

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS STRAUSS' *DON JUAN*



**SUSANNA MÄLKKI CONDUCTS A PROGRAM FEATURING
STRAUSS' *DEATH AND TRANSFIGURATION* AND
MESSIAEN'S *LES OFFRANDES OUBLIÉES*
JEAN-EFFLAM BAVOUZET PERFORMS DEBUSSY'S FANTASIE
NJSO HOSTS 'FRIDAY NIGHT OUT' LGBT EVENT ON APRIL 5**

**FRI, APR 5 IN NEWARK
SAT, APR 6 IN NEW BRUNSWICK
SUN, APR 7 IN MORRISTOWN**

NEWARK, NJ (February 28, 2013)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents Strauss' *Don Juan* and *Tod und Verklärung (Death and Transfiguration)* April 5–7 in Newark, New Brunswick and Morristown. Highly regarded conductor **Susanna Mälkki** leads the Orchestra in a program that also features Messiaen's *Les offrandes oubliées (The Forgotten Offerings)*; pianist **Jean-Efflam Bavouzet** joins the NJSO for Debussy's *Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra*.

Of the two Strauss tone poems, Music Director Jacques Lacombe says: "*Don Juan* is a very flashy and tragic work. [When Strauss composed] *Death and Transfiguration*, he was a young man, but I find the piece to be his most moving, most sincere work. There is a sense of the spirit of his life and his ambition, but there is also something really profound that speaks to the soul."

Debussy's only piano concerto, *Fantasie for Piano and Orchestra*, features pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. "Jean-Efflam and I have been friends for many years," Lacombe says. "I worked with him in Metz, France, and I have wanted to introduce him to New Jersey. He has had an amazing international career, and he is a champion of French and 20th-century music. I am excited to welcome the wonderful Susanna Mälkki to lead this program."

Performances take place on Friday, April 5, (8 pm) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark; Saturday, April 6, (8 pm) at the State Theatre in New Brunswick and Sunday, April 7, (3 pm) at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown. A Classical Conversation begins one hour before the performance on April 5 in Newark.

The Orchestra's April 5 concert at NJPAC is a "**Friday Night Out**" **LGBT event**; the NJSO will host a post-concert champagne and dessert reception—set to the jazz-age sounds of the Michael Arenella Trio—for ticketholders who are LGBT community members and friends.

TICKETS

Tickets start at \$20 and are available for purchase online at www.njsymphony.org or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). To reserve a space for the Friday Night Out LGBT reception on April 5, enter the promotion code FRIDAYOUT when purchasing online or mention FRIDAYOUT to a ticketing representative over the phone.

THE PROGRAM

DON JUAN

Friday, April 5 at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark +

Saturday, April 6 at 8 pm | State Theatre in New Brunswick

Sunday, April 7 at 3 pm | Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morristown

Susanna Mälkki, conductor

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, piano

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

STRAUSS *Don Juan*

DEBUSSY *Fantasie for Piano and Orchestra*

MESSIAEN *Les offrandes oubliées (The Forgotten Offerings)*

STRAUSS *Tod und Verklärung (Death and Transfiguration)*

+ *Classical Conversation begins one hour prior to the performance (free to ticketholders).*

THE ARTISTS

Susanna Mälkki, conductor

A much sought-after conductor, Susanna Mälkki's versatility and broad repertoire have taken her to symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras, contemporary music ensembles and opera houses worldwide. She is Music Director of the Ensemble intercontemporain and was previously Artistic Director of the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra.

Highlights include appearances with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and the Chicago, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, Swedish Radio and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestras. She conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra, with whom she works regularly, at the 2012 BBC Proms.

This season, Mälkki works with the ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, SWR Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden und Freiburg, Detroit and New World Symphony Orchestras and Tampere, Los Angeles and Netherlands Radio Philharmonics.

In 2011, she made her debut at La Scala in Milan—the first woman to do so in the opera house’s history—and returns in 2014. Opera highlights include Saariaho’s *L’Amour de Loin* at Finnish National Opera and the world premieres of a Bruno Mantovani ballet at Opéra national de Paris and Marco Stroppa’s *Re Orso* at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

A former student at the Sibelius Academy, she previously had a career as a cellist—from 1995 to 1998 she was one of the principals of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. In 2010, she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London; she is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. In 2011, Mälkki was awarded the Pro Finlandia Medal of the Order of the Lion of Finland.

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, piano

Pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet was named Artist of the Year at the 2012 International Classical Music Awards. Recent highlights include an appearance at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York; a BBC Prom with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and engagements with the Boston, Tivoli, NHK and Kyoto Symphony Orchestras; Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin; Budapest Festival Orchestra and Orchestra National de Lyon.

This season, he appears with the San Francisco, Montreal, Dallas and Sydney Symphony Orchestras; Hungarian National and Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestras; Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de São Paulo.

An active recitalist, Bavouzet regularly performs at Wigmore Hall, the Cheltenham Festival, La Roque d’Anthéron and the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, where he recently received the annual Classical Elites Beijing Instrumental Recital of the Year award. This season, he performs at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Moscow Conservatoire and Schwetzingen Festspiele, among others.

Bavouzet has won Gramophone awards for his recording of Debussy and Ravel concertos with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and for his fourth volume of Debussy’s Complete Works for Piano. His recordings have earned him two *BBC Music Magazine* awards, a Diapason d’Or and Choc de l’année. *Gramophone* nominated Bavouzet one of their 2012 Artists of the Year.

The former Paris Conservatoire student was invited by Sir George Solti to appear with the Orchestre de Paris in 1995 and is widely considered the Maestro’s last discovery. He won first prize in the International Beethoven Competition in Cologne, as well as the 1986 Young Concert Artists Auditions in New York. He is Artistic Director of the Lofoten Piano Festival in Norway.

For high-resolution artist photos, full bios and program notes, visit www.njsymphony.org/pressroom.

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the country’s finest musicians. The Orchestra is proud to have Jacques Lacombe as its Music Director. Artistic excellence, innovative programming and community engagement are hallmarks of its mission. To best serve the people of New Jersey, the orchestra brings its programs to seven outstanding venues throughout the state. Education and community engagement programs enrich the listening experience for children and adults alike. Select performances of the NJSO are broadcast regionally and throughout North America.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra’s website.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s programs are made possible in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

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