

Contact: Synneve Carlino | Tel: 212-903-9750 | E-mail: scarlino@carnegiehall.org

**CARNEGIE HALL ANNOUNCES NEW
NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO BEGIN IN SUMMER 2013**

**Created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, National Program
Seeks Finest Young Musicians—Ages 16 to 19—from Across the US**

**World-Renowned Conductor Valery Gergiev To Lead NYO-USA in its Inaugural Year with
Acclaimed American Violinist Joshua Bell as Special Guest Soloist**

**Two-Week Summer 2013 Residency at Purchase College, State University of New York,
To Culminate with Debut Performance in Washington DC,
Followed by Exciting International Tour to Moscow, St. Petersburg, and London**

Updated March 4, 2013—In summer 2013, Carnegie Hall brings together the first-ever **National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America**, featuring the most talented young orchestral players from across the United States, for a musical residency and international tour.

Created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, the NYO-USA provides an opportunity for 120 exceptional young musicians (ages 16-19) from across the US to come together with their peers, supported by a faculty of leading professional orchestra musicians and a different celebrated conductor each year, for a two-week intensive musical residency, followed by a tour to top music capitals around the world. Musicians from across the country are invited to apply to this annual, tuition-free program, which is designed to shine a light on the extraordinary talent of young American instrumentalists, offering each NYO-USA member a transformative musical and cultural experience as they develop their musical skills, receive training at the highest professional level, and travel abroad, serving as musical youth ambassadors for the US.

"We are creating the National Youth Orchestra of the USA in order to offer the finest young instrumentalists nationwide the inspirational opportunity to make and share music at the highest level," said Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall's Executive and Artistic Director. "We are confident that the tremendous talent, energy, and enthusiasm found within America's young players will make the NYO-USA experience a remarkable one, both for participants and audiences around the world. Students will not only have the opportunity to make music with gifted peers from all corners of the US, but their playing will be further elevated as they are mentored by orchestral players of the highest caliber and led by the extraordinary Valery Gergiev, representing the best of their country around the globe."

World-renowned conductor **Valery Gergiev** will lead the orchestra in its inaugural year. Students will come together to create the NYO-USA, the first US national youth orchestra in recent history, from June 30 through July 23, 2013. Following a rigorous two-week training residency on the campus of Purchase College, State University of New York, Mr. Gergiev will conduct the orchestra in its debut performances at Purchase College's Performing Arts Center and Washington DC's Kennedy Center, followed by an exciting international tour spanning Moscow, St. Petersburg, and London. The orchestra's concert program will include Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with acclaimed violinist **Joshua Bell** as soloist, plus Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 in E Minor and a new work by young American composer Sean Shepherd, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall specifically for NYO-USA. Tour dates and venues for all cities will be announced in spring 2013. Due to ongoing construction, the NYO-USA will first perform at Carnegie Hall in summer 2014.

"I was very excited to be asked to conduct the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America in its first year," said Maestro Gergiev, music director of Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg and principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra as well as founder and artistic director of several major international music festivals. "I think every youth orchestra around the world is very important and I expect that the National Youth Orchestra of the USA, in particular, will be very highly accomplished, both technically and artistically. I look forward to getting to know many new, gifted musicians—sharing ideas, learning together, and going on a cultural journey, discovering new places. For students, I expect playing in the NYO-USA will be an honor, a challenge, a pleasure, and an unforgettable experience not to be missed."

[Purchase College, State University of New York](#) will be a key partner in Carnegie Hall's new NYO-USA initiative. During their two-week residency, orchestra members will be housed on Purchase College's scenic campus, located in Westchester County, just north of New York City, where they will undertake their initial training and rehearsals. All rehearsals will be centered at the College's highly-regarded Performing Arts Center and in the rehearsal studios of its School for the Arts Conservatory of Music. Capping the students' stay and the launch of the NYO-USA's performance activities will be a concert at the College's PAC for the public and college community. The project marks the beginning of an ongoing partnership between Carnegie Hall and Purchase College in which the two organizations will share resources and explore collaborations in support of their missions and shared educational goals.

James Ross, associate director of The Juilliard School's conducting program and artistic director of the National Orchestral Institute at the University of Maryland, will lead the NYO-USA faculty in 2013. Comprising some of the finest players and section leaders from America's greatest orchestras and music schools, the faculty will oversee rehearsals during the orchestra's residency in Purchase and will conduct master classes, chamber music readings, and other seminars on essential music skills, all leading up to the launch of the international tour.

The 2013 tour of NYO-USA is made possible by Joan and Sanford I. Weill and the Weill Family Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Yoko Nagae Ceschina, the Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Peter J. Sharp Foundation, and Ann Ziff.

Public support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Carnegie Hall recently announced plans for the second annual National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, which will include a US tour in summer 2014 to be led by conductor **David Roberston** with violinist **Gil Shaham** preceded by a two-week residency at Purchase College.

National Youth Orchestra of the USA: How Students Can Apply

Students from all 50 states who are US citizens or permanent residents, ages 16-19 during the period of the summer program are eligible to apply to the NYO-USA program. Students enrolled full-time in a college-level conservatory or university music department with instrumental performance as a major are not eligible. Musicians may apply on the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, tuba, harp, percussion (including timpani), and orchestral piano/keyboard.

Application information for the 2014 NYO-USA program will be made available later this spring. For more information on the NYO-USA, including audition requirements and details on the application process, please visit www.carnegiehall.org/nyousa.

About Carnegie Hall

Founded in 1891, New York City's **Carnegie Hall** presents exceptional performances by the world's finest artists on its three stages—the renowned Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, the intimate Weill Recital Hall, and the innovative Zankel Hall—ranging from orchestral concerts, chamber music, and solo recitals to jazz, world, and popular music. Extensive music education and community programs developed by

Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute support Carnegie Hall's commitment to fostering the future of music. More than 400,000 people will engage in the Weill Music Institute's programs over the next year through national and international partnerships, in New York City schools and community settings, and at Carnegie Hall. For more information on Carnegie Hall and other Weill Music Institute programs supporting the ongoing development of young musicians, please visit carnegiehall.org.

#