



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2010

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Media Alert:

Handel and Haydn Society Presents *Beethoven by Levin, Haydn by Labadie* conducted by Bernard Labadie and featuring Cambridge fortepianist Robert Levin

Local artist Robert Levin tackles Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and Bernard Labadie leads the Handel and Haydn Society Period Instrument Orchestra in Haydn's witty Hen and Surprise Symphonies

- WHEN:** Friday, October 29, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 3:00pm
- WHERE:** Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA
- TICKETS:** Subscriptions and single tickets may be purchased through the Handel and Haydn Box Office by phone at 617 266 3605, online at www.handelandhaydn.org, or in person at Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston (M-F 10:00am – 6:00pm). Single tickets range from \$18 to \$75. Student rush available: starting one hour before curtain, \$10 cash only with valid ID, best available seats subject to availability.
- REPERTOIRE:** [Beethoven by Levin, Haydn by Labadie](#)
- Haydn: Symphony No. 83 in G Minor, *The Hen*
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58
Haydn: Symphony No. 94 in G Major, *Surprise*
- Bernard Labadie, conductor
Robert Levin, fortepiano

DETAILS:

After nearly a decade hiatus, the Handel and Haydn Society welcomes back French Canadian Bernard Labadie to conduct Haydn's witty and energetic symphonies No. 83 in G Minor (*The Hen*) and No. 94 in G Major (*Surprise*); the unexpected drumbeat in *Surprise*, according to Haydn, was used to surprise the public with something new upon its premiere performance in London in 1792. "Bernard Labadie radiates an infectious joy in the music he conducts," said Society Artistic Director Harry Christophers. "He will undoubtedly relish the way both Haydn and Beethoven obtain the richest and most diverse developments from a single theme."

Harvard University professor and fortepianist Robert Levin – who thrilled audiences last season with his original Mozart cadenzas – returns to the Symphony Hall stage to tackle Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with his trademark improvisational charm. This Beethoven work is also surprising in that it breaks with tradition (like so many of Beethoven's works), beginning with solo piano rather than the expected standard orchestral introduction, followed by a back-and-forth dialogue between orchestra and piano.

BIOGRAPHIES**Harry Christophers**

Harry Christophers was appointed Artistic Director of the Handel and Haydn Society in 2008 and began his tenure with the 2009–2010 Season. He has conducted Handel and Haydn each season since September 2006, when he led a sold-out performance in the Esterházy Palace at the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria. Christophers and the Society have since embarked on an ambitious artistic journey that begins with the 2010–2011 Season with a showcase of works premiered in the United States by the Society over the last 195 years, and the release of the first of a series of recordings on CORO leading to the Society's Bicentennial.

Christophers is known internationally as founder and conductor of the UK-based choir and period instrument ensemble The Sixteen. He has directed The Sixteen throughout Europe, America, and the Far East, gaining a distinguished reputation for his work in Renaissance, Baroque, and 20th century music. In 2000, he instituted the "Choral Pilgrimage," a tour of British cathedrals from York to Canterbury. He has recorded close to 100 titles for which he has won numerous awards, including a Grand Prix du Disque for Handel *Messiah*, numerous Preise der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik (German Record Critics Awards), the coveted Gramophone Award for Early Music, and the prestigious Classical Brit Award (2005) for his disc entitled *Renaissance*. In 2009 he received one of classical music's highest accolades, the Classic FM Gramophone Awards Artist of the Year Award; The Sixteen also won the Baroque Vocal Award for Handel *Coronation Anthems*, a CD that also received a 2010 Grammy Award nomination. Harry Christophers is also Principal Guest Conductor of the Granada Symphony Orchestra and a regular guest conductor with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and the Orquestra de la Comunidad de Madrid.

In October 2008, Christophers was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music from the University of Leicester. Most recently, he was elected an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen

College, Oxford and also of the Royal Welsh Academy for Music and Drama.

Bernard Labadie

Bernard Labadie has established himself worldwide as one of the leading conductors of the Baroque and Classical repertoire, a reputation that is closely tied with Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec which he founded and continues to lead as music director to this day. With the two ensembles he regularly tours Canada, the US and Europe, in major venues and festivals such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Kennedy Center, Barbican, Concertgebouw, and the Salzburg Festival, among others.

Ever since his triumphant debut with the Minnesota Orchestra in 1999, Labadie has become a sought-after guest conductor with major North American orchestras, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, St. Louis, Houston, Atlanta, Detroit, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, many of them on a regular basis. His debut with the Cleveland Orchestra is scheduled for later this season.

[Read the full bio](#) online (click on artist name).

Robert Levin

Pianist Robert Levin has been heard throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and in Asia, in recital, as soloist, and in chamber concerts. His solo engagements include the orchestras of Atlanta, Berlin, Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Montreal, Utah and Vienna on the Steinway with such conductors as James Conlon, Bernard Haitink, Sir Neville Marriner, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Simon Rattle and Joseph Silverstein. On period pianos he has appeared with the Academy of Ancient Music, the English Baroque Soloists, the Handel & Haydn Society, the London Classical Players, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, with Christopher Hogwood, Sir Charles Mackerras, Nicholas McGegan, Sir Roger Norrington, and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He has performed frequently at such festivals as Sarasota, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Bremen, Lockenhaus, and the Mozartwoche in Salzburg. As a chamber musician he has a long association with violist Kim Kashkashian and appears frequently with his wife, pianist Ya-Fei Chuang, in duo recitals and with orchestra. After more than a quarter century as an artist faculty member at the Sarasota Music Festival he succeeded Paul Wolfe as Artistic Director in 2007.

[Read the full bio](#) online (click on artist name).

Teresa Neff

Teresa Neff received her Ph.D. in Musicology from Boston University. Her research interests center around Gottfried van Swieten, a late 18th century Viennese patron and composer. Neff's edition of Swieten's symphonies will be published by Artaria later this year. She has presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the New England Chapter of the American Musicological Society and the Architecture/Music/Acoustics Conference. She presents concert preview lectures for

Elderhostel and Boston Lyric Opera, and also teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Conservatory.

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**ASSOCIATED
EVENTS:**

Pre-Concert Lecture

Friday, October 29, 2010 at 7:00pm

Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 2:00pm

Cabot Cahners Room, Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA

Free with concert tickets

Musicologist Teresa Neff gives an illuminating look inside the music and historical context of the program.

Post-Concert Q&A with Robert Levin

Friday, October 29, 2010 at 10:00pm

Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 5:00pm

From the stage at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA

Free with concert tickets

Robert Levin fields questions from the audience immediately following the performance. Moderated by Teresa Neff.

H2 Post-Concert Reception for Young Professionals

Friday, October 29, 2010 at 10:00pm

Symphony 8 Restaurant & Bar, 8 Westland Ave., Boston MA

Free entrance with concert ticket

Handel and Haydn's young professionals group, [H2](#), offers a post-concert reception to Friday night concert-goers, where young professionals can meet musicians and staff, and network with fellow arts enthusiasts. H2 season sponsor: [Symphony 8 Restaurant & Bar](#).

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ABOUT HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY

The Handel and Haydn Society is a professional chorus and period instrument orchestra that is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of Historically Informed Performance, a revelatory style that uses the instruments and techniques of the time in which the music was composed. Founded in Boston in 1815, the Society is the oldest continuously performing arts organization in the United States and has a longstanding commitment to excellence and innovation: it gave the American premieres of Handel's *Messiah* (1818), Haydn's *The Creation* (1819), Verdi's *Requiem* (1878) and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (1889). The Society today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Harry Christophers, is committed to its mission "to perform Baroque and Classical music at the highest levels of artistic excellence and to share that music with as large and diverse an audience as possible." The Society is widely known through its local subscription concerts, tours, concert broadcasts on National Public Radio, and recordings. The Society's *Lamentations and Praises* won a 2002 Grammy Award, and its two most recent CDs, *All is Bright* and *PEACE*, appeared simultaneously in the top ten on Billboard Magazine's classical

music chart. The 2010-2011 Season marks the 25th Anniversary of Handel and Haydn's educational programming. The award-winning Karen S. & George D. Levy Educational Outreach Program fosters the knowledge and performance of classical music among young people including in underserved schools and communities. Annually, the program brings music education and vocal training to more than 10,000 students in the Greater Boston area.

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