

Lincoln Center's  
*Great Performers*

*Lead Support provided by PGIM, the global investment management business of Prudential Financial, Inc.*

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**Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm and 8:45 pm**

*Mahler on Film*

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**Gustav Mahler: Anatomy of a Genius**

*Saturday, February 22 at 1:00 pm*

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**Conducting Mahler**

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**Symphony of a Thousand**

*Tuesday, February 25 at 8:45 pm*

*Presented in association with Film at Lincoln Center and Christian Labrande*

*Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.*

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**These screenings are made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.**

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Walter Reade Theater

## Great Performers

Lead Support for Great Performers provided by PGIM, the global investment management business of Prudential Financial, Inc.

Additional Support for Great Performers is provided by Rita E. and Gustave M. Hauser, The Shubert Foundation, The Katzenberger Foundation, Inc., Audrey Love Charitable Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Lincoln Center Patrons and Lincoln Center Members

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Endowment support is also provided by UBS

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NewYork-Presbyterian is the Official Hospital of Lincoln Center

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### UPCOMING GREAT PERFORMERS EVENTS:

*Monday, February 24 at 8:00 pm in David Geffen Hall*

**Budapest Festival Orchestra**

**Iván Fischer**, conductor

**Gerhild Romberger**, contralto (New York debut)

ALL-MAHLER PROGRAM

Kindertotenlieder

Symphony No. 5

*Thursday, February 27 at 7:30 pm in Alice Tully Hall*

**Concerto Köln**

**Mayumi Hirasaki, Jesús Merino Ruiz, Shunske Sato, Evgeny Sviridov**, violin soloists

A program of Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, and more, performed on period instruments

*Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 pm in David Geffen Hall*

**Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Lahav Shani**, conductor (New York debut)

**Emanuel Ax**, piano

ALL-BRAHMS PROGRAM

Piano Concerto No. 1

Symphony No. 4

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit [LCGreatPerformers.org](http://LCGreatPerformers.org). Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 to learn about program cancellations or to request a Great Performers brochure.

**Visit [LCGreatPerformers.org](http://LCGreatPerformers.org) for more information relating to this season's programs.**

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

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*We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.*

*In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.*

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The Program

**Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm**

*Mahler on Film*

**Gustav Mahler: Anatomy of a Genius**  
(2001)

*Directed by Andy Sommer*

*Written by Andy Sommer and Catherine Sauvat*

*Produced by François Duplat and Patrice Hotart*

*Film Editing by Corentin Leconte*

*With appearances by*

**Henry-Louis de La Grange, Claudio Abbado,  
Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Philippe de Chalendar,  
Daniele Gatti, Thomas Hampson, Daniel Harding, and  
Jonathan Nott**

*A coproduction of*

**ARTE France, Bel Air Media, and EuroArts Music International**

88 minutes

*Presented in association with Film at Lincoln Center and Christian Labrande*

*Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.*

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Walter Reade Theater

## Note on the Film

This documentary tells Mahler's story during the decade when he was director of the Vienna State Opera, going against any romanticized images we may have of the composer. The film has a visual sensuality, placing the viewer in Mahler's shoes, and, using documented evidence (drawing on the latest research), showing the sounds, colors, trends, successes, fanaticism, and hostilities of fin-de-siècle Vienna as Mahler felt and experienced them. A portrait of the composer emerges through the places he inhabited and his personal possessions: his conductor's podium, the summer home where he composed, his glasses, baton, musical score, and manuscripts. The film takes us on a journey to the heart of Mahler's world, going beyond the legends and clichés, in an attempt to recreate the soul of a man, rather than of an idol.

### **Andy Sommer**

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German-French filmmaker Andy Sommer is known for his musical documentaries and for the fluidly cinematic style of his film and television captures of staged operas. A graduate of the prestigious French Institute of Cinema (IDHEC), he began his career as a producer and director of publicity spots before turning his lens on classical music.

In addition to his documentary portraits of such composers as Beethoven, Berlioz, Boulez, Mahler, Schubert, and Wagner, Sommer has filmed some of the greatest artists of our time, including Roberto Alagna, Daniel Barenboim, Van Cliburn, Plácido Domingo, Jonas Kaufmann, Anne-Sophie Mutter, and Jordi Savall. His television work includes broadcasts of concerts and staged productions from the Aix-en-Provence Festival, the Bolshoi, the Comédie Française, and La Scala.

Andy Sommer has won numerous awards for his films, including the Prix Italia, the MIDEM Classical Award, and the Grand Prix Golden Prague.

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The Program

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm**

*Please join us for a post-screening discussion with director Frank Scheffer*

*Mahler on Film*

**Conducting Mahler** (1996)

*Directed by* Frank Scheffer

*Written by* Ton van der Lee and Frank Scheffer

*Cinematography by* Joost van Gelder and Melle van Essen

*Film Editing by* Suzan IJzermans and Menno Boerema

*Producers* T. Yo Vuik and Alma Netten

*Produced by* Ton van der Lee and Frank Scheffer

*With appearances by*

**Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Chailly, Bernard Haitink,  
Riccardo Muti, and Simon Rattle**

*A coproduction of* AVRO-TROS

*A production of* Allegri Film

75 minutes

*Presented in association with Film at Lincoln Center and Christian Labrande*

*Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.*

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Walter Reade Theater

## Note on the Film

In 1920, the first Mahler festival was held to celebrate Willem Mengelberg's two decades at the head of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. For 16 days, Amsterdam echoed with the sounds of the symphonies and vocal music of the Viennese composer, whose complete oeuvre was played by the Concertgebouw. Seventy-five years later, another Mahler festival was held, this time with three of the orchestras the composer conducted in his own time: the philharmonic orchestras of Berlin and Vienna, and the Concertgebouw.

Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, Riccardo Chailly, Simon Rattle, and Bernard Haitink—the conductors who took part in this adventure—share their love for Mahler in front of director Frank Scheffer's camera. We see the intensity of their rehearsals with their orchestras and hear them speak freely of the very strong ties they have maintained with Mahler's music, most of them since childhood.

These lessons in orchestral conducting, with some of the greatest conductors one could ever imagine gathered together in a single film, are also lessons in music that shed a wonderful light on the complex genius of Mahler.

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### Frank Scheffer

Born in 1956 in Venlo, the Netherlands, Frank Scheffer has directed more than 40 music documentaries and experimental films. He has received many awards and was honored with a retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art. He has worked with prominent post-war composers like Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, John Cage, Elliott Carter, Karlheinz Stockhausen, and Frank Zappa. In his films, image and sound coalesce to offer the audience a unique visual and auditory experience. *The One All Alone* (2009) premiered in Venice in 2010. The first film of his "Silk Road" series, *Gozaran: Time Passing* (filmed in Iran), premiered at IDFA in 2011. His film about the Dutch painter Robert Zandvliet, *The Perception* (premiered at IFFR in 2016), won the KNF award. Mr. Scheffer's most recent film, the second of his "Silk Road" series, *The Inner Landscape* (2019), examines the Chinese composer Guo Wenjing and the fate of traditional art in modern China. The film had its world premiere at IFFR2019, followed by its Asian/Chinese premiere at Shanghai IFF in 2019. It was awarded the Gold Silk Road award for the best documentary 2019 at sixth Silk Road Film Festival in China.

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The Program

**Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 8:45 pm**

*Mahler on Film*

**Symphony of a Thousand** (1975)

*Directed by* Humphrey Burton

*Produced by* Fritz Bottenstedt

Vienna Philharmonic

Leonard Bernstein, *conductor*

Edda Moser, *soprano* (Magna Peccatrix)

Judith Blegen, *soprano* (Una Poenitentium)

Gerti Zeumer, *soprano* (Mater Gloriosa)

Ingrid Mayr, *contralto* (Mulier Samaritana)

Agnes Baltza, *contralto* (Maria Aegyptiaca)

Kenneth Riegel, *tenor* (Doctor Marianus)

Hermann Prey, *baritone* (Pater Ecstaticus)

José van Dam, *bass-baritone* (Pater Profundis)

Vienna State Opera Chorus (Walter Hagen-Groll, *director*)

Vienna Singverein Choir (Helmut Froschauer, *director*)

Vienna Boys' Choir (Uwe Theimer, *director*)

MAHLER: **Symphony No. 8 in E-flat major** ("Symphony of a Thousand")

*A production of*

**Unitel Film and Television Productions MBH & Co.**

*in association with*

**Amberson Productions**

75 minutes

*Presented in association with Film at Lincoln Center and Christian Labrande*

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Walter Reade Theater

MAHLER: **Symphony No. 8 in E-flat major** ("Symphony of a Thousand")

**Part I**

**Hymn: Veni creator spiritus**

Veni, creator spiritus  
Imple superna gratia  
Infirma nostri corporis  
Accende lumen sensibus  
Veni, creator spiritus  
Gloria sit Patri Domino

**Part II**

**Final scene from Goethe's *Faust***

Poco adagio  
Più mosso (Allegro moderato)  
Waldung, sie schwankt heran  
Ewiger Wonnebrand  
Wie Felsenabgrund mir zu Füßen  
Gerettet ist das edle Glied  
Jene Rosen, aus den Händen  
Uns bleibt ein Erdenrest  
Ich spür' soeben  
Höchste Herrscherin der Welt  
Dir, der Unberührbaren  
Bei der Liebe—Bei dem Bronn—Bei dem hochgeweihten Orte  
Neige, neige, du Ohnegleiche  
Er überwächst uns schon  
Komm! hebe dich zu höhern Sphären  
Blicket auf zum Retterblick  
Alles Vergängliche



## Note on the Film

Mahler's Eighth Symphony, popularly known as the "Symphony of a Thousand," is a massive "symphony of songs" that Mahler composed on a grand scale. The texts are drawn from the ninth-century Latin hymn "Veni creator spiritus," with its invocation to "Come, Creator Spirit, dwell in our minds, and with your supernal grace fill our hearts," and from the final scene of Goethe's *Faust*, in which the protagonist's soul, having been sold to the devil, is finally redeemed and ascends into heaven.

Leonard Bernstein conducted the work at the Salzburg Festival in 1975 and shortly thereafter in Vienna's Konzerthaus, where it was recorded. The stage of the Konzerthaus was extended to make room for the unusually large orchestra, the two choruses, the children's choir and the soloists. Bernstein was the first conductor ever to record all of Mahler's symphonies not only on disc, but also on video. The leading Mahler interpreter of our time, Bernstein recorded all of Mahler's symphonies between 1971 and 1985, chiefly with the Vienna Philharmonic, producing a unique musical document and triggering a major reappraisal of Mahler's works. "All Mahler symphonies," Bernstein asserted, "all Mahler works for that matter, deal in extremes—extremes of dynamic, of tempo, of emotional meaning. When it is bare, it's extremely bare; when it is thick and rich, it's thicker and richer than anything in 'Götterdämmerung;' and when it is suffering it suffers to a point that no music has ever suffered before."

### Humphrey Burton

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Humphrey Burton read music and history at Cambridge University and entered the BBC as a sound studio manager in 1955. In 1958 he joined the ground-breaking TV arts magazine *Monitor*. He has won many international awards, including three BAFTAs, four Emmys, and the Prix Italia (for *The Making of West Side Story*).

Twice in charge of Music and Arts for BBC Television, Burton was also a founding member of London Weekend Television, where he edited and presented the ITV arts series *Aquarius*. In the 1970s, he developed a second career as a film and television director for Leonard Bernstein's many musical projects, including documentaries, rehearsals, and more than 150 filmed concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic and other orchestras.

Burton worked with Yehudi Menuhin on many radio and television programs, including a 20-part radio series for Classic FM. He is the author of biographies of Menuhin and Leonard Bernstein, and was awarded a CBE in the Millennium Honours.

## **Lincoln Center's Great Performers**

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Initiated in 1965, Lincoln Center's Great Performers series offers classical and contemporary music performances from the world's outstanding symphony orchestras, vocalists, chamber ensembles, and recitalists. One of the most significant music presentation series in the world, Great Performers runs from October through June with offerings in Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Walter Reade Theater, and other performance spaces around New York City. From symphonic masterworks, lieder recitals, and Sunday morning coffee concerts to films and groundbreaking productions specially commissioned by Lincoln Center, Great Performers offers a rich spectrum of programming throughout the season.

## **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.**

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Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community engagement, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of thousands of free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers a variety of festivals and programs, including American Songbook, Avery Fisher Career Grants and Artist program, David Rubenstein Atrium programming, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Awards, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lincoln Center Vera List Art Project, LC Kids, Midsummer Night Swing, Mostly Mozart Festival, White Light Festival, the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS, and Lincoln Center Education, which is celebrating more than four decades enriching the lives of students, educators, and lifelong learners. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Film at Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, School of American Ballet, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

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