



Celebrity Series of Boston
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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Presents

**European Union Youth Orchestra
with Vladimir Ashkenazy, conductor
and Yefim Bronfman, piano soloist
on Friday, April 20th at 8pm
at Symphony Hall**

Three New England Conservatory students to perform with the ensemble

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **European Union Youth Orchestra with conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy and piano soloist Yefim Bronfman** in a program of Copland, Liszt and Richard Strauss, on Friday, April 20, 2011 at 8pm at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. This performance is sponsored by The D.L Saunders Companies & The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC.

Tickets for the European Union Youth Orchestra with conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy and piano soloist Yefim Bronfman start at \$47, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., or at the Symphony Hall box office, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston.

This is the twentieth performance with the **Celebrity Series of Boston** for Vladimir Ashkenazy and the seventh appearance for Yefim Bronfman. This marks the **Celebrity Series of Boston** debut for the EUYO.

The **European Union Youth Orchestra** is one of the world's most prestigious and dynamic orchestras. It unites Europe's most talented young musicians from all 27 EU countries, under some of the world's most famous conductors, in an orchestra which transcends cultural boundaries and performs all over the world. The level demanded of the players, combined with the renowned musical leadership of its conductors, has won the EUYO an outstanding musical and educational reputation and regular comparisons to the world's finest orchestras.

The European Community Youth Orchestra (later to become the European Union Youth Orchestra) was founded in 1976 by the late Lionel Bryer and Joy Bryer, respectively the Chairman and Secretary General of the International Youth Foundation of Great Britain, with a view of creating an orchestra which would represent the European ideal of a community working together to achieve peace and social understanding. At the same time it was also designed to provide an invaluable professional development experience for young orchestral musicians.

Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy first came to prominence on the world stage in the 1955 Chopin Competition in Warsaw, and has since built an extraordinary career, not only as one of the most renowned and revered pianists of our times, but also as conductor of some of the most revered orchestras in the world, including the Czech Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, and the European Union Youth Orchestra, with which he tours every year.

(more)

Pianist Yefim Bronfman is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. His commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide, whether for his solo recitals, his prestigious orchestral engagements, or his rapidly growing catalogue of recordings. Widely praised for his solo, chamber and orchestral recordings he was awarded a Grammy® in 1997 for his recording of the three Bartók Piano Concerti with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His discography also includes the complete Prokofiev Piano Sonatas, all five of the Prokofiev Piano Concerti, nominated for both Grammy® and Gramophone Awards, and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 3.

The performance will also feature **three students from the New England Conservatory** who will join the European Union Youth Orchestra on stage.

Cellist Dahae Kim grew up in Rockland County, New York. She earned a Bachelor's degree at the New England Conservatory on a four year full scholarship under the tutelage of Laurence Lesser, where she was a recipient of the Piatigorsky Scholarship Award. Currently, she is studying with Paul Katz to earn a Masters of Music degree. She was awarded first prize at the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Strings Competition and also received awards at the Connecticut Music Competition and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

Violist Wenting Kang was born in China, and attended the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. She is currently studying with Garth Knox and Kim Kashkashian for her Master of Music degree at New England Conservatory. She has won first place in the 5th August Dombrovski International Competition, first prize and special awards in the 1st China Viola National-Festival Competition, the third prize in the 17th Johannes Brahms International Competition, and Robertson prize in the 13th Primrose International Viola Competition.

Violinist Rhiannon Banerdt made her solo debut at age 14 with the New England Youth Ensemble in South Africa. She has since given solo and chamber music performances at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, New York's Weill Hall at Carnegie, and Boston's Jordan Hall. A former member of the Amethyst Piano Trio, Ms. Banerdt was selected for the semifinals of the 2006 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the same year was awarded first prize in the International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition. Rhiannon received her Bachelor's degree from New England Conservatory and is currently pursuing graduate studies there with Paul Biss.

The program for this performance is as follows:

Copland

An Outdoor Overture

Liszt

Piano Concerto No. 2

Richard Strauss

An Alpine Symphony

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 73rd season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program, the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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