

December 7, 2005
Contact: Gloria Gottschalk, ext. 207

**JUILLIARD PRESENTS ITS 22nd ANNUAL FOCUS! FESTIVAL: NEW AND NOW
FEATURING SIX WORLD-PREMIERE CENTENNIAL COMMISSIONS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006
IN THE PETER JAY SHARP THEATER AT JUILLIARD**

Director and conductor Joel Sachs opens the FOCUS! 2006 festival with the New Juilliard Ensemble on Friday, January 27 at 8 PM in the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Juilliard with the world-premiere centennial commission of Roberto Sierra's *Bongo+*, the world premiere of Guus Janssen's Concerto for Three Clarinets, the world premiere of Jia Daqun's *Three Images from Wash Painting*, and the U.S. premiere of Akira Nishimura's Chamber Symphony No. 3

Conductor Anne Manson leads the Juilliard Symphony on Friday, February 3 at 8 PM in a performance of the world-premiere centennial commission of Paul Schoenfield's Gospel Oratorio No. 2 (*Channah*), the U.S. premiere of Jukka Tiensuu's *Spiriti*, and the New York premiere of Zhou Long's *The Enlightened*

The Juilliard School's 22nd annual **FOCUS! Festival, *New and Now***, directed by festival founder **Joel Sachs**, brings six world-premiere centennial commissions to the stage of the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater** at Juilliard. **The weeklong festival runs from Friday, January 27 through Friday, February 3, 2006.** For its centennial celebration in 2005-06, Juilliard has commissioned 47 works; six of these new works, by composers from around the world, will have performances on the **FOCUS! 2006 Festival**. These works include: **Franghiz Ali-Zadeh's *Khazar***, for piano quintet; Juilliard faculty member **Milton Babbitt's *More Melismata***, for cello solo; Juilliard alumnus **Mason Bates' *Digital Loom***; **Mario Davidovsky's *Quartetto No. 4***, for clarinet and string trio; **Paul Schoenfield's Gospel Oratorio No. 2 (*Channah*)** for soloists, chorus and orchestra; and **Roberto Sierra's *Bongo+***, a concerto for chamber orchestra and bongos.

The opening program, with the **New Juilliard Ensemble** led by **Joel Sachs**, takes place on **Friday, January 27 at 8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater** and features a world-premiere centennial commission by Juilliard alumnus **Roberto Sierra** (Puerto Rico/U.S.) entitled ***Bongo+***, a concerto for chamber orchestra and bongos. Also on the program will be the world premiere of **Guus Janssen's** (Holland) **Concerto for Three Clarinets and Ensemble**. **Jia Daqun's** (China) ***Three Images from Wash Painting*** (2005) will have its world premiere, and **Akira Nishimura's** (Japan) **Chamber Symphony No. 3** ("Metamorphosis") will have its U.S. premiere.

(more)

On **Monday, January 30** at **8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater** at **8 PM**, the festival presents the world-premiere centennial commission of **Mario Davidovsky's** (Argentina/U.S.) **Quartetto No. 4**, for clarinet and string trio. Other works on the program include the world premiere of **Ursula Mamlok's** (Germany/U.S.) **Music for Viola and Harp**; the U.S. premiere of **Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky's** (Uzbekistan) **Fragments from a Diary**, for piano and percussion; a piece to be announced by **Derek Bermel** (U.S.); the New York premiere of **Augusta Read Thomas' (U.S.) Caprice for Violin**; and **Somei Satoh's** (Japan) **The Last Song**, for baritone and ensemble.

On **Tuesday, January 31** at **8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater**, the program features a world-premiere centennial commission by Juilliard faculty member **Milton Babbitt's** (U.S.) **More Melismata**, for cello solo. Also on the program will be the U.S. premiere of **John Psathas's** (New Zealand) **Ukiyo**, for vibraphone, marimba, and electronics; **Louis Karchin's** (U.S.) **Rhapsody for Violin and Piano**; the world premiere of **Julieta Szewach's** (Argentina) **Dikyrión**, for female voice and tape; the world premiere of **Alejandro Iglesias Rossi's** (Argentina) **El Vuelo Final**, for amplified string quartet; the U.S. premiere of **Carlos Sanchez-Gutiérrez's** (Mexico/U.S.) **Trio-Variations**, for flute, clarinet and piano; and the U.S. premiere of **Matthew Hindson's** (Australian) **Didjeridubuegrass**, for string quartet and didjeridu.

On **Wednesday, February 1** at **8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater**, the festival continues with the world-premiere centennial commission of Azerbaijani composer **Franghiz Ali-Zadeh's** **Khazar**, for piano quintet. Other works on the program include New York premieres of **Bun-Ching Lam's** (Macao/U.S.) **Loin d'ici**, for flute and piano, and **Thomas Adès' (U.K.) Court Studies**, for piano trio; the U.S. premiere of **Chris Watson's** (New Zealand) **Mandible**, for bass clarinet; the world premiere of **Keyla Orozco's** (Cuba/Holland) **Nengón Transformation 4**, for flute, clarinet and bassoon; **Rolf Wallin's** (Norway) **The Age of Wire and String**, for six players; and the world premiere of **Donald Martino's** (U.S.) **Fifth String Quartet** (revised version).

On **Thursday, February 2** at **8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater**, the program features the world-premiere centennial commission of **Digital Loom** (2005) by Juilliard alumnus **Mason Bates**. The program also features the world premiere of **Robert Nasveld's** (Holland) **Diplay**, for violin and cello; the U.S. premiere of **Henrik Strindberg's** (Sweden) **Puff**, for wind quintet; the U.S. premiere of **Mariano Agustín Fernández's** (Argentina) **El Sacrificio**; the U.S. premiere of **Dai Fujikura's** (Japan) **Another Place**, for string quartet; the New York premiere of **Fredric Rzewski's** (U.S./Belgium) **Honk**, for solo tuba; and the U.S. premiere of **Gabriela Ortíz's** (Mexico) **El Águila Bicéfala**.

(more)

The final concert of **FOCUS! 2006** festival takes place on **Friday, February 3** at **8 PM** in the **Peter Jay Sharp Theater** and features the world premiere centennial commission of **Paul Schoenfield's Gospel Oratorio No. 2 (Channah)**, for soloists, chorus, and orchestra. *Channah* was inspired by a radio sermon the composer heard while driving. The sermon, entitled "You Don't Know Me," was culled from the First Samuel, Chapters 1 and 2, and set by librettist **Leonard Trawick** for Mr. Schoenfield. Distinguished conductor **Anne Manson** leads the **Juilliard Symphony** and the **Juilliard Choral Union** (directed by **Judith Clurman**) in this world-premiere performance. Also on the program will be the New York premiere of **Zhou Long's (China/U.S.) The Enlightened**, and the U.S. premiere of *Spiriti*, a concerto for accordion and orchestra by Finnish composer and harpsichord virtuoso **Jukka Tiensuu**. The work will be performed by **Mikko Luoma**, a young Finnish virtuoso, for whom the piece was written.

The first and final concerts of FOCUS! 2006 festival concerts (January 27 and February 3) require FREE tickets, available at the Juilliard Box Office on January 13. FOCUS! 2006 festival concerts taking place from Monday, January 30 through Thursday, February 2 are FREE with no tickets required. The Juilliard Box Office, located at 60 Lincoln Center Plaza, is open 11 AM – 6 PM, Mondays through Fridays. For further information, call (212) 769-7406 or visit Juilliard's Web site at www.juilliard.edu. All concerts take place at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Juilliard, 155 West 65th Street, NYC.

New Juilliard Ensemble founder and director **Joel Sachs** is also co-director of the internationally acclaimed new music ensemble Continuum. He has conducted orchestras and ensembles in Austria, El Salvador, Germany, Iceland, Mexico, Switzerland, and Ukraine and has held new music residencies in Berlin, London, Salzburg, and Curitiba (Brazil). His recordings appear on the Advance, CRI, Naxos, Nonesuch, and TNC labels. A member of Juilliard's music history faculty, Dr. Sachs currently is working on a biography of the American composer Henry Cowell, to be published by Oxford University Press. He also appears on radio as a commentator on recent music.

The **New Juilliard Ensemble** is now in its 13th season. The centennial of The Juilliard School is a natural time to reflect upon the past. A major component of the New Juilliard Ensemble's past is the more than 40 compositions that have been written for it since its founding in 1993. The New Juilliard Ensemble's self-reflecting takes the form of revisiting some of those superb pieces. Celebrating the liveliness of today's music, and focusing primarily on repertory of the last decade, the Ensemble presents music by a variety of international composers writing in the most diverse styles.

Conductor **Anne Manson** has achieved a series of historic milestones. She was the first woman to conduct at the historic Salzburg Festival, where she led the Vienna Philharmonic and a cast that included Samuel Ramey and Philip Langridge in a production of *Boris Godunov*, which met with great critical acclaim. Ms. Manson is one of only three women to have been appointed music director of a leading American symphony orchestra, having served as music director of the Kansas City Symphony from 1999 to 2003. She launched her career in 1988 as music director of the London-based Mecklenburgh Opera, where over a span of eight years she programmed operas ranging from Mozart to 20th-century rarities, while commissioning world premieres from a host of contemporary composers.

(more)

Ms. Manson continues to take on new challenges in her career as she balances acknowledged masterworks with vanguard contemporary works. Other appearances in 2006 include concerts with the Real Orquesta Sinfonica de Seville (works of M. Garcia, Beethoven, Wagner, and Bartók); with the Houston-based contemporary ensemble Musiqa (works of Bach and Earl Kim); two programs with the MDR-Sinfonieorchester, Leipzig, including their all-Dvořák New Year's concert in the Gewandhaus; and concerts with the Helsingborg Symfoniorkester (works of Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky). She will return to New York in the fall of 2006 to conduct Massenet's *Cherubin* at the Juilliard Opera Center.

The New Juilliard Ensemble closes its 2005-06 season with a concert on **Monday, April 24 at 8 PM** in **Alice Tully Hall**. The program features the world premiere of **Andrew Ford's** (U.K./Australia) *Scenes from Brueghel* (2006); a new work by **Ryan Francis** (U.S.); **Bernd Franke's** (Germany) *Petrel Seascape*, for soprano and chamber orchestra (2001); **José Maceda's** (Philippines) *Music for a Chamber Orchestra* (1997); and **Milica Paranosic's** (Yugoslavia/U.S.) *Parabaraba*, for chamber orchestra and electronics (2002).

###