

## Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

presents the final addition to its  
*New Brandenburg* commissioning project

### *Sea Orpheus* by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies



Angela Hewitt © Simon Fowler



Orpheus © Larry Fink at Studio 535



Christopher Taylor © Katrin Talbot

"I know of no musician whose Bach playing on any instrument is of greater subtlety, beauty of tone, persuasiveness of judgment or instrumental command than **Hewitt's** is here."

- *BBC Music Magazine*

On a program featuring pianists

**Angela Hewitt**, performing Bach  
and  
**Christopher Taylor**, performing *Sea Orpheus*

Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8pm  
Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall

"...after two hours at the keyboard, **Taylor** had become a wild man in the thrall of a great vision, seemingly possessed of superhuman powers. Clearly forces beyond the normal were at play."

- *Los Angeles Times*

**New York, NY** - The world-renowned Orpheus Chamber Orchestra continues its 37th season with a concert featuring acclaimed pianists Angela Hewitt and Christopher Taylor on Saturday, February 6 at 8pm. Considered one of the pre-eminent interpreters of Bach today, Angela Hewitt marks her first appearance with Orpheus by performing a Bach masterwork, Concerto for Piano and Strings No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052. The final installment of Orpheus' *New Brandenburg* commissioning project, *Sea Orpheus* by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, will also be featured. Christopher Taylor, known for his passionate advocacy of music written within the last 100 years, serves as piano soloist on this demanding new work. This eclectic concert opens with Stravinsky's "Basel" Concerto and closes with Dvorák's Serenade for Strings, a hallmark of Orpheus' repertoire that showcases their distinct string sound.

This concert marks the culmination of Orpheus' *New Brandenburg* commissioning project, a three-year, six-part project to commission and premiere new works inspired by Bach's "Brandenburg" Concertos. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, ranking among the world's most eminent composers of the day, used Bach's "Brandenburg" No. 5 as inspiration. *Sea Orpheus*, like its Bach counterpart, features three soloists - pianist Christopher Taylor will be joined by Orpheus musicians Elizabeth Mann on flute and Renée Jolles on violin. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, who will be in attendance at this premiere, is being honored around the world this year with many concerts celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup>-birthday. Four of the other five composers involved in the *New Brandenburg* commissioning project will also be in attendance at this performance.

WQXR will broadcast this performance live from Carnegie Hall, and Orpheus' *New Brandenburg* project will be featured on WQXR during the week of February 1. Re-broadcasts of each of the previous five *New Brandenburgs* are scheduled for that week, leading up to the final performance on February 6.

**More about *The New Brandenburgs...*** *The New Brandenburgs* is Orpheus' groundbreaking commissioning project which involves six composers, each taking one of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos and writing a companion piece inspired by the original. Composers Aaron Jay Kernis and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies contribute their commissioned works to complete this innovative project during Orpheus' 2009-2010 season.

#### The *New Brandenburgs* Commissioning Project

Stephen Hartke - *A Brandenburg Autumn* (2006) - based on Concerto No. 1  
Christopher Theofanidis - *Muse* (2007) - based on Concerto No. 3  
Paul Moravec - *Brandenburg Gate* (2008) - based on Concerto No. 2  
Melinda Wagner - *Little Moonhead* (2009) - based on Concerto No. 4  
Aaron Jay Kernis - *Concerto with Echoes* (2009) - based on Concerto No. 6  
Sir Maxwell Davies - *Sea Orpheus* (2010) - based on Concerto No. 5

**More about Orpheus Chamber Orchestra...** The GRAMMY® Award-winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has invigorated international audiences and critics alike with its superior artistry, energy, and distinctive approach to music-making. Orpheus is committed to illuminating both classic orchestral repertoire and new works by contemporary composers. Over its history, Orpheus has built a legacy through its acclaimed recordings, performances, and collaborations with the world's most dynamic and esteemed soloists. In addition to extensive national and international touring, the orchestra presents an annual concert series at Carnegie Hall and appears regularly at major New York venues.

Orpheus' 2009-2010 season continues its tradition of collaboration with today's leading soloists and composers, including performances with pianist Angela Hewitt, violinists Henning Kraggerud and Ryu Goto, oboist Albrecht Mayer, and cellist Alisa Weilerstein. The orchestra concludes its multi-year *New Brandenburg* commissioning project with premieres by Aaron Jay Kernis and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

The Orpheus recording legacy consists of over 70 albums, including the Grammy® Award-winning *Shadow Dances: Stravinsky Miniatures*. In 2007 Orpheus released a recording of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with Sarah Chang on EMI Classics. Their latest album, with pianist Jonathan Biss, was released in the fall of 2008. Orpheus' extensive catalog includes albums on the Deutsche Grammophon, EMI Classics, Decca, SONY Classical, and Nonesuch labels.

A self-governing organization, Orpheus was founded in 1972 by cellist Julian Fifer and a group of fellow musicians who aspired to perform diverse orchestral repertoire using chamber music ensemble techniques. Today, Orpheus continues this philosophy, performing without a conductor and rotating musical leadership roles for each work.

The Orpheus website, [www.orpheusnyc.org](http://www.orpheusnyc.org), provides information on the ensemble, the musicians, performances, and special events. The Orchestra also maintains a web log, located at [blog.orpheusnyc.org](http://blog.orpheusnyc.org).

**More about Angela Hewitt...** Angela Hewitt is a phenomenal artist who has established herself at the highest level over the last few years not least through her superb, award-winning recordings for Hyperion. Completed in 2005, her eleven-year project to record all the major keyboard works of Bach has been described as "one of the record glories of our age" (The Sunday Times). She has been hailed as "the pre-eminent Bach pianist of our time" (The Guardian) and "nothing less than the pianist who will define Bach performance on the piano for years to come" (Stereophile). She has a vast repertoire ranging from Couperin to the contemporary. She has also recorded Granados, Beethoven, Rameau, Chabrier, Olivier Messiaen, Ravel, Chopin, and Couperin.

She has performed throughout the world; highlights of recent seasons include her debuts in Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw and with the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as a North American tour with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Her recitals have taken her to the festivals of Edinburgh, Osaka, Prague, Hong Kong, Schleswig-Holstein, Brescia/Bergamo, and Oslo to name but a few. Her frequent Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall recitals in London sell out months in advance.

Born into a musical family (her father was the Cathedral organist in Ottawa, Canada) Angela Hewitt began her piano studies at age three, performing in public at four and a year later winning her first scholarship. During her formative years, she also studied violin, recorder, and classical ballet. At nine she gave her first recital at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music where she later studied. She then went on to study with French pianist, Jean-Paul Sévilla, at the University of Ottawa.

Angela Hewitt was named Gramophone Artist of the Year in 2006. She was awarded the first ever BBC Radio 3 Listener's Award (Royal Philharmonic Society Awards) in 2003. She was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000, and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honors in 2006. She has lived in London since 1985 but also has homes in Ottawa, Canada and Umbria, Italy.

More information is available at [www.angelahewitt.com](http://www.angelahewitt.com).

**More about Christopher Taylor...** Among his generation of pianists, Christopher Taylor stands out as an innovative musician with a diverse array of talents and interests. During the past few years he has appeared regularly in many important concert halls and developed a loyal following throughout the United States and abroad; critics hail him as "one of the most impressive young pianists on the horizon today" (The Washington Post) and "frighteningly talented" (The New York Times). He is known for a passionate advocacy of music written in the past 100 years – Messiaen, Ligeti, and Bolcom figure prominently in his performances – but his repertoire spans four centuries and includes the complete Beethoven sonatas, the Liszt Transcendental Etudes, Bach's Goldberg Variations, and a multitude of other familiar masterworks. Whatever the genre or era of the composition, Mr. Taylor brings to it an active imagination and intellect coupled with heartfelt intensity and grace.

In recent seasons Mr. Taylor has concertized around the globe, performing throughout Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. At home in the U.S. he has appeared with such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Boston Pops, and has toured with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic. As a soloist he has performed in New York's Carnegie and Alice Tully Halls, Washington's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Ravinia and Aspen festivals, and dozens of other venues. In chamber settings, he has collaborated with many eminent musicians, including Robert McDuffie, Robert Mann, and the Borromeo, Shanghai, Pro Arte, and Ying Quartets. His recordings have featured works by Liszt, Messiaen, and present-day Americans William Bolcom and Derek Bermel. Apart from concertizing and recording, he has undertaken various unusual projects. Recent examples include: the commission and premiere of a piano concerto by Derek Bermel with the Indianapolis Symphony, made possible by a Christel Award from the American Pianists' Association; investigations into the compositions of the legendary pianist Gunnar Johansen; performances and lectures on the complete etudes of György Ligeti; and a series of performances of the Goldberg Variations on the unique double-manual Steinway piano in the collection of the University of Wisconsin, an instrument whose rediscovery and refurbishment he has actively promoted.

More information is available at [www.jwentworth.com/pianists/christopher\\_taylor](http://www.jwentworth.com/pianists/christopher_taylor)

**More about Sir Peter Maxwell Davies...** With over 200 published works in every medium which are performed worldwide, Peter Maxwell Davies is acknowledged as one of the foremost composers of our time. He lives in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland where he writes most of his music. His major theatrical works include the operas *Taverner*, *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* and *The Doctor of Myddfai*; the full-length ballet *Salome*; and the music theatre works *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot* and *Vesalii Icones*. His large output of orchestral works includes eight symphonies and thirteen concertos, as well as the highly popular *An Orkney Wedding with Sunrise* which was written as a commission for the Boston Pops Orchestra, and seen by millions of TV viewers all over the world at the Last Night of the Proms.

Maxwell Davies is also active as a conductor. He was Associate Conductor/Composer of the BBC Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras for a ten-year period, and is Composer Laureate of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, for whom he has written a series of ten *Strathclyde Concertos*. He has conducted many major orchestras in Europe and North America, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Russian National Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Recent Maxwell Davies works include the music-theatre work *Mr. Emmet Takes a Walk* which has received close to 50 performances to date, and the *Antarctic Symphony* (Symphony No.8), jointly commissioned by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the British Antarctic Survey. The composer is currently concentrating his efforts on music for chamber ensembles, and recent scores include *Seven Skies of Winter* for the Nash Ensemble. In 1987 Maxwell Davies was knighted and in 2004 he was appointed Master of the Queen's Music.

More information is available at [www.maxopus.com](http://www.maxopus.com).

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010 AT 8 PM**

*Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Angela Hewitt, piano*

STRAVINSKY

Concerto in D major "Basel Concerto"

BACH

Concerto for Piano and Strings No. 1 in D minor, BWV 1052

*\*intermission\**

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

*Sea Orpheus* (\*Commissioned by Orpheus as part of *The New Brandenburgs*)

DVORÁK

Serenade for Strings in E major

**Additional information about the season** is available by visiting [www.orpheusnyc.org](http://www.orpheusnyc.org) or by calling the Orpheus office at 212-896-1710

**TICKET INFORMATION**

**Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall:** Tickets range from \$29-\$110 and are available at the Carnegie Hall Box Office, through CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or online at [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org). Carnegie Hall is located at Seventh Avenue at 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC.

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