



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2006

**THE OBERLIN CONSERVATORY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**LED BY CONDUCTOR ROBERT SPANO**  
**AT CARNEGIE HALL FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007**

**Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra**

**Robert Spano, conductor**

**Pedja Muzijevic, piano**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 8PM**

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

**HIGDON:** *blue cathedral*

**MOZART:** Piano Concerto No.25 in C Major, K.503

**BARTÓK:** Concerto for Orchestra

Pre-concert discussion at 6:30 pm with Jennifer Higdon, James Keller, Aaron Dworkin and Brian Alegant. Moderated by Dean David H. Stull, Oberlin Conservatory.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or online at [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org) . Student tickets available at \$5.

**Robert Spano**, Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Oberlin Conservatory alumnus, will conduct the **Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra**, with pianist **Pedja Muzijevic**, at Carnegie Hall on **Friday**,

**January 26, 2007 at 8PM**. The program features Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 in C Major, K. 503, and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra. The concert, which follows a performance at Oberlin on January 24 at 8PM, is presented by Oberlin College with corporate sponsorship provided by the DeWitt Stern Group.

A lecture/discussion entitled "**Playing to Win: The Future of Great Music in the 21st Century**" will precede the concert at 6:30 pm. Panelists include composer Jennifer Higdon; music critic and historian James Keller; Aaron Dworkin, founder and president of the Sphinx Organization; and Professor of Music Theory Brian Alegant. David H. Stull, Dean of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music will moderate.

Founded in 1865 and situated amid the intellectual vitality of Oberlin College since 1867, **Oberlin Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College**, the nation's oldest continuously operating conservatory, has been a leader in American institutional music training. In 1892, Oberlin established the first full-time chair in music history and appreciation. In 1958 it became the first US school to introduce the Suzuki method of string pedagogy. During the 1960's Oberlin was a pioneer in the field of electronic music and in 1989

Oberlin opened the Otto B. Schoepfle Vocal Arts Laboratory which furthered revolutionary developments in vocal pedagogy. Primarily an undergraduate institution, Oberlin Conservatory is grounded in the tradition of Western Art Music and has gained a reputation as one of the great American musical institutions.

**The Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra** has been the pride of the conservatory since 1896. The orchestra has a rich history of notable guest conductors including Igor Stravinsky, Pierre Boulez, Sir Simon Rattle, Robert Shaw and John Williams. Many professional conductors trained at Oberlin such as Robert Spano, Music Director for the Atlanta Symphony; Edwin London, 2001 recipient of the Ditson Conductor's Award from Columbia University; David Zinman, Music Director of the Tonhalle Orchester Zurich, and the Aspen Music Festival and School; and Michael Christie, Music Director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Phoenix Symphony. Recent appearances by Oberlin's orchestra include a performance at Cleveland's Severance Hall, under the baton of music director and conductor Bridget-Michaele Reischl and a 13-day tour of China.

Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Robert Spano is recognized internationally as one of the brightest and most imaginative conductors of his generation, who has enriched and expanded the ASO's repertoire. He has conducted nearly every major North American orchestra and has appeared with the opera companies of Seattle, Santa Fe, Chicago, and Houston. After eight years as Music Director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, he left it at a new level of international prominence. He is Music Director of the 2006 Ojai Music Festival.

Born in Conneaut, Ohio, and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, Mr. Spano grew up in a musical family, playing flute, violin, and piano as well as composing. He studied with Robert Baustian at the Oberlin Conservatory and with Max Rudolf at the Curtis Institute of Music. His achievements have been recognized with honorary doctorates by Bowling Green State University and the Curtis Institute of Music.

**Jennifer Higdon** is one of America's most frequently performed composers. Her works have been recorded on over two dozen CDs. In 2004, the Atlanta Symphony released the *Grammy*-winning *Higdon: Concerto for Orchestra/City Scape*. Fall of 2006 sees the release of a CD of Ms. Higdon's music on Naxos, as well as a recording with eighth blackbird. Higdon enjoys more than 200 performances a year of her works. She teaches composition at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Making his Carnegie Hall debut, **Pedja Muzijevic** has been widely praised for his interpretations of the standard literature and for his imaginative programming. He has toured extensively throughout eastern and western Europe, Great Britain, Canada, the United States, South America and Asia. Mr. Muzijevic has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, the Residentie Orkest in The Hague, Dresden Philharmonic and the Boston Pops. Recital appearances include the Frick Collection in New York, Lincoln Center, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y and the Library of Congress. Pedja Muzijevic studied at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and at the Juilliard School in New York. He is the Director of Music Programming at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City.

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**Please contact Kirshbaum Demler & Associates at (212) 222-4843 for additional press information.**