



MERCURY. ORCHESTRA

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Mercury Orchestra to Perform Mahler's Poignant Sixth Symphony ("Tragic") on July 23 in Sanders Theatre

(CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – July 6, 2011) The award-winning Mercury Orchestra will perform Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in A Minor ("Tragic"), a relentlessly tempestuous yet poignantly beautiful orchestral tour de force, at 8 p.m. July 23 in Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass.

Under the direction of Maestro Channing Yu, the Mercury Orchestra brings together more than 100 of the most talented amateur musicians in the Cambridge/Boston area to perform challenging works in the symphonic repertoire. The Sixth Symphony, often described as Mahler's darkest yet most personal work, is best known for the hammer blows of fate contained in the gripping finale. Both anguished and breathtaking, the "Tragic" Symphony offers listeners an intensely intimate portrait of Mahler and his music.

In June 2010, the Mercury Orchestra was named national winner of the prestigious 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 23 performance—\$25 regular admission; \$20 students, Harvard ID, WGBH members, WBUR members, and seniors aged 65-plus—can be purchased at the door; advanced tickets may be purchased at a reduced price online at www.mercuryorchestra.org or in person at the Harvard Box Office. For more information contact Mercury General Manager Justin Albstein at info@mercuryorchestra.org or (617) 826-9092.

About Mercury Orchestra. Founded in 2008, the 105-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 the national winner of the 2010 American Prize in Orchestral Performance, Community Orchestra Division. For more information visit www.mercuryorchestra.org

About Music Director Channing Yu. American conductor Channing Yu is Music Director of the Mercury Orchestra in Cambridge, Mass. He has also served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Lowell House Opera, New England's oldest opera company, where he conducted more than thirty fully staged performances with orchestra. He is the national winner of the 2010 American Prize in Orchestral Conducting, Community Orchestra Division. For more information, visit www.mercuryorchestra.org

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