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PHILIP GLASS’S NEW SYMPHONY NO. 11 HIGHLIGHTS BRUCKNER ORCHESTRA’S APPEARANCE AT BING CONCERT HALL

Conductor Dennis Russell Davies commissioned the work for the composer’s 80th birthday

Stanford, CA, February 1, 2017—It was 25 years ago that Dennis Russell Davies led the Brooklyn Philharmonic through the first American performance of a Philip Glass symphony. Now the same maestro who has helped launch all but one of Glass’s symphonies celebrates the composer’s 80th birthday with his newest work, the Symphony No. 11, performed by the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz at Stanford’s Bing Concert Hall on Sunday, February 12.

Perhaps best known for his film scores (The Truman Show, The Hours, Notes on a Scandal) and for his operas like Einstein on the Beach, Glass didn’t start writing symphonies until he was in his 50s. “I could easily not have done any symphonies, but it turned out that Dennis Russell Davies was interested in working on that kind of work with me,” Glass recently told the New York Times. “And he pretty much commissioned all the symphonies, except for No. 7.”

So to commemorate the composer’s 80th, Davies commissioned No. 11 for the January 31 (Glass’s actual birthday) world premiere at Carnegie Hall.

Stanford Live launched its own celebration in the fall when Glass himself was on hand to kick off the season at Bing, joining four other pianists to perform his complete series of Êtudes for piano. “It’s a great way to see the breadth of his work,” says Stanford Live Executive Director Chris Lorway, referring to the juxtaposition of Glass at his most intimate and stripped down, in these piano pieces, with the symphonic Glass heard later this month.
The composer spent much of 2016 working on this latest symphony, which is cast in three large movements. “In terms of musical language,” he explained in a program note, “it shares much of the same with recent symphonies — No. 8 and No. 9 — as well as operas of the last few years, such as Appomattox, The Perfect American and The Trial. Also it relates to the later parts of the Études for Piano.”

Works by Duke Ellington and Samuel Barber also share the spotlight in the Bruckner Orchestra’s upcoming Stanford Live program, which features violinist Robert McDuffie. For tickets and information, visit live.stanford.edu.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz, presented by Stanford Live on February 12, range from $30-$95 (subject to change) and are $15 for all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

**VENUE INFORMATION**

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall.

**ABOUT STANFORD LIVE**

Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.
CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:

What: Bruckner Orchestra of Linz
   With Dennis Russell Davies, music director and conductor
   Robert McDuffie, violin

When: Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.

   Barber: Violin Concerto, op. 14; Glass: Symphony No. 11

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327, Lasuen Street, Stanford University

Tickets: $30-$95 (subject to change)

Description: Austria and America share the spotlight when the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz
celebrates American composers with Duke Ellington, Samuel Barber and a new work by Philip Glass,
his Symphony No. 11, commissioned by Davies in honor of Glass’ 80th birthday.

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