

BRAMWELL TOVEY OPENS THE LA PHIL'S 2008 HOLLYWOOD BOWL

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In his debut as Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, Bramwell Tovey **kicks off the LA PHIL's 2008 *Classical Tuesdays and Classical Thursdays* series with his own new work, *Urban Runway* (co-commissioned by the LA PHIL and the New York Philharmonic)**, Strauss' *Don Juan* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Tuesday, July 8, at 8 p.m. Tovey concludes the classical week with Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3, "Organ" and Berlioz' brilliantly colorful and cinematic dream tale *Symphonie fantastique*, Thursday, July 10, at 8 p.m.

The July 8 program opens with **Tovey's *Urban Runway***. Composed in March of 2008, the concept for the piece grew from an amusing conversation the composer had with friends about the colorful idiosyncrasies of those who patronize the fashion houses on Manhattan's 5th Avenue or Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive. The new clothes, smartly tucked away in their designer shopping bags, appear to influence the gait of the shoppers as they stride along the sidewalk. The score is laced with jazz and minimalist flavors. A flugel horn and marimba introduce distinctive elements, and perhaps characteristically, the violas take a moment to remind us of the benefits of the 'pre-owned' grunge look.

A musician of striking versatility, **BRAMWELL TOVEY** is acknowledged around the world for his artistic depth and his warm, charismatic personality on the podium. Tovey's career as a conductor is uniquely enhanced by his work as a composer and pianist, lending him a remarkable musical perspective. His tenures as Music Director with the Vancouver Symphony, Luxembourg Philharmonic and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestras have been characterized by his expertise in operatic, choral, British and contemporary repertoire.

The 2007/08 season has held many highlights for Tovey. **A recent recording with violinist James Ehnes brought a 2007 Grammy to the soloist, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Tovey.** In his eighth season with Vancouver, Tovey collaborated with guest artists Ben Heppner and Evelyn Glennie and led the orchestra through an in-depth six-concert Beethoven festival, featuring performances by Lang Lang and Anne-Sophie Mutter. He also appeared with orchestras across East Asia, in the spring of 2008, in advance of the orchestra's fall 2008 tour of China.

Prior to his music directorship in Vancouver, Tovey spent 12 years as music director of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, where he founded its highly regarded New Music Festival. A significant milestone in the ensemble's exploration of new music, the festival premiered more than 250 works by diverse international and Canadian composers under Tovey's leadership, with every performance broadcast on Canada's CBC Radio. Additionally in 2004, he founded the New York Philharmonic's Summertime Classics series at Avery Fisher Hall, and presides annually as its host and conductor.

An esteemed guest conductor, Tovey has worked with orchestras in the UK and Europe including the London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Bournemouth, the Frankfurt Radio

Orchestra and the North Netherlands Symphony in January, where he led the Dutch premiere of Penderecki's 8th Symphony in 2008.

With a profound commitment to new music, **Tovey has established himself as a formidable composer**. He has been commissioned by the Calgary Opera to compose the company's third original full-length opera. An immense undertaking, the piece will premiere in Calgary in January of 2011. Tovey's other accomplishments as a composer include receiving the Best Canadian Classical Composition 2003 Juno Award for his *Requiem for a Charred Skull*, performed and recorded by the Amadeus Choir and the Hannaford Band in Toronto.

Tovey has also built a strong reputation as **an accomplished jazz pianist**, with two recordings to his name. Renowned as **a choral conductor**, Tovey has performed works ranging from Mahler's Symphony No. 8 to Bach's Mass in B minor. In opera, his repertoire includes works by Puccini, Strauss, Mozart, Menotti, Poulenc, Britten and Stravinsky. Awarded numerous honorary degrees,

Tovey has received a Fellowship from the Royal Academy of Music in London, honorary Doctorates of Law from the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba and Kwantlen University College, as well as a Fellowship from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. In 1999, he received the M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction, a prestigious Canadian prize awarded to premier artists for outstanding contributions in professional performing arts organizations.