



## NEWS FOR RELEASE

March 18, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Renowned Pianist André Watts Performs Beethoven's *Emperor***

Celebrated pianist André Watts performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Long Island Philharmonic and Maestro David Stewart Wiley. These concerts conclude the 2008-09 Long Island Philharmonic Classics Concert series and this season's exploration of the works of Beethoven. The orchestra will also perform Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3. The concerts take place on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 8 p.m. at Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts and Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts.

*The New York Times* said Watts' "technique has the sleek, polished facility of someone born to the instrument." A review by the *Orlando Sentinel* said Watts' playing "was utterly natural and entirely convincing, without any sense of false bravura or artistic excess."

Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, later dubbed the "Emperor" by its publisher, was written relatively early in Beethoven's career, around 1809. It is the last piano concerto he wrote and, like his fourth piano concerto, it breaks with the conventions of Classicism by extending the first movement, giving more time to the piano soloist. It paved the way for future Romantic composers. The "Emperor" was dedicated to his most devoted patron and pupil, Archduke Rudolph of Austria.

Mendelssohn was an established pianist and composer from a very early age, following in the tradition of German composers like Beethoven. He wrote Symphony No. 3 after being inspired by a visit to Edinburgh, giving the piece the moniker "Scottish" and later dedicating it to Queen Victoria during a visit to London. In 1942, when Mendelssohn composed the "Scottish" Symphony, he also performed as the piano soloist in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto while in Germany.

André Watts will give a Master Class in Hillwood Recital Hall at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, April 16th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Master Classes give student musicians the opportunity to perform with guest artists with the Long Island Philharmonic. All Master Classes are free and open to the public. Pianists interested in participating can obtain an application at [www.liphilharmonic.com/education/home-ed-15.html](http://www.liphilharmonic.com/education/home-ed-15.html).

Long Island Philharmonic programs are made possible, in part, through public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; support from the New York State Office of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Nassau County Office of Cultural Development; Suffolk County under the auspices of the office of Cultural Affairs, Steve Levy, County Executive; and the Huntington Arts Council. The Philharmonic offers special thanks to its corporate sponsors: Arbor National Commercial Mortgage LLC, Audiovox, BAE Systems, Bank of America, CA, Inc., David Lerner Associates, Frank and Camille's, Henry Schein, Inc., HIP Health Plan of New York, HSBC, J.H. Cohn LLP, mindSHIFT, LI Pulse, NEFCU, Newsday, Oheka Castle, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Pulte Homes, Roslyn Savings Foundation, UBS Financial Services and the WE'RE Group.

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Saturday, April 18, 2009 · 8:00 p.m. at Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts  
Sunday, April 19, 2009 · 7:30 p.m. at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts

***WATTS PLAYS BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR***

**Long Island Philharmonic**

**David Stewart Wiley, Music Director & Conductor**

**André Watts, piano**

- Mendelssohn**            Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56, "Scottish"  
                                  I. Andante con moto – Allegro un poco agitato  
                                  II. Vivace non troppo  
                                  III. Adagio  
                                  IV. Allegro vivacissimo – Allegro maestoso assai
- Beethoven**            Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 73, "Emperor"  
                                  I. Allegro  
                                  II. Adagio un poco mosso  
                                  III. Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

**Ticket Information**

**Prices:** \$85, \$68, \$50, \$38

Tickets may be purchased by phone or in person at the Philharmonic Box Office 631.293.2222, 1 Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 2C21, Melville, NY 11747 or online at [www.liphilharmonic.org](http://www.liphilharmonic.org).

A \$2 per ticket handling fee will be applied to all individual tickets ordered through the Box Office or website.

For complete information about the Philharmonic's season, call 631.293.2223, or visit online at [www.liphilharmonic.org](http://www.liphilharmonic.org).

**About the Long Island Philharmonic**

**The Long Island Philharmonic**, currently in its 30th season, is the largest performing arts organization and the only professional orchestra in the region. Founded in 1979 by folk singer Harry Chapin and group of local business leaders, the Orchestra was conceived as an artistic institution that would serve as the cornerstone of Long Island's cultural life. Today, the Philharmonic continues to provide cultural and educational programming of the highest level to the residents of Long Island. Considered one of the nation's most honored and respected regional orchestras, the Long Island Philharmonic was designated a "Primary Arts Organization" by the State of New York. The Philharmonic is the resident orchestra of the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and an inaugural inductee of the Long Island Music Hall of Fame.

The Long Island Philharmonic is noted for excellent artistic leadership beginning with founding Music Director Christopher Keene (1979-1990), followed by Marin Alsop (1990-1996), David Lockington (1996-2000), and current Music Director David Stewart Wiley who has led the Orchestra since 2001.

More than 30,000 lives are enriched each year by the Philharmonic's extensive Arts-in-Education and Community Engagement Programs, Random Acts of Music (RAM) presented in schools, concerts halls, libraries, hospitals, museums, and community centers. Among these are Youth Concerts, the Annual Young Artist Competition, the Master Class Series, numerous In-School Programs, Orchestra at Work, and Kids at Concerts.

## About the Artist

### **André Watts, piano**

**André Watts** burst upon the music world at the age of 16 when Leonard Bernstein chose him to make his debut with the New York Philharmonic in their Young People's Concerts, broadcast nationwide on CBS-TV. Only two weeks later, Bernstein asked him to substitute at the last minute for the ailing Glenn Gould in performances of Liszt's E-flat Concerto with the New York Philharmonic, thus launching his career in storybook fashion. More than 45 years later, André Watts remains one of today's most celebrated and beloved superstars. His performances each year with the world's great orchestras and conductors and his sold-out recitals and appearances at the most prestigious international festivals bring him to every corner of the globe.

During the 06/07 season, Mr. Watts celebrated his 60th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his debut (with the Philadelphia Orchestra). In honor of this milestone and his numerous achievements and contributions to the world of classical music, he was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in June, 2006. During that special season, Mr. Watts performed with many of the American orchestras with which he has had close relationships for many years including the Philadelphia Orchestra in Philadelphia and Carnegie Hall, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Atlanta, St. Louis, National, Indianapolis, Seattle and Milwaukee symphonies. During the 07/08 season, he makes an eleven city tour of the East Coast with the Bergen Philharmonic which includes a concert at Carnegie Hall and a recital tour to Japan. In addition to his regular visits to the major summer music festivals including Ravinia, Tanglewood, Saratoga, the Mann Music Center, Mostly Mozart and the Hollywood Bowl, André Watts' recent engagements include appearances with the New York Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra and the Chicago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Houston, Dallas and Cincinnati symphonies; a tour with the Israel Philharmonic with performances in Boston, Chicago and Atlanta; a Carnegie Hall appearance with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; and a European tour with the Baltimore Symphony.

Mr. Watts has had a long and frequent association with television, having appeared on numerous programs produced by PBS, the BBC and the Arts and Entertainment Network, performing with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center among others. His 1976 New York recital, aired on the program Live From Lincoln Center, was the first full length recital broadcast in the history of television and his performance at the 38th Casals Festival in Puerto Rico was nominated for an Emmy Award in the category of Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cultural Programming. Mr. Watts' most recent television appearances are with the Philadelphia Orchestra on the occasion of the orchestra's 100th Anniversary Gala and a performance of the Brahms Concerto No.2 with the Seattle Symphony, Gerard Schwarz conducting, for PBS.

Mr. Watts' extensive discography includes recordings of works by Gershwin, Chopin, Liszt and Tchaikovsky for CBS Masterworks; recital CD's of works by Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt and Chopin for Angel/EMI; and recordings featuring the concertos of Liszt, MacDowell, Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saens on the Telarc label. He is also included in the Great Pianists of the 20th Century series for Philips. A much-honored artist who has played before royalty in Europe and heads of government in nations all over the world, André Watts was selected to receive the Avery Fisher Prize in 1988. At age 26 he was the youngest person ever to receive an Honorary Doctorate from Yale University and he has since received numerous such honors from highly respected schools including the University of Pennsylvania, Brandeis University, Trinity College and The Juilliard School of Music. In 1984, his Alma Mater, the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, honored Mr. Watts with its Distinguished Alumni Award and in May, 1997 Peabody again recognized his accomplishments by presenting him with an Honorary Doctorate degree. Previously Artist-in-Residence at the University of Maryland, Mr. Watts was appointed to the newly created Jack I. and Dora B. Hamlin Endowed Chair in Music at Indiana University in May, 2004.