

***LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER***  
**July 29, 2003, 8:00 AT PM on PBS**  
**Mostly Mozart Festival**  
**Opening Night Gala Concert**

In the summer of 1966 a new, experimental music series was inaugurated at New York City's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Titled "Midsummer Serenades: A Mozart Festival" the concerts were a runaway hit. Audiences flocked to the cool comfort of air-conditioned Philharmonic Hall (before it was renamed Avery Fisher Hall), and enjoyed performances of the music of Mozart by a specially-assembled orchestra and some of the world's leading conductors, instrumentalists and singers. Thus was born one of the great traditions of New York's summertime musical life. Under its new name, "Mostly Mozart," it is now America's oldest indoor summer music festival. That "Mostly Mozart" has spawned similar concert series in other cities of the United States and abroad is eloquent testimony to the vitality of the concept and the adaptability of the format.

In the beginning (before the "Mostly" was added to the title) the programs were made up entirely of music by the Salzburg master. But early on the repertoire was expanded to embrace music written both before and after Mozart, and recent seasons even saw the incorporation of semi-staged operas. The season of 2003 will see a number of innovations, primary among which is the assumption of conductor Louis Langrée as Music Director of the Festival. It has been a joy for all of us associated with Live From Lincoln Center to be able to bring to your television viewing experience many of the "Mostly Mozart" opening night concerts. And that joy will be ours (and yours, we hope!) once again this summer as we bring our cameras and microphones back to Avery Fisher Hall on Tuesday evening, July 29 for the opening event of "Mostly Mozart," summer of 2003.

Mozart will be represented by the Overture to his opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, as well as two arias for mezzo-soprano to be sung by Stephanie Blythe, one of America's outstanding emerging young singers. Her recent engagements at the Metropolitan Opera include the roles of Mother Marie in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and Baba the Turk in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Stephanie Blythe has also appeared at London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and in the Great Performers series at Lincoln Center. A signal honor came to her when, at the invitation of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, she sang in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Another remarkable young musician will appear as soloist on our July 29 telecast: the Chinese-born American pianist Lang Lang. While still a student at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music Lang Lang was called in as an emergency last-minute substitute for an ailing Andre Watts (himself a Curtis alumnus) at

Chicago's Ravinia Festival in the summer of 1999. His success was instantaneous, and he has quickly emerged, at the age of 21, as one of the most exciting artists currently before the public. He has already appeared with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in his Carnegie Hall debut; at London's Proms Concerts; and with Lorin Maazel and the New York Philharmonic. For his "Mostly Mozart" debut Lang Lang will play the G Minor Piano Concerto by Mendelssohn.

Their July 29th appearances will mark the Live From Lincoln Center debuts for both Stephanie Blythe and Lang Lang--and for conductor Louis Langrée, whose appointment as Music Director of the "Mostly Mozart Festival" was announced last December.

French-born, 42-year old Mr. Langrée made a highly impressive guest appearance at last summer's concerts. He recently concluded a tenure as Music Director of England's Glyndebourne Touring Opera. At Glyndebourne itself Mr. Langrée has conducted Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Così fan Tutte*. Future Glyndebourne assignments include Mozart's *Idomeneo* and Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande*. In addition to his operatic work and his "Mostly Mozart" duties, Mr. Langrée is Music Director of the Liege Philharmonic Orchestra.

But Mozart and Mendelssohn and Stephanie Blythe and Lang Lang and Louis Langrée are not the whole story of our July 29th telecast. To end the concert Mr. Langrée has chosen Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, a work once described by Robert Schumann as "a slender Greek maiden between two Norse giants." The reference, of course, is to the two symphonies that surround the Fourth: the mighty "Eroica" (number Three) and the transcendental Fifth. The Fourth is one of Beethoven's most spontaneous symphonies. After a rather lengthy, somewhat mysterious Introduction, the first movement becomes an endearing and jocular outpouring. The slow movement is all lyrical effusion; the Scherzo is an honest-to-goodness tongue-in-cheek revelry; and the Finale overflows with rambunctious energy.

So there are all the ingredients for what promises to be a memorable opening for the 37th season of Lincoln Center's "Mostly Mozart" concerts. The date again is Tuesday evening, July 29 at 8PM. Please check your local PBS station's schedule for the exact date and time of the telecast in your area. See you then!