



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 4, 2010

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### **Star Pianist Yefim Bronfman to Join Albany Symphony in September 11<sup>th</sup> Performance Star Highlights Opening Night of 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

(ALBANY, NY) - The Albany Symphony will open its landmark 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Carnegie Hall season with one of the world's greatest living pianists and audience-favorite, Yefim Bronfman, for a touching, beautiful program on September 11, 2010 that includes Prokofiev, Brahms, and an evocative, soulful work by the orchestra's resident-composer Derek Bermel. The concert will be held at 7:30PM at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Tickets will be on-sale to the public beginning Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10AM.

The Grammy Award-winning pianist **Yefim Bronfman** is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuosos 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. Bronfman will perform Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2, which is described by Music Director David Alan Miller as one of the most "bone-crunchingly" virtuosic concertos played today. Also on the concert will be Brahms' majestic Third Symphony Third Symphony, and Derek Bermel's *A Shout, A Whisper, and a Trace*, a tribute to his adopted home of New York, and was further inspired by letters composer Béla Bartók wrote at the end of his life.

Described by the Toronto Star as an "eclectic with wide open ears" and by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as "one of America's finest young composers", composer and clarinetist **Derek Bermel** has been widely hailed for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity. Bermel's works draw from a rich variety of musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop, rock, blues, folk, and gospel. Bermel joins the orchestra throughout this season as its resident "Composer Educator Partner" through the orchestra's *Composer to Center Stage* program, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, now in its second year. For the current season, Bermel will be commissioned to write a new work on the orchestra's May American Music Festival Concert, as well as working on a yearlong, interdisciplinary project involving music, composition, and the orchestra within the Enlarged City School District of Troy.

The 2010-2011 season marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Albany Symphony, and one where it is being recognized for its steadfast commitment to new music, living composers, and innovative programming at the inaugural Spring for Music Festival, held at New York's Carnegie Hall. The appearance at the famous concert hall will be the first for the orchestra in its history. The symphony continues to invite supporters from around the area to join in the celebration of the orchestra's landmark year, and participate in an extraordinary musical journey by becoming part of the orchestra's extended family through subscribing. For more information on subscribing, or to place an order, please visit [www.albanysymphony.com](http://www.albanysymphony.com) or call (518) 465-4755.

Pre-performance talks with Yefim Bronfman, David Alan Miller, and Derek Bermel will take place on Friday, September 10, 12:00pm at the Albany Public Library (161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY), and Saturday, September 11, 5:15pm from the stage of the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. More information about the performances, subscriptions, or featured artists and/or composers can be found at the Albany Symphony's website at [www.AlbanySymphony.com](http://www.AlbanySymphony.com), or by calling (518) 465-4755.

**The Albany Symphony Orchestra presents: "Bronfman Plays Prokofiev"**

**When:** Saturday, September 11, 2010, 7:30PM

**Where:** Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 30 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Troy NY 12180

Tickets for the performance can be purchased at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, by calling (518) 273-0038. \$19-\$54, \$15 Students

**About the ASO**

The Albany Symphony is one of this region's most revered music and cultural institutions, having won numerous national awards for its adventurous concert programming, recording projects, composer residencies, and innovative educational efforts involving area schools throughout the region. As the only professional symphony orchestra based within the Capital Region, the Albany Symphony enriches a broad and diverse regional community, engaging over 150,000 people each year across an extended geographical area. After reviewing the Albany Symphony's recent 2009 recording of music by resident composer George Tsontakis, American Record Guide proclaimed: "The Albany Symphony is now one of the country's great orchestras."

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