



# MERCURY . ORCHESTRA

Channing Yu, Music Director . Justin Albstein, General Manager

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## **Mercury Orchestra, Winner of 2010 American Prize Competition, to Showcase Stravinsky and Berlioz on July 17**

(CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—July 5, 2010) The Mercury Orchestra, winner of the 2010 American Prize Competition, will perform two highly charged showpieces for symphony orchestra, Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, at 8 p.m. July 17, in Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass.

Under the direction of Maestro Channing Yu, the Mercury Orchestra brings together nearly 100 of the most talented amateur musicians in the Cambridge/Boston area to perform challenging works in the symphonic repertoire. Stravinsky's score for the ballet *Petrushka* uses a tapestry of Russian folk tunes to conjure the brilliant sights and sounds of a local carnival where puppets seem to possess real lives of their own. Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, subtitled "An Episode in the Life of an Artist," with its vivid exploration of a young man's obsessive dreams and hallucinations of his beloved, utilizes the full resources of the symphony orchestra to create a gripping narrative of love, loss, and the macabre.

In June, the Mercury Orchestra was named national winner of the prestigious 2010 American Prize in Orchestral Performance, Community Orchestra Division, in a competition that included orchestras from 26 states and the District of Columbia. In announcing the prize, the judges praised the Mercury Orchestra for "obviously careful and thoughtful preparation...excellent interpretations...a thrilling rendition."

Tickets for the July 17 performance—\$20 regular admission; \$15 students, Harvard ID and seniors age 65-plus—can be purchased online at [www.mercuryorchestra.org](http://www.mercuryorchestra.org). For more information, contact Mercury Orchestra's general manager, Justin Albstein, at [info@mercuryorchestra.org](mailto:info@mercuryorchestra.org) or (617) 826-9092.

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**About Mercury Orchestra.** Founded in 2008, the 97-member Mercury Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Channing Yu, has a mission to bring great works of the symphony orchestra repertoire to Cambridge, Mass., in live performances of the highest quality; to bring amateur orchestral musicians together in the Cambridge area to play challenging repertoire; and to educate new audiences about the rich traditions of classical music. The orchestra is national winner of the 2010 American Prize in Orchestral Performance Competition, Community Orchestra Division. For more information visit [www.mercuryorchestra.org](http://www.mercuryorchestra.org)

**About Music Director Channing Yu.** American conductor Channing Yu also is Artistic Director and Conductor of New England's oldest opera company, Lowell House Opera, where he has conducted more than 30 fully staged opera performances with orchestra. He recently was named a national finalist in the 2010 American Prize in Orchestral Conducting Competition. For more information, visit [www.mercuryorchestra.org](http://www.mercuryorchestra.org)

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