

February 24, 2009
For Immediate Release:

Orquestra de São Paulo
Taps Dynamic Young American Conductor,
Kazem Abdullah,
To replace departing conductor
For 2009 United States Tour

When the internationally renowned Orquestra de São Paulo, one of Brazil's most celebrated classical musical ensembles, returns to the United States in October 2009, for the orchestra's third coast-to-coast tour, the orchestra will begin a collaboration with one of the most important young rising star conductors in the United States, twenty-nine year old Kazem Abdullah.

The opportunity for the Orquestra de São Paulo and Kazem Abdullah to join forces resulted from the recent sudden departure of the orchestra's long-standing music director, John Neschling.

With the orchestra's season opening in March 2009, it was necessary to quickly fill the important opening, and the orchestra's board announced that on very short notice distinguished French conductor, Yan Pascal Tortelier would be able to step in as Principal Conductor.

However, since Maestro Tortelier's pre-existing conducting obligations conflicted with Orquestra de São Paulo's US tour plan, it became necessary for the orchestra to identify a uniquely talented conductor to lead the orchestra in the United States and Kazem Abdullah has been selected by the orchestra to undertake this exciting project.

Maestro Kazem Abdullah is quickly becoming one of the most watched young American conductors on the scene today. Mr. Abdullah's January 28, 2009, Metropolitan Opera debut performance of Gluck's Orfeo prompted The New York Times to write,

"...the conductor Kazem Abdullah, in his Met debut, who took over for James Levine...conducted a confident performance, especially during the lively dances, and was impressively responsive to the singers during their long stretches of orchestra-accompanied recitative, which must flow with a combination of urgency and flexibility."



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Other highlights of Mr. Abdullah's Winter 2009 conducting schedule include a project with the New World Symphony and his subscription concert debut with the Indianapolis Symphony.

Mr. Abdullah has quickly established that he is a young American conductor on the rise, and his selection as conductor of the Orquestra de São Paulo for this United States tour will undoubtedly produce exciting and dynamic musical results.

In keeping with the rich musical traditions of Brazil, Orquestra de São Paulo's United States tour will feature works of well-known Brazilian classical composers such as Heitor Villa-Lobos and Camargo Guarnieri as well as works of Maurice Ravel, Béla Bartók and Johannes Brahms.

But one of the musical highlights of the tour will certainly be the world premier performances of a new percussion concerto by Brazilian composer, Marlos Nobre, which the Orquestra de São Paulo has commissioned for the extraordinary percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie.

Dame Evelyn Glennie is the first person in musical history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist. As one of the most eclectic and innovative musicians on the scene today she is constantly redefining the goals and expectations of percussion. By combining superb technique, a profound appreciation of the visual and her astonishing musicality, Evelyn creates performances of such vitality that they almost constitute a new type of performance.

Evelyn gives more than 100 performances a year worldwide, performing with the greatest conductors, orchestras, and artists. For the first ten years of her career, virtually every performance she gave was in some way a first - the first time an orchestra had performed with a percussion soloist, the first solo percussion performance at a venue or festival, or the world premiere of a new piece. Her diversity of collaborations have included performances with artists such as Nana Vasconcelos, Kodo, Béla Fleck, Björk, Bobby McFerrin, Emanuel Ax, Sting, The King's Singers, Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Fred Frith.



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She has commissioned one hundred and fifty new works for solo percussion from many of the world's most eminent composers and also composes and records music for film and television. Her first high quality drama produced a score so original she was nominated for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards (BAFTA's); the UK equivalent of the Oscars.

Evelyn's recording career has been as illustrious as her performing and composing career. Her first CD, a recording of Bartók's Sonata for two Pianos and Percussion, won her a Grammy in 1988. A further two Grammy nominations followed, one of which she won in 2002 for a collaboration with Béla Fleck for Sony Classical. Evelyn's twelfth solo CD, Shadow Behind the Iron Sun (BMG Records), was based on a radical concept and has once again questioned people's expectations. Despite working a relentless schedule, she is in constant demand to release new recordings - twenty five so far.

For more information, please contact Tim Fox at Columbia Artists Management LLC – 212-841-9571.

Information on Orquestra de São Paulo -
<http://www.cami.com/?cat=Orchestral&webid=365>

