

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2009

WHAT: Orquestra de São Paulo with Dame Evelyn Glennie
Maestro Kazem Abdullah, Conductor

WHEN: Sunday, October 18 at 7 PM

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
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(Center Series Opens Season with a Bang with Renowned Percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie)

When the internationally renowned Orquestra de São Paulo, one of Brazil's most celebrated classical musical ensembles, returns to the United States for a coast-to-coast tour and opens the UMass Fine Arts Center's season, it will be performing under the baton one of the most important young rising star conductors in the United States, twenty-nine year old Kazem Abdullah. This concert opens the Center Series season on Sunday, October 18 at 7 PM in the Concert Hall. The evening's program includes the concerto for percussion and orchestra, *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* by James MacMillan, Alberto Nepomuceno's *O Garatuja*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas brasileiras No. 4* and Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin: Suite*. There will be a pre-performance talk by Mount Holyoke music professor Eric Benjamin from 6:15 - 6:45 PM in the University Gallery.

Dame Evelyn Glennie has indelibly marked the orchestral world with her exhilarating approach to the art of percussion. Combining deft subtlety, unsurpassed technique, dramatic visuals, and striking musicality, Glennie creates performances of such intensity and variety that they have redefined the realm of live performance. Through her impassioned advocacy, she has commissioned 160 new works from world-

class composers that extend the language for rhythmic solos, and she has partnered with dozens of renowned orchestras as well as a huge spectrum of artists ranging from Björk to Bobby McFerrin and from Sting to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

When not performing, Glennie's other activities include lobbying the Government on political issues. Her consortium with Sir James Galway, Julian Lloyd Webber and the late Michael Caman successfully led to the British Government providing £332 million towards music education. She is the designer of a range of jewelry created in conjunction with Ortak and is based on her influences as a solo percussionist. Glennie is also an international motivational speaker to many diverse corporate companies and events.

Maestro Kazem Abdullah is quickly becoming one of the most watched young American conductors on the scene today. Abdullah's other projects include *Treemonisha* at the Théâtre du Châtelet de Paris, debuts with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Huntsville Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic and the Staatskapelle Weimar. Maestro Abdullah served as an Assistant and Cover Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera from 2006 to 2009. His additional conducting credits include the National Arts Center Orchestra of Ottawa, Chautauqua Music School Festival Orchestra, Berliner Kammerphilharmonie, Finnish Radio Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra where he substituted on very short notice to conduct performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

An international performing power that has created a new model for classical music in Brazil, Orquestra de São Paulo embraces not only traditional masterpieces but also the entire catalog of Brazilian compositions. The orchestra's heart beats with the vibrant creativity born of its marvelously disparate cultures to which Abdullah will bring his own brand of intelligent energy and drive. He earned raves on his Met debut, conducting Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* for the remounting of Mark Morris' evening-length ballet, and at only 29, he has already been singled out by Michael Tilson Thomas as an impressive talent to be watched on his ascension.

In conjunction with the performance, the University Club & Restaurant is offering a pre-performance dinner representing the cuisine of Brazil for the prix fixe of \$25. The University Club & Restaurant is an easy walk from the Concert Hall. For menu and reservations call the box office at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS.

Tickets for Orquestra de São Paulo are \$40, \$30, and \$15, tickets for youth 17 and under and Five College/GCC/STCC students are \$15. Tickets are available from the Fine Arts

Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or online at www.umasstix.com. This concert is sponsored by El Sol Latino and Fathers & Sons of West Springfield. Additional funding provided by the Vidda Foundation and members of the Fine Arts Center's Orchestra Circle.

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