LINCOLN CENTER’S 50th MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL

ARTIST UPDATE: Conductor Thierry Fischer Replaces Andrés Orozco-Estrada
In Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra Concerts, August 2–3

NEW YORK, NY (July 26, 2016) — Lincoln Center announces an artist update for the August 2 and 3 Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra concerts at David Geffen Hall. Conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, who was to make his New York debut and first Festival appearance, has reluctantly withdrawn due to a back problem. For these performances, he will be replaced by Thierry Fischer, who makes his own Festival debut. The program remains the same: Haydn’s Symphony No. 59 in A major (“Fire”), and Mozart’s Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K.550, in addition to Mozart’s exuberant Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503, performed by the gifted German pianist Martin Helmchen, who makes his Mostly Mozart Festival debut.

Thierry Fischer is Music Director of the Utah Symphony, a post he has held since 2009 and which was recently extended through 2019. He has attracted leading young musicians to join the orchestra and top soloists to come to Utah, has refreshed the programming, drawn consistently full houses, and galvanized community support. During the 2015–16 season, the Utah Symphony celebrated its 75th anniversary with the complete Mahler symphonies in concert, including Symphony No. 8 with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and released a recording of Symphony No. 1. As part of the Utah Symphony’s extensive ongoing commission program, Fischer led new works by Nico Muhly and Andrew Norman, the latter of which was performed at Carnegie Hall. Fischer was Principal Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales from 2006 to 2012, undertaking many tours and appearing every season with them at the BBC Proms, returning in 2014. He also has a busy guest conducting career—past highlights have included his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut, and appearances with the Oslo Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, London Sinfonietta, Salzburg Mozarteumorchester, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Detroit Symphony and Atlanta Symphony. In 2015–16 he conducted his first concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall. Fischer started out as Principal Flute in Hamburg and at the Zurich Opera. His conducting career began in his 30s when he replaced an ailing colleague, subsequently directing his first few concerts with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe where he was Principal Flute under Claudio Abbado. He spent his apprentice years in Holland and became Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Ulster Orchestra in 2001, a post held until 2006. He was Chief Conductor of the Nagoya Philharmonic from 2008 to 2011, making his Suntory Hall debut in Tokyo in May 2010, and is now Honorary Guest Conductor, returning every season.
ABOUT THE MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival—America’s first indoor summer music festival—was launched as an experiment in 1966. Called “Midsummer Serenades: A Mozart Festival” its first two seasons were devoted exclusively to the music of Mozart. The official title of Mostly Mozart was coined in 1970, and the festival has evolved over time to become a New York institution and a highlight of the city’s summer classical music season. Over time, and through the leadership of Ehrenkranz Artistic Director Jane Moss and Renée and Robert Belfer Music Director Louis Langrée, Mostly Mozart has broadened its focus beyond the music of Mozart to include works by his predecessors, contemporaries, and successors. In addition to concerts by the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Mostly Mozart now includes performances by the world’s outstanding period-instrument ensembles, chamber orchestras, and acclaimed soloists, as well as opera productions, dance, film, and late-night concerts. Contemporary music has become an essential part of the festival, embodied in annual artist and composer residencies that have included Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, Kaija Saariaho, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, George Benjamin, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Among the many artists and ensembles who have had long associations with the festival are Joshua Bell, Christian Tetzlaff, Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Stephen Hough, Osmo Vänskä, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Emerson String Quartet, Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Orchesta of the Age of Enlightenment, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. The festival’s popularity has been reflected in several cultural touchstones, including an Al Hirschfeld illustration, a Peanuts cartoon strip, beer cans, and a cover of The New Yorker magazine.

The Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra is the resident orchestra of the Mostly Mozart Festival, and is the only chamber orchestra in the U.S. dedicated to the music of the Classical period. Since 2002 Louis Langrée has been the Orchestra’s music director, and since 2005 the Orchestra’s David Geffen Hall home has been transformed each summer into an appropriately intimate venue for its performances. Over the years, the Orchestra has been the festival’s ambassador, touring to such notable festivals and venues as Ravinia, Great Woods, Tanglewood, Bunkamura in Tokyo, the Kennedy Center, and The White House. Conductors who made their New York debuts leading the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra include Michael Tilson Thomas, David Zinman, Jérémie Rhorer, Edward Gardner, Lionel Bringuier, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Charles Dutoit, Leonard Slatkin, Susanna Mälkki, and Edo de Waart. Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli, flutist James Galway, soprano Elly Ameling, and pianist Mitsuko Uchida all made their U.S. debuts with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra.

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