FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2013
CONTACT: Wayne Wilkins, Director of Marketing & Communications  401.248.7024 / wwilkins@riphil.org

RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC PRESENTS MAHLER’S RESURRECTION
SEASON FINALE SATURDAY MAY 4 AT 8:00PM
Open Rehearsal Friday May 3 at 5:30pm

April 15, 2013 – East Providence, RI – The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra’s 2012-13 season reaches a glorious finale on May 4, with a performance of Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony at The Vets, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence. Music Director LARRY RACHLEFF and the Philharmonic welcome soprano ILANA DAVIDSON, mezzo soprano SUSAN PLATTS, and the PROVIDENCE SINGERS (BETSY BURLEIGH, Artistic Director) in a performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 in C minor (Resurrection).

Ilana Davidson will make her debut with the Philharmonic, while Susan Platts returns after her memorable performance in Mahler’s Third Symphony in 2011. Resident Conductor FRANCISCO NOYA will present an informal talk about the program in the auditorium before the concert from 7:00-7:25.

WPRO News Talk 630 is the media sponsor for the season. Tickets ($15-100) are available at www.riphil.org, the RIPO box office at 401.248.7000. An open rehearsal will be held Friday May 3 at 5:30pm, with tickets at just $12.

“The program will put more people on stage at Vets than one can imagine,” said Music Director LARRY RACHLEFF. “100 singers in the chorus, two soloists, and 90 musicians in the orchestra and two off-stage bands – can you believe it!—all of this from the remarkable imagination of Gustav Mahler. This is a glorious spiritual masterpiece with riveting power and incisive strength. Please join us as we close our season with Mahler’s enormous, majestic, moving Resurrection Symphony.”

ILANA DAVIDSON brings a crystalline soprano, superlative musicality and interpretive insight to repertoire spanning the 12th to the 21st centuries. Her performance of Bolcom’s Songs of Innocence and of Experience with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony at Carnegie Hall won four Grammy Awards including Best Classical Album in 2006. She has performed Mahler’s Second Symphony with Benjamin Zander and the Boston Philharmonic. She made her Avery Fisher Hall debut in Carl Orff’s Trionfo di Afrodite with Leon Botstein and the American Symphony Orchestra and has sung Carmina Burana with the Houston, Edmonton, Reading, Alabama and Toledo Symphonies. She has appeared at the Monadnock, Bard, Berkshire Choral and Staunton Music Festivals. She has sung the Fauré Requiem with the Charlotte Symphony, J.S. Bach’s Weihnachtsoratorium and the solo cantata Jauchzet Gott with Allen Landen with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and Handel’s Messiah with the Pacific, Ann Arbor, Alabama, Nashville Symphonies and National Philharmonic. Ms. Davidson graduated from Curtis
Institute and was a vocal fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and a participant in the Aston Magna Early Music Academy.

British-born Canadian mezzo-soprano SUSAN PLATTS brings a uniquely rich and wide-ranging voice to concert and recital repertoire for alto and mezzo-soprano. At the age of 16 she began studying with voice teachers in Canada and France, and she attended Salzburg’s Summer Academy of Fine Arts in 1992 and 1994. She is now considered one of Canada’s finest young vocalists. She has earned plaudits for her magnificent voice, assured musicality and remarkable vocal range. In 2004, as part of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, world-renowned soprano Jessye Norman chose Ms. Platts from 26 candidates worldwide to be her protégée. Ms. Platts has appeared with the major orchestras in North America including Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Houston, Toronto, Montreal, Milwaukee, Vancouver and Cleveland. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and La Scala and with the Los Angeles and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestras. She has collaborated with conductors including Roberto Abbado, Christoph Eschenbach, Sir Andrew Davis, Bramwell Tovey, Jane Glover, Helmuth Rilling and Itzhak Perlman.

THE PROVIDENCE SINGERS celebrates the choral art through concerts of masterworks and contemporary works, creative collaborations, recordings of American choral treasures, new music commissions and education programs. Led by artistic director BETSY BURLEIGH, the Providence Singers presents an annual concert series and performs regularly with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. A guest appearance with Dave Brubeck at the 2004 Newport Jazz Festival was hailed by Mr. Brubeck as “the best performance yet” of his cantata, Gates of Justice. At the composer’s invitation, the Providence Singers premiered The Commandments and reprised Gates at Lincoln Center in 2005. Other collaborators include the Kronos Quartet at the FirstWorks Festival, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the New Haven Symphony, New Bedford Symphony, the Aurea Ensemble and Boston Landmarks Orchestra. The National Endowment for the Arts selected the Providence Singers to host one of seven American Masterpieces Choral Festivals in 2007. With additional NEA support, the Singers’ recording of Lukas Foss’s cantata The Prairie was released on the BMOP/sound label in November 2008 and acclaimed by the American Record Guide as “a beautiful work, excellently performed.” The chorus’s second CD, a recording of Pulitzer-winning composer Dominick Argento’s Jonah and the Whale, was released in 2010. The Providence Singers commissions new choral works with support of its Wachner Fund for New Music, fosters community education through vocal workshops and concert discussions, and supports emerging talent through its Fassett Fellowships, Junior Providence Singers and Young Men’s Choral Festival.
Ilana Davidson, soprano

This is a low-resolution thumbnail!
Click here to download the high-resolution version of this photo.

Susan Platts, mezzo soprano

This is a low-resolution thumbnail!
Click here to download the high-resolution version of this photo.

Betsy Burleigh, Providence Singers Artistic Director

This is a low-resolution thumbnail!
Click here to download the high-resolution version of this photo.

The Providence Singers

This is a low-resolution thumbnail!
Click here to download the high-resolution version of this photo.
AT A GLANCE: SEASON FINALE, MAY 4

RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC: MAHLER’S RESURRECTION SYMPHONY

Larry Rachleff, conductor
Ilana Davidson, soprano
Susan Platts, mezzo soprano
The Providence Singers, Betsy Burleigh, artistic director

MAHLER Symphony No. 2 in C minor (Resurrection)

Saturday May 4, 8:00pm at The Vets, Providence

An open rehearsal will be held Friday May 3 at 5:30pm.

SEASON MEDIA SPONSOR: WPRO News Talk 630

TICKETS: $15 to $100, with discounts for students and groups in selected sections

- Buy online: riphil.org/tickets, 24/7
- Buy by phone: Philharmonic box office: 401.248.7000; Monday-Friday 9-4:30
- Buy in person: Philharmonic box office, Carter Center, 667 Waterman Street, East Providence: Monday-Friday 9-4:30 OR Vets box office, Avenue of the Arts, Providence: Friday 2-5:30pm; Saturday 3:30-8pm

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: stories behind the music

Mahler speaks! The symphony premiered in 1895, when the composer was 35 years old. In his own words: “The first movement depicts the titanic struggles of a mighty being still caught in the toils of this world; grappling with life and with the fate to which he must succumb — his death.

“The second and third movements are episodes from the life of the fallen hero. The Andante tells of love. [In the Scherzo] you must imagine that to one who has lost his identity and his happiness, the world looks like this — distorted and crazy, as if reflected in a concave mirror. The Scherzo ends with the appalling shriek of this tortured soul.

“[In the brief “Primal Light” fourth movement, the alto solo] represents the soul’s striving and questioning attitude toward God and its own immortality.

“[The finale] begins with the death-shriek of the Scherzo. And now the resolution of the terrible problem of life — redemption. . . . The earth trembles. Just listen to the drum-roll, and your hair will stand on end! The Last Trump sounds; the graves spring open, and all creation comes writhing out of the bowels of the earth, with wailing and gnashing of teeth. . . . Breaking in again and again — as if from another world — the Last Trump sounds from the Beyond. At last . . . nothing is heard but the long drawn-out call of the Bird of Death above the last grave — finally that, too, fades away. [After the soloists and chorus join the orchestra for the conclusion] the increasing tension, working up to the final climax, is so tremendous that I don't know myself, now that it is over, how I ever came to write it.”
ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School is the largest fully integrated orchestra and music school in the United States. Our mission is to enrich and transform Rhode Island and our region through great music performance and education.

2012-2013 is the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra's 68th Season, Music Director Larry Rachleff’s 17th with the Orchestra. The season includes an eight-concert Classical Series with a roster of world-renowned guest artists that includes pianists Jeffrey Kahane and Adam Golka, violinists Augustin Hadelich and Karen Gomyo, cellist Wendy Warner, soprano Ilana Davidson, mezzo sopranos Susan Lorette Dunn and Susan Platts and guest conductor Grant Llewellyn. Our Amica Rush Hour Series offers an early start time -- 6:30pm -- on four Fridays. These shorter, informal, accessible classical concerts feature repertoire from the Saturday Classical concerts. Our four Open Rehearsals offer audience members insight into the collaboration between the conductor, guest artists and orchestra musicians as they prepare for the upcoming classical concert. Special events include the perennial holiday favorite Handel’s Messiah with the Providence Singers. Resident Conductor Francisco Noya conducts our Education Concerts and our Summer Pops Concerts.

Now in its 25th year, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School serves approximately 1,500 children, youth and adults every week with lessons, classes, ensembles and community partnership programs, and an additional 13,000 students annually through partnerships, residencies, education concerts and in-school performances. Ensembles include five youth orchestras, two wind ensembles, eleven jazz ensembles and many chamber music ensembles and the RI Philharmonic Community Orchestra for adults. Information about classes and performances is available at www.riphil.org.

TICKETS AND DISCOUNTS

TICKETS FOR ALL PHILHARMONIC CLASSICAL CONCERTS may be purchased 24/7 on the Philharmonic website: riphil.org/tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the Philharmonic box office at 667 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, by phone (401.248.7000) or in person Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm. On Open Rehearsal and Rush Hour Fridays, ticket sales are also available at The Vets box office, from 2:00pm until showtime. On Saturday concert days, tickets are available onsite at The Vets box office in person from 3:30pm until showtime, or by calling 401.248.7000.

Saturday Classical Series ticket prices range from $15 to $100 for adults with discounts in selected areas of the hall for full-time students and groups of 10 or more. Tickets for Rush Hour Concerts are $15-$48, and Open Dress Rehearsals are $12. Student rush: On Saturdays at 7:30pm, if there are tickets remaining, a full-time student presenting a valid student ID may buy one ticket for $12.

There is free parking for all Philharmonic concerts at designated lots along Smith Street. The Philharmonic provides a free shuttle bus to and from the parking lots before and after the concerts. Due to construction at the Vets, Park Street is closed between the Providence Place Mall and Avenue of the Arts. Drop-offs for patrons who need assistance can be made by pulling into Avenue of the Arts from Francis Street.
RHODE ISLAND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: 2013-14 CLASSICAL SEASON

1. Opening Weekend: Brahms’ Fourth!

Larry Rachleff, conductor
Jennifer Frautschi, violin
VERDI La forza del destino: Overture
PROKOFIEV Concerto, Violin, No.2, op.63, G minor
BRAHMS Symphony No.4, op.98, E minor
Saturday September 21 at 8:00pm Open Rehearsal: Friday September 20 at 5:30pm

2. The Planets

Michael Christie, guest conductor
Colin Carr, cello
The Women of the Providence Singers
SCHUMANN Concerto, Violoncello, op.129, A minor
HOLST The Planets
Saturday October 19 at 8:00pm AMICA RUSH HOUR performance: Friday October 18 at 6:30pm

3. Cecile Licad plays Rachmaninoff

Larry Rachleff, conductor
Cecile Licad, piano
BARTOK The Miraculous Mandarin, op.19: Suite
RACHMANINOFF Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, op.43
DVORAK Symphony No.7, op.70, D minor
Saturday November 16 at 8:00pm AMICA RUSH HOUR performance: Friday November 15 at 6:30pm

4. Beethoven’s Second

Larry Rachleff, conductor
Jean-Philippe Collard, piano
HINDEMITH Mathis der Maler (Symphony)
RAVEL Concerto, Piano (Left Hand), D major
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.2, op.36, D major
Saturday January 18 at 8:00pm Open Rehearsal: Friday January 17 at 5:30pm

5. Mozart & Mahler

Larry Rachleff, conductor
MOZART Symphony No.38, K.504, D major (Prague)
MAHLER Symphony No.5, C-sharp minor
Saturday February 22 at 8:00pm Open Rehearsal: Friday February 21 at 5:30pm
6. Tchaikovsky's passionate *Pathétique*

Larry Rachleff, conductor  
Philippe Quint, violin  
UDOW *Shattered Mirror Suite*  
STRAVINSKY *Concerto, Violin, D major*  
TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No.6, op.74, TH 30, B minor (Pathétique)*  
**Saturday March 22 at 8:00pm**  
**AMICA RUSH HOUR performance: Friday March 21 at 6:30pm**

7. Levin plays Mozart

Larry Rachleff, conductor  
Robert Levin, piano  
IVES *The Unanswered Question, S.50*  
MOZART *Concerto, Piano, No.20, K.466, D minor*  
SHOSTAKOVICH *Symphony No.5, op.47, D minor*  
**Saturday April 12 at 8:00pm**  
**AMICA RUSH HOUR performance: Friday April 11 at 6:30pm**

8. Season Finale: Beethoven with Alon Goldstein

Larry Rachleff, conductor  
Alon Goldstein, piano  
The Providence Singers  
STRAUSS *Don Juan, TrV 156, op.20*  
BEETHOVEN *Concerto, Piano, No.1, op.15, C major*  
RAVEL *Daphnis et Chloé: Suites 1 & 2*  
**Saturday May 10 at 8:00pm**  
**Open Rehearsal: Friday May 9 at 5:30pm**

All programs and artists are subject to change without notice.