

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS BRAHMS' FIRST SYMPHONY



**ANTHONY MCGILL PERFORMS DANIELPOUR'S CLARINET CONCERTO—
AN NJSO CO-COMMISSION INSPIRED BY MLK**

NJSO HOSTS 'SATURDAY NIGHT OUT' LGBT EVENT ON MAY 3

MUSIC DIRECTOR JACQUES LACOMBE CONDUCTS

**Thu, May 1, at bergenPAC in Englewood
Fri, May 2, at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, May 3, at NJPAC in Newark
Sun, May 4, at NJPAC in Newark**

NEWARK, NJ (March 28, 2014)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Jacques Lacombe present Brahms' First Symphony in concerts May 1–4 in Englewood, Princeton and Newark. Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Principal Clarinet Anthony McGill joins the Orchestra for Richard Danielpour's Clarinet Concerto, an NJSO co-commission written for McGill. On Saturday, May 3, the NJSO hosts Saturday Night Out—a post-concert champagne and dessert reception for ticketholders who are LGBT community members and friends—at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark.

Performances take place on Thursday, May 1, (7:30 pm) at bergenPAC in Englewood; Friday, May 2, (8 pm) at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton and Saturday, May 3, (8 pm) and Sunday, May 4, (3 pm) at NJPAC in Newark. Classical Conversations about the music on the program begin one hour before each performance.

The program opens with Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3; Lacombe highlights the connection between the composer and Brahms, whose first symphony closes the program. "Brahms was one of the most important and respected German composers ever, yet he admired and respected Beethoven's symphonies so much that he took 20 years to write and find the courage to publish his own first symphony," the music director says. "Brahms had felt for a

long time that no one could ever write a symphony [that would match] Beethoven's Ninth. It's fascinating to see [Beethoven's influence] in all of Brahms' symphonies; Brahms respected Beethoven's symphonic conventions to the dot, but he creates [his own] powerful world."

The Orchestra's New Jersey premiere of Danielpour's Clarinet Concerto, which was written specifically for McGill and co-commissioned by the NJSO with Orchestra 2001 and the Kansas City Symphony, ties this program to the NJSO's 2013–14 season opening concerts. "Danielpour is one of my favorite American composers, and this concerto is inspired by Martin Luther King, connecting with one of the themes we have explored this season," Lacombe says. "When I thought about that I also thought of including the *Leonore* Overture because it is an expression of freedom from repression.

"Whenever I think of the *Leonore* Overture, I think of the reopening of the Vienna State Opera after the Second World War," the music director says. "When you hear this music, you get this feeling of freedom, of finally being safe and in a free world—it must have been incredibly moving for the people in the concert hall after living through the horrors of World War II. To combine this work with a piece dedicated to Martin Luther King is very engaging and meaningful."

The Saturday Night Out event on May 3 is free for ticketholders; advance registration is required. More information is available at www.njsymphony.org/lgbt.

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 Saturday Night Out LGBT reception on May 3, enter the promotion code SATURDAYOUT when purchasing online or mention SATURDAYOUT to a ticketing representative when purchasing by phone.

THE PROGRAM

Brahms' First Symphony

Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 pm | bergenPAC in Englewood +
Friday, May 2, at 8 pm | Richardson Auditorium in Princeton +
Saturday, May 3, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark +
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Jacques Lacombe, conductor
Anthony McGill, clarinet
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

BEETHOVEN *Leonore* Overture No. 3
DANIELPOUR Clarinet Concerto
BRAHMS Symphony No. 1

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

Novo Nordisk sponsors the Princeton Series; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is concert sponsor of the May 1 and 3 performances. The Prudential Foundation is a Saturday Night Out sponsor.

Additional program information is available at www.njsymphony.org/events/detail/music-of-the-masters-beethoven-brahms.

THE ARTISTS

Jacques Lacombe, conductor

A remarkable conductor whose artistic integrity and rapport with orchestras have propelled him to international stature, Jacques Lacombe has been Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra since 2010 and Orchestre

Symphonique de Trois-Rivières since 2006. He was previously Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and Music Director of orchestra and opera with the Philharmonie de Lorraine.

Lacombe has garnered critical praise for his creative programming and leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra's acclaimed "Man & Nature" Winter Festivals have featured innovative programs, including a realization of Scriabin's "color organ." He created the New Jersey Roots Project, presenting music by New Jersey composers. *The New York Times* wrote, "It was an honor to be in the hall" for Lacombe and the NJSO's performance at the 2012 Spring for Music Festival at Carnegie Hall.

This season, Lacombe's NJSO highlights include the world premieres of an NJSO commission by Geri Allen and a new work by Lowell Liebermann and the U.S. premiere of Tan Dun's Earth Concerto. He conducts the Montréal, Québec and Columbus Symphony Orchestras, returns to the Opéra de Monte-Carlo for *La Favorite* with tenor Juan Diego Florez and leads Chausson's *Le roi Arthur* in Strasbourg.

He has appeared with the Cincinnati, Toronto, Vancouver and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras and National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa. He is a frequent guest conductor in France, Spain and Australia and has led tours and recordings with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada.

Opera highlights include all-star productions of *La bohème* and *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, numerous productions with the Deutsche Oper Berlin and engagements with the Metropolitan Opera and opera houses in Marseille and Turin. He has recorded for the CPO and Analekta labels; he has recorded Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Janáček's Suite from *The Cunning Little Vixen* with the NJSO. His performances have been broadcast on PBS, the CBC, Mezzo TV and Arte TV, among others.

Born in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Lacombe attended the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal and Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. He was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec in 2012 and a Member of the Order of Canada in 2013—among the highest civilian honors in the country.

Anthony McGill, clarinet

Principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 2004, Anthony McGill has been recognized as one of the classical music world's finest solo, chamber and orchestral musicians. He has appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra and New York String Orchestra, all at Carnegie Hall. Other recent performances have been with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Memphis Symphony, Orchestra 2001 and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, McGill has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Asia with such quartets as the Guarneri, Tokyo, Brentano, Pacifica, Shanghai, Miro and Daedalus; with Musicians from Marlboro and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; and on such series as the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and the University of Chicago Presents. Festival appearances include Tanglewood, Marlboro, Mainly Mozart, Music@Menlo and Santa Fe Chamber Music, among others.

McGill has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida and Lang Lang, and, on January 20, 2009, performed with Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

He has appeared on "Performance Today," MPR's "St. Paul Sunday Morning" and "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." In 2013 with his brother Demarre, he appeared on "NBC Nightly News," the "Steve Harvey" show and on MSNBC with Melissa Harris-Perry.

In demand as a teacher, McGill serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School, Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Bard College Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music, and has given master classes throughout the United States, Europe and South Africa. For additional information, visit www.anthonymcgill.com.

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra’s superb musicians.

Under the bold leadership of Music Director Jacques Lacombe, the NJSO presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra’s statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include the three-ensemble Greater Newark Youth Orchestras, school-time Concerts for Young People performances and multiple initiatives that provide and promote in-school instrumental instruction. The NJSO’s Resources for Education and Community Harmony (REACH) chamber music program annually brings original programs—designed and performed by NJSO musicians—to a variety of settings, reaching as many as 17,000 people in nearly all of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

For more information about the NJSO, 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, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors. United is the official airline of the NJSO.

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