FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL KURT MASUR CONDUCTING SEMINAR at MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Monday, January 21 through Friday, January 25, 2013
All sessions take place in Manhattan School of Music’s Borden Auditorium

Unique program returns for an eighth year offering emerging conductors direct instruction from Kurt Masur; all conductors were personally selected by Maestro Masur

Each day offers Seminar Conductors the opportunity to conduct the Manhattan School of Music Orchestra in a Master Class under Maestro Masur’s guidance; followed by post rehearsal discussion and critique

All Master Class Sessions are FREE; Public is invited to attend

Repertoire to be studied includes:
Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, op. 21
Beethoven: Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, op. 55, (“Eroica”)
Weber: Overture to Oberon

Concluding Seminar Concert -- Friday, January 25, 7:30 pm;
Showcases Manhattan School of Music Orchestra conducted by Selected Seminar Conductors and Maestro Kurt Masur

The Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar returns to Manhattan School of Music on Monday, January 21, taking place through Friday, January 25, in the School’s Borden Auditorium. Started in 2004 and now in its eighth year, this unique program offers an international pool of emerging conductors, all personally selected by Maestro Masur, direct instruction. The seminar conductors are given the opportunity to conduct an orchestra comprised of Manhattan School musicians in a master class format. Following these rehearsals all of the participating conductors take part in post rehearsal discussion and critique sessions with Kurt Masur. This year’s roster of eleven conductors includes three Americans as well as participants from Taiwan, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Switzerland, Korea, Italy and Austria. The repertoire to be studied will include two Beethoven symphonies – No. 1 in C Major, op. 21 and Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, op. 55, (“Eroica”) and Weber’s Overture to Oberon.
All master class rehearsal sessions are free and open to the public. A final concert led by Maestro Masur and selected seminar conductors will take place on Friday, January 25 at 7:30 pm in Borden Auditorium. The program featured on the evening’s concert will be the same repertoire studied all week.

Commenting on the Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar, Maestro Masur stated, “After years of friendship with Manhattan School of Music, I am happy to establish a Masur conducting master class at the School where I can share the tradition of the European masters with the young conductors of the future. Through the years I have observed the Manhattan School of Music orchestra program, and I know that the School recognizes the importance of that tradition.”

This year’s participating conductors are listed below in alpha order:

- **Daniel Black**, age 33, from Ventura, CA; Music Director of the Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra (IL) and UIC String Orchestra
- **Tung-Chieh Chuang**, age 30, a native of Taiwan; Curtis and Peabody Institute graduate
- **Jesse Henkensiefken**, age 31, American; Artistic Founder/Music Director, Ars Viva Music Studio and Chamber Orchestra; Conductor, Noel Pointer Foundation Youth Orchestra
- **George Jackson**, age 25, from London; currently studying in Vienna and a 2009 graduate of Trinity College Dublin with First Class Honours and a Gold Medal
- **Roger Kalia**, age 28, from New York; Music Director, Columbus (IN) Symphony Orchestra, Lake George Music Festival, and Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra
- **Earl Lee**, age 28, from Korea; MSM Master’s degree candidate studying orchestral conducting with George Manahan
- **Gemma New**, age 26, British/New Zealand native; currently assistant conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Director of Baltimore-based Lunar Ensemble
- **Jean-Claude Picard**, age 32, from Canada residing in Switzerland; participant in 2011 Järvi International Conducting Academy; currently conducts three orchestras in Switzerland
- **Kleanthe Russo**, age 25, born in Florence Italy; Graduate of the Milan Conservatory and First Prize recipient of the 2011 “A. Votto” conducting competition (Milan)
- **Azis Sadikovic**, age 29, from Vienna; Founder/Music Director of Ensemble Wien sound
- **Johannes Zurl**, age 33, from Landshut, Germany; Winner of Munich’s ARD International Music Competition

For CONCERT ONLY, tickets required, priced at $20; $12 for seniors and students. All rehearsal master classes are FREE and the public is invited to attend. For information, call 917.493.4428 or visit the MSM website at www.msm.nyc.edu. Manhattan School of Music is located on the northwest corner of Broadway and 122nd Street and is easy to get to by bus (the M104 and M4 stop at 122nd Street and Broadway) and subway, the No. 1 train (stops at 116th Street and Broadway).
Kurt Masur has shared a longstanding relationship with Manhattan School of Music, playing a significant role since 1992 as a guest conductor of the School’s orchestras in concerts, orchestral readings and rehearsals. He has also been the key figure in symposia on Brahms and Mendelssohn, and in 1993, MSM awarded Kurt Masur the Degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, honoris causa.

Kurt Masur, one of the most widely admired and respected musicians of his generation, is well known to orchestras and audiences not only as a distinguished conductor but also as a humanist. He served as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic for eleven years from 1991 to 2002, and was named the orchestra’s Music Director Emeritus, becoming the first New York Philharmonic music director to receive that title, and only the second (after Leonard Bernstein, who was named Laureate Conductor) to be given an honorary position. The New York Philharmonic established the “Kurt Masur Fund for the Orchestra”, which will endow conductor debut week at the Philharmonic in perpetuity in his honor. Since leaving the New York Philharmonic in 2002, other orchestras that he has an association with include the London Philharmonic where he served as principal conductor for seven years, and the Orchestre National de France, where he served as music director since 2002 and, in 2008, assumed the title of Honorary Music Director for Life. Maestro Masur continues to guest conduct orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, Israel Philharmonic (Honorary Guest Conductor), the Gewandhaus (named first-ever Conductor Laureate) and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Since 1989, when he played a central role in the peaceful demonstrations that led to Germany’s reunification, his leadership has attracted worldwide attention. In 1995 he received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany; in 1996 he was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor for Music from the National Arts Club; and in 1997 he was awarded the titles of Commander of the Legion of Honor from the government of France and New York City Cultural Ambassador from the City of New York. Subsequently, in 2007, Maestro Masur was named Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor, a rank rarely given to foreign citizens. In 1999, he received the Commander Cross of Merit of the Polish Republic, one of the country’s highest honors. In 2004 the board of the Beethoven House Bonn, the composer's birthplace, unanimously appointed Maestro Masur chairman. In March 2002 the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Johannes Rau, bestowed upon him the Cross with Star of the Order of Merit, and in September 2007, the President of Germany, Horst Köhler, bestowed upon him the Great Cross of the Legion of Honor with Star and Ribbon. In October 2004 the city of Münster bestowed upon Maestro Masur the Freedom Prize.

Education is very important to Maestro Masur. In addition to his work at Manhattan School of Music, he often conducts youth orchestras and gives master classes and has been a professor at the Leipzig Academy of Music since 1975.
The participating student conductors (listed in alphabetical order) are:

**Daniel Black**, currently Music Director of the Rockford (IL) Symphony Youth Orchestra and the UIC String Orchestra, is an emerging American conductor with a strong connection to the Russian tradition having studied at the St. Petersburg (Leningrad) Conservatory. Among the orchestras he has conducted are the Danish National Symphony, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the St. Petersburg “Classica” and St. Petersburg State Academic Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Black has been a conducting fellow at the 2011 Aspen Music Festival, 2006 Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, and the 2003 Brevard Music Festival. This season he will conduct the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as a Podium Conductor at the League of American Symphony Orchestra’s seminar “Leading an American Orchestra.” Daniel Black is also an accomplished composer who has studied with Richard Danielpour and has received commissions from the Rockford Symphony, Eastman Wind Ensemble and UIC Theater Department. In 2008, he was a finalist and diploma winner of the International Prokofiev Composition Competition. Mr. Black is a graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Eastman School of Music and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has finished his doctoral coursework in orchestral conducting studying with Victor Yampolsky at Northwestern University.

**Tung-Chieh Chuang**, a native of Taiwan, was the 2012 3rd prizewinner at the 3rd Jeunesses Musicales International Conducting Competition held in Bucharest. He has attended conducting workshops with Marin Alsop and the Baltimore Symphony and with Gustav Meier at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory. In 2012, Tung-Chieh Chuang received a Diploma in Orchestral Conducting from the Curtis Institute of Music. He holds a Diploma in Orchestral Conducting from the Peabody Institute as well as a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University.

**Jesse Henkensiefken** is a conductor/cellist who is the current Music Director of both the Ars Viva Chamber Orchestra and Noel Pointer Foundation Youth Orchestra. Having received a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kansas, Henkensiefken has studied conducting with such maestros as Nikolas Uljanov, David Neely, Paul Tucker, Simon Carrington and Brian Preistman. He is a current conducting student at Manhattan School of Music where he studies under the tutelage of Maestros George Manahan and David Gilbert. Henkensiefken has participated in conducting master classes with Leonard Slatkin, Gerard Schwarz and Paul Vermel and was a South Carolina Conductor’s Institute Fellow in 2009. He has guest conducted the South Carolina Symphony, String Orchestra of Brooklyn, members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Emporia State Symphony Orchestra and the Kansas University Symphony Orchestra. Dedicated to music outreach, Dr. Henkensiefken is the founder of the AVCO “Youth in Music Project” and the Ars Viva Center for Music in Westchester, New York.

**George Jackson**, born in London, debuts as guest conductor this season with orchestras including the Czech Republic’s West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, as well as with the Philharmonic Orchestras of Jena and Gotha. He served as assistant conductor of the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2012, Mr. Jackson was awarded 2nd prize at the 3rd Jeunesses Musicales International Conducting Competition held in Bucharest. He is founder of the Speculum Musicae Opera Company in Vienna where he led a coffeehouse production of *La serva padrona* and Charpentier’s *Davide et Jonathas*. He regularly assists renowned
conductor on opera productions throughout Europe, working most recently with Yves Abel at the Vienna State Opera. Orchestras that he has conducted include the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the “George Enescu” Philharmonic and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. George Jackson is a graduate student in Vienna. He trained as a violinist and studied musicology and composition at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in 2009 with First Class Honours and a Gold Medal.

Roger Kalia has been hailed as a conductor who exhibits “admirable ability and flexibility” and for bringing a “fresh view to classical music.” He recently won the position of Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra of Los Angeles. Mr. Kalia is the winner of the 2012 BM/Lionel Newman Conducting Scholarship, as well as a YMF/Conductor in Residence Grant. In 2011, he was awarded 2nd prize at the Inaugural Memphis Symphony International Conducting Competition, which led to his debut with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Kalia has worked with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the New York Youth Symphony, the Houston Ballet Academy, and the Charlotte Symphony, where he was a frequent guest cover conductor. He has also served as Assistant Conductor for the Indiana University Opera Theater. Roger Kalia is in his third season as Music Director of the Columbus (IN) Symphony Orchestra, and is the newly appointed Music Director of the Lake George Music Festival. Mr. Kalia is a native New Yorker, and recently completed his doctoral work as an Associate Instructor of Orchestral Conducting at Indiana University. Prior to his work at Indiana, he earned his Master of Music degree at the University of Houston in orchestral conducting.

Earl Lee, a native of Korea, pursues a diverse career as a cellist and a conductor. Recent conducting appearances have been with the Riverside Orchestra in New York. In 2011 and 2012, he participated in the Atlantic Music Festival as both a conductor and cellist. An avid chamber musician, Mr. Lee has toured the United States as a former member of the Koryo quartet, as well as Musicians from Marlboro. This past season he toured with jazz pianist Chick Corea and vibraphone player Gary Burton as a cellist with the Harlem String Quartet. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, he has attended festivals including Marlboro, Music from Angel Fire, Rivinia’s Steans Institute and Caramoor. He is currently a member of conductor-less ensembles such as Sejong Soloists and the East Coast chamber Orchestra (ECCO) as well as a second year orchestral conducting student at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of George Manahan. This is Mr. Lee’s second appearance at the Masur Conducting Seminar.

Gemma New, born and raised in Wellington, New Zealand, is currently Assistant Conductor for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Director of the Baltimore-based Lunar Ensemble. Ms. New is the recipient of the 2012 American Prize for orchestral conducting as well as the Ansbacher Fellowship chosen by members of the Vienna Philharmonic to attend the Salzburg Music Festival. Recent appearances have included with the Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières, the Baltic Youth Philharmonic, and the Macon and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras. Ms. New is committed to new music and with the Lunar Ensemble has premiered 16 works in the past two years. In addition, she is dedicated to youth education and currently works with the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra as rehearsal conductor. Gemma New is a graduate of the Peabody Institute where she studied with Gustav Meier and served as cover conductor for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as Assistant Conductor for the Peabody Concert Orchestra. She was selected by Kurt Masur to share the podium with him in a concert at the 2012 Usedom Music Festival.
**Jean-Claude Picard**, from Canada and currently residing in Switzerland, is conductor of three orchestras in Switzerland – the Saint-Pierre-Fusterie Symphony Orchestra, the Ensemble Instrumental de la Neuveville and the Ensemble Vocal et Instrumental de Rolle. He has conducted orchestras including the Tonhalle-Orcbersther Zurich, the Porto National Orchestra and the Pärnu City Orchestra, and guest conducts the Toronto Symphony Orchestra this season. In addition, he conducted the Sinfonietta de Genève in Mascagni’s “Cavalleria Rusticana” with soloists of the Lausanne Opera. Jean-Claude Picard completed his Orchestra Conducting Diploma under the tutelage of Laurent Gay at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Genève.

**Kleanthe Russo**, from Florence Italy, began his musical training at age six, studying violin, piano and later composition. In 2011, he was named winner at the Antonio Votto Conducting Competition in Milan, and made his debut in March 2012 leading Donzietti’s *Elisir d’Amore at Milan’s Sala Verdi*. Mr. Russo has worked with numerous orchestras throughout Europe, among them the Pomeriggi Musicali, the Orchestra Toscanini di Parma, the Orchestra Sinfonica Aburzzese, the Paul Constantinescu State Philharmonic Orchestra Ploiesti and the Orchestra Bulgaria Classic Sofia. Most recently he appeared at Prague’s Rudolfinum Theatre where he conducted the Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of South Boemia. Kleanthe Russo is a graduate of Milan’s Conservatorio G. Verdi with additional studies at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. He has been selected as a conductor of the Kyoto International Music Festival to take place in May 2013.

**Azis Sadikovic** is the founder of his own orchestra, the Ensemble Wien sound. In 2012, he was winner of the 3rd award at the 9th Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors held in Katowice, Poland. From 2007 to 2012, Mr. Sadikovic served as Principal Conductor of the Academic Symphony Orchestra in Vienna and he has worked closely with members of both the Vienna Philharmonic Berlin Philharmonic. Orchestras that he has conducted include Serbia’s Nis Symphony Orchestra, the Danish National Radio Orchestra, the ensemble of the Orquestra de Cadaqués, the Sinfonia Finlandia, the Academic Orchestra Association Vienna, and the Guidhall School of Music and Drama Orchestra. Since 2009, Azis Sadikovic has been the Artistic Director of Vienna’s Annual Life Ball, the largest HIV charity event in Europe. In 2013, he will be conducting concerts in Germany and Serbia, will be an assistant at the Opera National du Rhin in Strasbourg, France, and will be participating in the 6th Prokofiev International Competition for Conductors in St. Petersburg, Russia. Azis Sadikovic was born in Vienna and studied at the Vienna Conservatory where he graduated in 2008 with honors.

**Johannes Zurl**, a German-born conductor, clarinetist and pianist, is a regular conductor of the Hamburg Symphony. In 2012, he made his conducting debuts with the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin and the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, also recording works by Brahms and Hindemith with both orchestras. Other orchestras he has conducted include the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Nacional do Porto and the Lucerne Festival Strings. In 2010 and 2012 at the invitation of David Zinman, Mr. Zurl studied conducting at the Aspen Music Festival. As a clarinetist he regularly performs with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, he has worked as an accompanist for Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and Christian Thielemann. Johannes Zurl studied at the universities of Munich and Berlin.

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Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar Master Class with Orchestra schedule:

**Repertoire studied:** Beethoven Symphony No 1 and No. 3 (“Eroica”); Weber Overture to Oberon

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 21:</strong></td>
<td>Conducting Master Class</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, January 22:</strong></td>
<td>Conducting Master Class</td>
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<td>7:00 to 9:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, January 23:</strong></td>
<td>Conducting Master Class</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, January 24:</strong></td>
<td>Conducting Master Class</td>
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<td>7:00 to 9:30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, January 25:</strong></td>
<td>Dress Rehearsal</td>
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<td>9:30 am - 12:30 pm</td>
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*All sessions are free and open to the public*

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Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar Concert

**Friday, January 25 at 7:30 pm**

Manhattan School of Music Orchestra

Kurt Masur, *Conductor*

Kurt Masur Seminar Conductors to be announced

**Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beethoven</td>
<td>Symphony No. 1 in C Major, op. 21</td>
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<td>Weber</td>
<td>Overture to Oberon</td>
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John C. Borden Auditorium at Manhattan School of Music

*Tickets, $20; $12 for seniors and students*