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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2015

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NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC VERY YOUNG COMPOSERS

PHILHARMONIC MUSICIANS and TEACHING ARTISTS To Perform

Works by VERY YOUNG COMPOSERS from FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN, and NEW YORK, Ages 10–14

FREE CONCERT at the DAVID RUBENSTEIN ATRIUM

March 24, 2015

Students from FUKUSHIMA To Travel to New York To Continue Musical Exchange

Part of TOMODACHI Very Young Composers Fukushima–New York Program

Nine Japanese composers ages 10–14 will travel from Fukushima to New York City as part of the TOMODACHI Very Young Composers Fukushima–New York Program to meet and interact with their American counterparts in the New York Philharmonic’s Very Young Composers program — in which students with or without musical background create and notate their own music. Since October the two groups have been corresponding through “Musical Postcards” — through which Very Young Composers from different countries share stories and musical ideas — creating music on the theme of “rebirth,” and the resulting works will be performed by New York Philharmonic musicians March 24, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at a free concert in the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center (Columbus Avenue at 62nd Street).

In the days leading up to the concert, the students will continue their musical exchange, participating in composition workshops, sharing their personal histories with each other, and exploring New York City together. During the concert, the students from Fukushima and New York will speak about their experiences in the program, and the students from Fukushima will share their experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011; in addition a video of the students’ activities over the preceding days will be screened.

This collaboration is made possible by the TOMODACHI Initiative, which was created in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 to support the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational, cultural exchange, and leadership programs. The students participating in this project study in Japan with Professor Takehito Shimazu, who is the principal of their middle school at Fukushima University.

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“Time and again we’re astonished by the beauty and power of music coming out of children’s imaginations,” said Theodore Wiprud, Vice President, Education, The Sue B. Mercy Chair. “When their ideas are sparked by cross-cultural dialogue, the outcome can be even richer and have even more to say to us all about creativity and international understanding. We are thrilled to continue our artistic communication with Professor Shimazu and his students in Fukushima.”

During the Philharmonic’s ASIA / WINTER 2014 tour, the Orchestra performed a concert for families in Tokyo featuring music by Fukushima-based and New York–based students; the young composers from Fukushima attended the concert and will be among those traveling to New York on the TOMODACHI Very Young Composers Fukushima–New York Program.

The Philharmonic’s upcoming EUROPE / SPRING 2015 tour will include a performance of works by Very Young Composers of New York and London, as part of the Philharmonic’s second residency at the Barbican Centre under the auspices of its International Associates initiative.

About Very Young Composers

Very Young Composers is a program of the New York Philharmonic developed by composer and former Philharmonic Associate Principal Bass Jon Deak in 1995. Working with Philharmonic Teaching Artists who serve as mentors and scribes, students in grades 4–8 —many of them former participants in the Philharmonic Schools program — compose, orchestrate, and notate their own original music and hear it performed by Philharmonic musicians, often the full Orchestra, including in Avery Fisher Hall at Young People’s Concerts, Young People’s Concerts for Schools, and following Saturday Matinee Concerts. Numerous communities in the U.S. and abroad have established their own versions of Very Young Composers with assistance from the New York Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic’s original program has become international, with New York–area schoolchildren collaborating with their counterparts in Fukushima, Japan; Helsinki, Finland; Caracas, Venezuela; and London, England.

About the TOMODACHI Initiative

The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership born out of support for Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake that invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs. It seeks to foster a “TOMODACHI generation” of young American and Japanese leaders who are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.–Japan relations, appreciate each other’s countries and cultures, and possess the global skills and mindsets needed to contribute to and thrive in a more cooperative, prosperous, and secure world. TOMODACHI is led by the United States Embassy in Tokyo and the U.S.–Japan Council, a tax-exempt non-profit organization, and is supported by the Government of Japan, corporations, organizations, and individuals from the United States and Japan. Visit www.tomodachi.org for more information.

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MetLife Foundation is the Lead Corporate Underwriter for the New York Philharmonic’s Education Programs.

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The **TOMODACHI Very Young Composers Fukushima–New York Program** is made possible by generous support from the TOMODACHI Fund for Exchanges (Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Hitachi, Ltd.).

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Very Young Composers is sponsored, in part, by the **Muna & Basem Hishmeh Foundation** and **The ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund**.

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Programs are supported, in part, by public funds from **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**, the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and the **New York State Council on the Arts**, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Tickets

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Subscribers, Friends at the Affiliate level and above, and Patrons may secure guaranteed admission by emailing AdultEd@nyphil.org. Space is limited.

For press tickets, call Lanore Carr in the New York Philharmonic Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at carrl@nyphil.org.

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TOMODACHI Very Young Composers Fukushima–New York Program

David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center (Columbus Avenue at 62nd Street)

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Works on the theme of “Rebirth” composed by 10–14 year olds, hosted by the New York Philharmonic, performed by Philharmonic musicians.

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