



Celebrity Series of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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For Immediate Release

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Presents

Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

Riccardo Chailly, conductor

Louis Lortie, piano solo

**on Thursday, February 25 at 8pm
at Symphony Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, with conductor Riccardo Chailly and piano soloist Louis Lortie** on Thursday, February 25 at 8pm at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. The Gewandhaus Orchestra has announced that pianist Louis Lortie will replace Nelson Freire on the orchestra's upcoming United States tour. We are pleased that Mr. Lortie is able to substitute for Mr. Freire for this all-Beethoven program. This performance is sponsored by the DeMoulas Foundation. The media partner is 99.5 All Classical.

The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra made its **Celebrity Series** debut in 1974; this is their eighth performance with Celebrity Series. The orchestra most recently appeared in 2007. Riccardo Chailly made his Celebrity Series debut conducting the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1985. He has since appeared with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in 1991, 1995, and 1999, and with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in 2007. This is Louis Lortie's Celebrity Series debut.

The **Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra** is the oldest civic concert orchestra in the world. The orchestra had its origins in the concert society called the "Grand Concert" founded by 16 merchants in 1743. After three decades in the Three Swans Inn in Leipzig's Brühl neighborhood, increasing audience interest made it necessary to find a new home. In 1781 the orchestra moved into a 500-seat hall in the assembly hall of the cloth traders, the Gewandhaus ("Garment House"). In 1884, the orchestra moved into a new concert hall that had been built through the sale of endowment shares, which was later destroyed during the air raids of 1944. In 1981, a new Gewandhaus was opened on Augustusplatz.

Among the distinguished Gewandhaus Music Directors are Felix Mendelssohn, Arthur Nikisch, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Franz Konwitschny and Kurt Masur, and Herbert Blomstedt.

A native of Milan, **Riccardo Chailly** made his conducting debut at La Scala in 1978. Since then, he has spent most of his career working with orchestras in northern Europe, the UK, and the US, including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Munich Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Chailly has also appeared at opera houses around the world, most notably the

(more)

Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, and the Zürich Opera.

Riccardo Chailly's first artistic encounter with the Gewandhaus Orchestra took place at the Salzburg Festival in 1986. He took up his position as Gewandhauskapellmeister (Music Director) of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in September 2005.

Riccardo Chailly has recorded over 100 albums of symphonic works and operas, including a 2006 double CD of Johannes Brahms's Piano Concertos with Nelson Freire. Recent and upcoming recordings include works by Mendelssohn, violin concertos by Brahms, and Bach's St. Matthew's Passion and Christmas Oratorio.

Born in Montréal, **Louis Lortie** made his debut with the Montréal Symphony at the age of thirteen and with the Toronto Symphony three years later, which resulted in his engagement for a historic tour of the People's Republic of China and Japan.

Lortie is celebrated for his interpretation of works by Beethoven, and has performed the complete Beethoven sonatas in London's Wigmore Hall, Toronto's Ford Center, Berlin Philharmonie, and the Sala Grande del Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan.

Louis Lortie has performed under the baton of conductors Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, Charles Dutoit, Kurt Sanderling, Neeme Jarvi, Sir Andrew Davis, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Mark Elder and Osmo Vanska, among others. He has also been involved in many chamber music projects with musicians such as Frank Peter Zimmermann, Leonidas Kavakos, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Jan Vogler, Augustin Dumay, the Takacs Quartet, and Gidon Kremer. His regular piano-duo partner is fellow Canadian Helene Mercier, with whom he has made successful recordings on the Chandos label.

Notable concerts last season included the Saint Louis Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra in Cleveland and on tour, the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Toronto Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, a European tour with the BBC Wales, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Dresden Festival, and the complete Chopin Etudes at the Kennedy Center, in Weimar, London, Milan, and for the Cliburn Foundation.

In 1992 he was named Officer of the Order of Canada, and received both the Order of Quebec and an honorary doctorate from Laval University. As his schedule permits, he teaches at Italy's renowned piano institute at Imola. Mr. Lortie has lived in Berlin since 1997 and also has a home in Canada.

The program for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra on February 25 performance is as follows:

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"
Symphony No. 7

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra are priced at \$85, \$67, \$52, and \$38, are available by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., online at www.celebrityseries.org, or at the Symphony Hall box office, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71st season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal

soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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