N E W S B R I E F

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The Philadelphia Orchestra Performs Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish")

Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar narrates the Symphony with stories from his own experiences

Local talent, the Philadelphia Singers and the American Boychoir join in this special performance

(*Philadelphia*, April 15, 2008) – Following the enormously successful Bernstein Festival earlier this season, the Philadelphia Orchestra performs Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish") in two subscription concerts on **Friday, April 18** and **Sunday, April 20**. Conductor **John Axelrod**, a former student of Leonard Bernstein, leads the performances featuring soprano **Kelley Nassief**, the **Philadelphia Singers Chorale**, the **American Boychoir**, and special guest speaker **Samuel Pisar**. The program also includes Korngold's Symphony in F-sharp major.

This is the first performance of the "Kaddish" Symphony by The Philadelphia Orchestra. This dramatic and challenging symphony was dedicated to the memory of John F. Kennedy, and was premiered just weeks after his assassination. The work takes its name from a Jewish prayer for the dead, which is featured throughout the piece. Mr. Pisar's narration features a dialogue between man and God, expressing a crisis of faith as well as a hope for the redemption of mankind.

Samuel Pisar, a personal friend of Mr. Bernstein, narrates The Philadelphia Orchestra's performance of the "Kaddish." Mr. Pisar is one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust, and was asked by Mr. Bernstein to write a new narration for the piece based on his experiences. Mr. Pisar has led humanitarian missions on behalf of minorities and other oppressed groups, and was nominated and short-listed for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973.

The American Boychoir, based in Princeton, N.J., has a unique history with the "Kaddish" Symphony. They sang in the American premiere of the "Kaddish" in 1964 while still under the name of the Columbus Boychoir, and now return more than 40 years later to

– *more* –

perform in The Philadelphia Orchestra's first performances of the work. The American Boychoir is regarded as the United States' premier concert boys' choir and celebrates its 70th anniversary season this year.

April 18 at 2:00 p.m. – Friday afternoon – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
April 20 at 2:00 p.m. – Sunday afternoon – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
John Axelrod, *conductor*
Kelley Nassief, *soprano*
Samuel Pisar, *speaker*
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)
The American Boychoir (Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, *music director*)

Bernstein	Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish")
Korngold	Symphony in F-sharp major

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