughes** and the **Brooklyn Youth Chorus**, under the direction of **Dianne**

Berkun, will showcase in partnership with the Brooklyn Phil, an excerpt from their newly co-commissioned work, *Am I Born* by composer **David T. Little**. Little's work has led critic Alex Ross of *The New Yorker* to declare: "every bad-ass new music ensemble in the city will want to play him." The piece is based on Francis Guy's evocative 1820 painting "Winter Scene in Brooklyn," currently on display at the Brooklyn Museum. The world premiere performance of *Am I Born* will take place **March 24 and 25, 2012**, as part of the **Brooklyn Phil's "Downtown Brooklyn Series."** Also being previewed from this March 2012 performance will be songs in the great 19th century American tradition of **shape note singing**.

The Brooklyn Phil will also offer a taste of its opening orchestra concert, ***Russian Cartoon Music*** (on the "**Brighton Beach Series**"), by performing an excerpt from composer **Lev Zhurbin's** score for the award-winning 2008 Russian cartoon *Only Love*. The film, directed by **Lev Polyakov**, takes a tongue-in-cheek look back at the Soviet era. The full performance takes place on **November 3, 2011**.

In addition, this preview concert will feature a special reprise of *What Might Have Been*, a piece composed by the Philharmonic's 2010-11 Composer Fellow **Corey Dargel**, who will perform his own work on the concert.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC

When the first conductor stepped to the podium in Brooklyn in 1857 to launch the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Bizet, Wagner and Berlioz were the strident young voices of new music. De Tocqueville had just departed Brooklyn to warn our European cousins about the mad democratic experiment he'd witnessed in America. Abraham Lincoln's wife hurried to attend the Philharmonic's first concert in Brooklyn's newest music hall. And the people of Brooklyn were, as always, defining what it means to really live in our country.

Now 154 years later, the Brooklyn Phil is not only one of the oldest living orchestras in the New World, but with 166 world premiers under its belt, 65 works commissioned from living composers, and the accolades of 22 ASCAP awards, it's also one of the most adventurous and widely acclaimed musical forces in America as well. The *New York Times* calls it "feisty and provocative." *Rolling Stone* raves the Brooklyn Phil is "vital" and "inspired."

In 2011 newly appointed Artistic Director Alan Pierson rebooted the Philharmonic, taking it on the road deep into Brooklyn's famed neighborhoods to connect with the deep and vibrant musical traditions of the people who love it most.

ALAN PIERSON

"We will become 'Brooklyn's orchestra' like never before."

— Alan Pierson
Artistic Director Brooklyn Philharmonic

Alan Pierson has been praised as "a young conductor of monstrous skill" by *Newsday*, "commanding" by *The New York Times*, and "gifted and electrifying" by *The Boston Globe*.

He is the artistic director and conductor of the acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound which has been called "the future of classical music" by *The New York Times* and "a sensational force" with "powerful ideas about how to renovate the concert experience" by *The New Yorker*. Alan Pierson has appeared as a guest conductor with the London Sinfonietta, the Orchestra of ST. Luke's, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Steve Reich Ensemble, Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW, the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, the New World Symphony, and The Silk Road Project, among other ensembles. He is also Principal Conductor of the Dublin-based Crash Ensemble, and was a visiting faculty conductor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He has collaborated with major composers and performers, including Yo Yo Ma, Steve Reich, Dawn Upshaw, Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, La Monte Young, and choreographers Christopher Wheeldon, Akram Khan and Elliot Feld. He has recorded for Nonesuch Records, Cantaloupe Music, Sony Classical, and Sweetspot DVD.

Alan Pierson grew up in Chicago. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with degrees in Physics and Music, and from the Eastman School of Music with a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting.

LINKS

Read the full Brooklyn Phil 2011-12 Season Announcement at
<http://www.bphil.org/press/bkln-phil-press-2011-12-season-announcement.pdf>

ALAN PIERSON

http://bphil.org/bphilwp/?page_id=12

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC

<http://www.bphil.org>

BED-STUY RESTORATION

<http://www.restorationplaza.org/>

COREY DARGEL

<http://automaticheartbreak.com/>

DAVID T. LITTLE

<http://davidtlittle.com/>

DEREK BERMEL

<http://www.derekbermel.com/>

FREDERIC RZEWSKI

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederic_Rzewski

LEV ZHURBIN

<http://ljova.com/>

MELLISSA HUGHES

<http://mellissahughes.com/>

MOS DEF

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mos_Def

SHAPE NOTE SINGING

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shape_note

WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER

<http://www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com/>

UPCOMING BROOKLYN PHIL EVENTS

in chronological order

The Brighton Beach Series

Family Workshop: CARTOONING & MUSIC MAKING

Sunday, October 23, 10:00 am

Shorefront Y, 3300 Coney Island Avenue

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: Free

The Brighton Beach Series

Chamber Concert: SERGEI DOVLATOV: NOTES OF FREEDOM IN BROOKLYN

Sunday, October 30, 5:00 pm

Shorefront Y, 3300 Coney Island Avenue

Works by Shostakovich, Pärt, Schnittke, Gubaidulina and others

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: \$12

The Brighton Beach Series

Orchestra Concert: RUSSIAN CARTOON MUSIC

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 pm

Millennium Theatre, 1029 Brighton Beach Avenue

Works by Shostakovich, Vainberg, Gladkov, Artyomov, Zhurbin, Beethoven

Films by Kovalevskaya, Tsekhanovsky, Kirakosyan, Golonova, Khitruk, Polyakov

Local actors and singers from the Children's Talent Development Fund

Brooklyn Philharmonic; Alan Pierson, conductor

Tickets: \$10-\$55

Special Event

Recital: BROOKLYN BRIDGE with DEBORAH BUCK

Sunday, January 29, 2:00 pm

Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway

Works by Brahms, Vaughn Williams, Bernstein, Tchaikovsky

Deborah Buck, concertmaster of the Brooklyn Philharmonic

Tickets: \$15, \$10 for Brooklyn Museum members

The Downtown Brooklyn Series

Family Workshop: SHAPE-NOTE SINGALONG

Sunday, February 26, 1:00 pm
Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy, 179 Pacific Street
Tickets: Free

The Downtown Brooklyn Series

Chamber Concert: PHILLIP LOPATE: LIVING IN BROOKLYN

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 pm

Brooklyn Heights Public Library, 280 Cadman Plaza West

Sunday, March 4, 4:00 pm

Dweck Center of Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza

Works by Copland, Bernstein and others

Phillip Lopate, author

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: Free

Special Event

**School Time Concerts: THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT:
A CENTURY OF BLACK MUSIC IN AMERICA**

Tuesday, March 13, 10:15 am & 12:00 pm

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College

2900 Campus Road

Works by Otis Redding, Sam Cooke, William Grant, Duke Ellington

Brooklyn High School of the Arts Choir; Avid Williams, conductor

Brooklyn Philharmonic; Wayne Du Maine, conductor

Tickets: \$6 per student

The Downtown Brooklyn Series

Orchestra Concert: BROOKLYN VILLAGE

Co-presented with the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and Roulette

Saturday, March 24, 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 25, 7:30 pm

Roulette, 3rd Avenue and Atlantic Avenue

World premiere by David T. Little, co-commissioned with the Brooklyn Youth Chorus

World premiere by Sarah Kirkland Snider, commissioned by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Additional works by Sufjan Stevens, Beethoven, Bristow and Britten

Melissa Hughes, voice

Brooklyn Youth Chorus; Dianne Berkun, director

Brooklyn Philharmonic; Alan Pierson, conductor

Ted Sperling, stage director

Royce Vavrek, librettist

Beth Morrison, producer

Tickets: \$20

Special Event

BROOKLYN PHIL: OUTSIDE-IN ANNUAL CONCERT

Wednesday, May 2, 8:00 pm

Galapagos Art Space in DUMBO

World premieres by Tim Fite, Charlie Looker, and Naomi Weiss

(Outside-In Composer Fellows)

Randy Woolf, Composer Mentor

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: \$15

The Bed-Stuy Series

Chamber Concert: TYEHIMBA JESS: SPIRITUALS, RAGS & STRINGS IN BROOKLYN

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 pm

Dweck Center of the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza

Works by H.T. Burleigh, Scott Joplin, Dvorak and others

Tyehimba Jess, poet and performance artist

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: Free

The Bed-Stuy Series

Family Workshop: EMCEE ME

Saturday, June 2, 10:00 am

Restoration Plaza Community Room, 1368 Fulton Street

ReadNex Poetry Squad

Brooklyn Phil Chamber Players

Tickets: Free

The Bed-Stuy Series

Orchestra Concert: MOS DEF, LENA HORNE, AND THE BED-STUY TRADITION

Saturday, June 9, 8:00 pm

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street

Works by Mos Def (arr. Derek Bermel), Cole Porter, Rogers & Hart, Fats Waller, Harold Arlen, plus Beethoven and the Beethoven Remix Project

Mos Def, hip hop artist

Leslie Uggams, voice

student string players from the Noel Pointer Foundation

Brooklyn Philharmonic; Alan Pierson and Linda Twine, conductors

Tickets: Free

For tickets, the public should call the Brooklyn Phil Box Office at 646-397-2765,
M-F, 12-6 pm or visit www.bphil.org.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212-206-1450; a@alebagartner.com

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