

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2015

Contact: Katherine E. Johnson

(212) 875-5718; [johnsonk@nyphil.org](mailto:johnsonk@nyphil.org)**SAKARI ORAMO AND FRANK PETER ZIMMERMANN  
TO RETURN TO THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC****SIBELIUS's *The Oceanides* and Violin Concerto  
BRAHMS's Symphony No. 2  
February 26–28, 2015****ARCHIVAL EXHIBIT  
*SIBELIUS AT HOME: IMAGES FROM THE AHO FAMILY FILMS*  
February 5–March 31**

Sakari Oramo will return to the New York Philharmonic to conduct Sibelius's *The Oceanides* and Violin Concerto, the latter featuring former Philharmonic Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence Frank Peter Zimmermann, and Brahms's Symphony No. 2, Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m.; and Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m.

In its review of Sakari Oramo's Philharmonic appearance in 2004, *The New York Times* wrote of the performance of Sibelius's *Tapiloa*: "This is an object lesson in creating vast, dramatic panoramas in sound, and Mr. Oramo and the Philharmonic made Sibelius's wintry pictures seem three-dimensional and vivid."

The New York Philharmonic will present an exhibit of photographic stills from two films of Sibelius, shot at his summer home in 1927 and 1945; the images offer rare documentation of Sibelius, who disliked being photographed and was not often seen on camera. The exhibit will also include anecdotal memories from the Aho family, Sibelius's summer neighbors who made the films, and archival material from the New York Philharmonic Archives tracing the Orchestra's relationship with Sibelius and his music. The exhibit will be on display February 5–March 31 in the Bruno Walter Gallery on Avery Fisher Hall's Grand Promenade. The Aho film and other images will also be made available on the New York Philharmonic Leon Levy Digital Archives.

**Related Events****• *Pre-Concert Insights***

Writer, music historian, and former Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic Harvey Sachs will introduce the program. Admission/Tickets to *Pre-Concert Insights* are \$7; discounts are available for multiple talks, students, and groups. These events  
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take place one hour before performances, and are held in the Helen Hull Room, unless otherwise noted. Attendance is limited to 90 people. Information: [nyphil.org/preconcert](http://nyphil.org/preconcert) or (212) 875-5656.

• **Exhibition: *Sibelius at Home: Images from the Aho Family Films***

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**February 5–March 31**

Bruno Walter Gallery on Avery Fisher Hall's Grand Promenade

**Artists**

**Sakari Oramo** is chief conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and principal conductor of the West Coast Kokkola Opera and the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra. From 1998 to 2008 he served as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). He is a regular guest conductor at the NDR Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, and Dresden Staatskapelle. Highlights of his 2014–15 season include a Spanish tour with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, a tour of Switzerland with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and a performance with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester. He also conducts concerts with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, where, after a decade as chief conductor, he has served as honorary conductor since 2012. The previous season included several performances with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra that focused on British music, including Britten's Violin Concerto and Vaughan Williams's Symphony No. 1. Last season's BBC Symphony Orchestra highlights featured a highly acclaimed performance at the Aldeburgh Festival and the U.K. premieres of a trilogy of violin concertos by Pascal Dusapin, Bright Sheng, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. During the summer of 2014 he also conducted several Proms performances with the orchestra, including the Last Night at London's Royal Albert Hall. Also, an accomplished violinist, Mr. Oramo was concertmaster of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and was appointed its associate principal conductor after stepping in to conduct on short notice in 1993. He continues to give several performances a year as a violinist, and in 2014 he made his debut in the BBC Proms Chamber Music series, playing Prokofiev's Sonata for Two Violins with Janine Jansen. Recent recordings include Per Nørgård's Symphonies Nos. 1 and 8 with the Vienna Philharmonic and Nielsen's Symphonies Nos. 4 and 5, Bruckner's Symphony No. 3, and Elgar's Symphony No. 1 with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. He has recorded a vast amount of music with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, including Prokofiev's Symphonies Nos. 5 and 6; works by Magnus Lindberg, Kaija Saariaho, Kimmo Hakola, and Jouni Kaipainen; and works by lesser-known Finnish composers of the past including Armas Launis and Ernest Pingoud. Mr. Oramo's catalog also features Sebastian Fagerlund's opera *Döbeln* with West Coast Kokkola Opera, *Coloratura* with Anu Komsis and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, and recordings with the CBSO including two discs of John Foulds's music, a complete Sibelius symphony cycle, and Elgar's

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*Dream of Gerontius*. Mr. Oramo made his Philharmonic debut in December 2002 conducting a program of Smetana, Tchaikovsky, and Nielsen; he most recently conducted the Orchestra in April 2007, leading works by Sibelius and Shostakovich.

Born in Duisburg, Germany, **Frank Peter Zimmermann** started playing the violin when he was five years old, and performed his first concert with orchestra at age ten. Since finishing his studies with Valery Gradov, Saschko Gawriloff, and Herman Krebbers in 1983, Mr. Zimmermann has performed with all major orchestras in the world, and his engagements take him to venues and international music festivals in Europe, the United States, Japan, South America, and Australia. Highlights of his 2014–15 season include performances with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Mariss Jansons, the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Juanjo Mena, the Philharmonia Orchestra with Vladimir Ashkenazy, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra with Christoph von Dohnányi. Mr. Zimmermann is also an avid chamber musician and recitalist; his regular recital partners are pianists Piotr Anderzewski, Enrico Pace, and Emanuel Ax. He also a member of the Trio Zimmermann, alongside viola player Antoine Tamestit and cellist Christian Poltéra; the ensemble appears in cities including Amsterdam, Brussels, Cologne, London, Lyon, Milan, Munich, Paris, and Vienna, and at the Salzburg and Edinburgh Festivals. Mr. Zimmermann’s honors have included the Premio del Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Siena (1990); the Rheinischer Kulturpreis (1994); the Musikpreis of the city of Duisburg (2002); and the Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (2008). His numerous and award-winning recordings, which span a wide and varied choice of repertoire, are available on EMI Classics, Sony Classical, BIS Records, and ECM Records labels. He plays a Stradivarius from 1711, which once belonged to Fritz Kreisler. Frank Peter Zimmermann made his Philharmonic debut in December 1996 playing Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 conducted by then Music Director Kurt Masur. He served as the 2011–12 Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, leading to many appearances in New York and on tour. Most recently he joined the Orchestra, led by Andrey Boreyko, for Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1 in November 2012.

### **Repertoire**

**Jean Sibelius** (1865–1957) composed *The Oceanides* in 1914, after having been invited the previous year by American composer Horatio Parker to visit the United States for a concert tour. At the time Sibelius’s reputation in Europe had suffered, due to his continued devotion to symphonic composition and disavowal of modernist practices. However, these very traits made him an appealing figure to conservative musical factions across the Atlantic, and the composer received a hero’s welcome upon his arrival. Originally titled *Rondo der Wellen* (*Rondo of the Waves*), and influenced by Debussy (who also portrayed the sea in sound), the work received its world premiere in Norfolk, Connecticut, on June 14, 1914, conducted by the composer himself. The following year, the New York Philharmonic gave the New York Premiere of *The Oceanides*, led by Josef Stransky; the Orchestra’s only other performance of the work was in May 2003, conducted by Robert Spano.

**Jean Sibelius** completed his **Violin Concerto** early in 1904. It was originally dedicated to Willy Burmeister, who was to have premiered it in Berlin, and the violinist greeted the score with, “Wonderful! Masterly! Only once before have I spoken in such terms to a composer, and that  
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was when Tchaikovsky showed me his concerto.” Ultimately, the premiere date was moved up to a date for which Burmeister was unavailable, and the work was premiered in Helsinki by Victor Nováček, who had little time to prepare and was unable to fully realize the virtuosic solo part. Following its first performances, Sibelius withdrew the work for revision, and the concerto as it is performed today was unveiled in Berlin in 1905, this time with Karl Halíř as soloist and Richard Strauss as conductor. Sibelius dedicated the concerto to yet another violinist, the wunderkind Ferenc von Vecsey, who championed it even though he couldn’t quite handle its complex technical elements when he first played it at age 13. The New York Philharmonic gave the concerto’s U.S. Premiere in 1906, with Maud Powell as soloist and Wassily Safonoff conducting; Gil Shaham was soloist for the Orchestra’s most recent presentation, led by Bramwell Tovey during the Philharmonic’s July 2013 Bravo! Vail residency.

After agonizing for nearly two decades over the composition of his First Symphony (1876), **Johannes Brahms** (1833–97) started right in on his **Symphony No. 2**, which he completed by the autumn of 1877. The work contrasts greatly with its stormy predecessor, looking far more to the sunny side of life. Brahms set to work on this symphony in the lakeside country village of Pörtschach, near the Austrian-Italian border, surroundings he found particularly inspiring. The Symphony No. 2 was premiered in Vienna at the end of 1877 with Hans Richter conducting. The composer himself led a second performance in Leipzig early the next year. The work first entered the repertoire of the New York Philharmonic in 1878, conducted by Adolph Neuendorff at the Academy of Music; the Orchestra most recently performed it under the direction of Kurt Masur in November 2012.

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### **Tickets**

Tickets for these performances start at \$30. Tickets for Open Rehearsals are \$20. *Pre-Concert Insights* are \$7; discounts are available for multiple talks, students, and groups (visit [nyphil.org/preconcert](http://nyphil.org/preconcert) for more information). Tickets may be purchased online at [nyphil.org](http://nyphil.org) or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office**. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. A limited number of \$16 tickets for select concerts may be available through the Internet for students within 10 days of the performance, or in person the day of. Valid identification is required. To determine ticket availability, call the Philharmonic’s Customer Relations Department at **(212) 875-5656**. [Ticket prices subject to change.]

For press tickets, call Lanore Carr in the New York Philharmonic Marketing and Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at [carrl@nyphil.org](mailto:carrl@nyphil.org).

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**New York Philharmonic**

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

*Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.*

Friday, February 27, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

*Pre-Concert Insights* (one hour before each concert) with writer, music historian, and former Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic Harvey Sachs

Sakari Oramo, conductor

Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin

SIBELIUS	<i>The Oceanides</i>
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 2

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