

National Symphony Orchestra

Leonard Slatkin, Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PARTICIPANTS CHOSEN FOR FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONDUCTING INSTITUTE

Leonard Slatkin, Director

**Supported in Part by a Grant from the
Geraldine C. and Emory M. Ford Foundation**

First Week in Cooperation with the American Symphony Orchestra League

**“The institute...is that rare program that offers more than its name might promise. “
-- *The New York Times***

Four participants – David In-Jae Cho, Stephen Czarkowski, Jonathan Schiffman, and Shenyeh -- have been selected for the fourth National Conducting Institute, a program dedicated to the advanced development of highly gifted conductors. The Institute is unique in combining leadership, administrative, and musical training with a major orchestra. Created by **National Symphony Orchestra Music Director Leonard Slatkin**, the project is designed to help conductors successfully make the transition from leading student or part-time orchestras to working with a full-time professional orchestra.

"As we enter our fourth year, the Institute continues to draw the very best from a large pool of conducting candidates," said Mr. Slatkin. "I look forward to helping these aspirants and fellow musicians achieve their goals in the musical world."

Once again, the first week of the Institute, which focuses on leadership and orchestra administration, is being developed and presented in partnership with the **American Symphony Orchestra League's Orchestra Leadership Academy**.

"The National Conducting Institute represents an extraordinary and ongoing commitment of Music Director Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony to the professional development of American conducting talent. The participation of virtually all members of the NSO family provides critical musical and leadership training experiences. The League is honored to be a

partner with the NSO in this important effort,” said Jesse Rosen, Vice President and Chief Program Officer of the American Symphony Orchestra League.

David In-Jae Cho came to the United States from Korea in 1985. He attended Oberlin Conservatory, and earned a master’s degree from The Peabody Conservatory. He now studies instrumental conducting at the Shepherd School of Music in Houston. He was a Tanglewood Conducting Fellow in 1999 and a semi-finalist in the 2001 Maazel-Vilar Conductors’ Competition. He was the 2002 David Effron Conducting Fellow at Chautauqua, and is the 2003 Karajan Fellow (from the American Austrian Foundation), which allows him to study this summer in Salzburg.

Stephen Czarkowski holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Mannes College of Music. A fellowship student in the first American Academy of Conducting at Aspen (2000), he was a participant in the 2001 Pierre Monteux School, and attended the 2002 National Arts Centre Orchestra Workshop in Ottawa. Born in Closter, New Jersey, he has guest conducted the Honolulu Symphony, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Mannes Chamber Orchestra, and other ensembles. He is on staff at Juilliard in the Professional Intern Program and teaches cello, Chamber music and music theory at the Music School of Westchester.

After his graduation from Yale in 1999, New York City native **Jonathan Schiffman** was the youngest student accepted at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen. He made his professional debut in 2001 with the Fort Worth Symphony, and has since led that orchestra in several pops, youth, and classical concerts. He is the assistant conductor of the Ridgefield Symphony (CT) and founder of the Ridgefield Youth Orchestra. He has appeared with the Eugene Symphony, Riva Festival Orchestra (Italy), and is principal conductor designate of the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra (NY).

Shenyeh made his conducting debut in 1999 while a member of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and has also led the Moscow Symphony, Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, and other ensembles. He received his early training at Shanghai Music Conservatory, and graduated from The Peabody Institute. Now based in Los Angeles, he attended the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen on fellowship in 2000, 2001, and 2002, and was an auditor for the 2002 National Conducting Institute.

In addition to the four participants, five auditors have been selected. **Jordan Brown**, assistant conductor of the Tallahassee Symphony; **Kenneth Freed**, violist with the Minnesota Orchestra and music director of the Kenwood Chamber Orchestra; **Laura Jackson**, from Roanoke, studying advanced orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan; **Christian Knapp**, born in Chicago, associate conductor of the Broomhill Opera in London; and Tokyo-born **Shizuo Kuwahara**, assistant conductor of the Virginia Symphony and director of orchestral activities at American University.

NATIONAL CONDUCTING INSTITUTE
Leonard Slatkin, Director

“Conducting an orchestra is the most mysterious of musical vocations, demanding that a practitioner combine the attributes of coach, shaman, psychologist, and traffic cop, all in quest of an elusive harmony.”
-- The Washington Post

The National Conducting Institute affords a number of unique opportunities:

- Participants will work with a major symphony orchestra
- Participants will be able to develop personal mentoring relationships with Leonard Slatkin and individual members of the National Symphony Orchestra
- Participants will gain experience in orchestral governance and administration fundamentals
- Participants will receive leadership training to assist them in working with orchestras, management, and communities

Curriculum Outline

WEEK ONE: April 7-11, 2003

“Leading An American Orchestra: The Role of the Music Director”

- Artistic Planning: Personal Vision, Season Development, and Presentation
In consultation with artistic, operations, marketing, public relations, development, education, orchestra library, and orchestra personnel management
- Leadership and Interpersonal Skills Development
- Other Conductor Roles: Staff conductor of a larger orchestra, music director of a smaller orchestra
- Meetings with Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser, NSO Executive Director Rita Shapiro, Orchestra mentors, and visiting guest conductor

WEEK TWO: June 3-6, 2003

“Mentoring: Working with Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony Orchestra”

- Session with Leonard Slatkin, to assess participants skills and assign repertoire
- Observe National Symphony Orchestra in rehearsals and concerts
- Five working sessions with Leonard Slatkin and Orchestra mentors, including meetings with visiting composers and guest soloist

WEEK THREE: June 18-21, 2003
“Conducting the National Symphony Orchestra”

- Six rehearsals conducting the National Symphony Orchestra
- Six post-rehearsal video-review sessions with Leonard Slatkin and Orchestra mentors
- Performance, June 21, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

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