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Music Director Michael Christie Announces New Initiatives as Part of His Contract Extension

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Brooklyn, NY – Brooklyn Philharmonic is pleased to announce that Music Director Michael Christie has extended his contract through the 2009-2010 season with his ongoing association with the Brooklyn Philharmonic on an evergreen renewal basis, whereby an additional year will be added to the contract indefinitely by mutual agreement. Music Director Christie enters his third season as Music Director with a dynamic vision for the Brooklyn Philharmonic's ongoing spirit of collaboration, exploration, and innovation.

As part of his contract extension, Music Director Christie has announced three new initiatives for the organization that are in line with his theme of opening doors to all, which he began when he first took the orchestra's reins in September of 2005. Music Director Christie's first initiative is the new education program **Study With The Masters**. This new program will bring Brooklyn Philharmonic musicians into Middle and High School instrumental music programs, pairing the BP musician mentors with their respective younger counterparts for coaching sessions throughout the year.

Music Director Christie also realizes the importance of exposing high school students to the symphonic experience, fostering an appreciation of live classical music among teenagers from around the city. According to Music Director Christie, "there is no better initiation than experiencing classical music performed live, which is why Brooklyn Philharmonic is announcing the **BP TeenTix** free ticket program, giving 200 free tickets to New York City High School students for every Brooklyn Philharmonic Mainstage Performance at BAM*." Brooklyn Philharmonic will also give away 50 tickets to its Music Off The Walls series at the Brooklyn Museum. Following the performance students will be invited to

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share and comment on their concert-going experience on a special section of the BP website.

Continuing to seek ways to expand the exposure of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and recognizing the importance of multi-media experiences for younger audiences, Music Director Christie's third initiative is the announcement of an official **Media Advisor**. Music Director Christie has appointed filmmaker Mark Dichter to serve as the Brooklyn Philharmonic's first Media Advisor for the 2007-2008 season. In this role, Mr. Dichter will advise the Brooklyn Philharmonic as to how to best utilize video, which he will produce and create, in order to educate, engage, and reach audiences beyond the concert hall. Some of the projects that will be launched this season under Mr. Dichter's guidance are: a series of pre-concert orientation films for students attending a School Time Concert at BAM that will introduce a featured BP musician, and will have Music Director Christie and other special guests preparing the students for what they will experience in the concert hall; mini-documentary pieces that will be released in advance of select BAM concerts that focus on an interesting angle of each concert and include musicians' perspectives; and an introductory film about the Brooklyn Philharmonic for the website.

* Does not include BAM co-productions.

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ABOUT MARK DICHTER

Mark Dichter is a Brooklyn-born native New Yorker with more than three decades of experience working in documentary and industrial film and video production. Mr. Dichter has worked with various arts organizations in New York City including The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Opera, The New York City Opera, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and The New York Philharmonic.

ABOUT THE BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC

One of the nation's groundbreaking music ensembles, the Brooklyn Philharmonic opens its 54th season as a vital presence in the cultural life of the New York metropolitan area. Devoted to bringing music to the entire Brooklyn community, the Philharmonic serves the borough's cultural and educational communities through partnerships with New York City's Department of Education, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Public Library, and Brooklyn Academy of Music, among other organizations. For the past five decades, the Brooklyn Philharmonic has played a leading role in the presentation of innovative and thematic programming, receiving 21 ASCAP Awards over the last 25 years for "Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music." Since its 1954 inception, audiences have embraced the Brooklyn Philharmonic's commitment to the concept of the orchestra as a contemporary performance ensemble, emphasizing important present-day music, as in the decades of Beethoven and Brahms. The Philharmonic has world premiered over 160 works, including 65 commissions.

Leadership support for the Brooklyn Philharmonic has been provided by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., The Bank of New York Company, Inc., Booth Ferris Foundation, The William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Washington Mutual, Carnegie Corporation of New York, The New York State Music Fund, established by the New York State Attorney General at the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Independence Community Foundation, Forest City Ratner Company, New York Community Trust, HSBC, Con Edison, The Dana Foundation, KeySpan Energy, Collins Family Fund, Prudential Financial, The Scherman Foundation, and Broadway Partners.

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The Official Sponsors of the Brooklyn Philharmonic are CF Print Management, Courier-Life Publications, Yamaha, WQXR 96.3 FM, The Onion, River Café, IQ Media, All Car Rent-A-Car, Wolf Blass and Penfolds Australia, hotel le bleu.

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