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**BRYANT PARK AND BANK OF AMERICA TO DEBUT
“NEW YORK NOW IN BRYANT PARK”,
A FIRST-OF-ITS KIND, FALL CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES**

**New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, Orchestra of St. Luke’s
The Metropolitan Opera’s Young Artist Program, and The New York Pops
To Offer FREE Performances Showcasing Their Upcoming Seasons**

Bryant Park Corporation announces the inaugural season of a series of early fall classical music concerts featuring musicians from the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, and The New York Pops. Entitled **Bank of America presents New York Now in Bryant Park**, the series runs for three weeks, from September 23 through October 8, kicking off with musicians from the New York Philharmonic, featuring Principal Clarinet Stanley Drucker.

Bank of America presents New York Now in Bryant Park is a first for New York City, as it brings together five of the world’s most celebrated classical music institutions for eight free concerts to highlight their 2008-2009 seasons. Each evening, for up to ninety minutes, one of these five extraordinary organizations brings some of its most accomplished artists to Bryant Park to share what’s in store for the coming season.

Following the success of such long-running programs as the HBO Bryant Park Summer Film Festival and Broadway in Bryant Park, **Bank of America presents New York Now in Bryant Park** invites New Yorkers to once again indulge themselves – and their senses – under the stars in the heart of Midtown. Here, they will experience the emotion, passion and genius of Mozart, Puccini, Bernstein, Sondheim and others as brought to life by many of the finest classical performers in the world.

“All of us at Bryant Park are immensely proud to be able to offer a complimentary ‘taste’ of the upcoming seasons for these five legendary organizations”, said Dan Biederman, president of Bryant Park Corporation. “Whether you’re a devout lover of the symphony or opera, or simply someone who appreciates all that New York has to offer, any one these concerts will quickly remind you just how powerful and transcendent classical music can be.”

Along with the generous support of Bryant Park neighbors Brookfield Properties and HBO, and media support from 96.3FM WQXR, CBS Outdoor and New York Magazine, **Bank of America presents New York Now in Bryant Park** is made possible by the generosity of the newest Bryant Park neighbor, Bank of America. The company is completing construction of its new, environmentally-friendly New York City headquarters located directly across from Bryant Park.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Bryant Park on this new opportunity to offer a free preview of some of the City’s best musical offerings,” said Bank of America New York President Alan Rappaport. “With our tower located just steps away from this extraordinary city landmark, we couldn’t imagine a more fitting way to contribute to the cultural richness and vitality of our new neighborhood.”

Concerts begin at 5:30 p.m., except on September 23 when the special launch event, featuring musicians from the New York Philharmonic, begins at 5:00 p.m., on a stage located on Bryant Park’s Upper Terrace, complete with concert-style seating for hundreds and room for thousands more. Well-known personalities in classical music will host each concert.



The **Bank of America** presents **New York Now in Bryant Park** schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, September 23 5:00 p.m. New York Philharmonic

Musical Cornerstones

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic, America's oldest symphony orchestra, preview two programs from its upcoming season at Avery Fisher Hall. First, a performance of Mozart's lyrical *Clarinet Quintet*, which will be performed in April 2009, features the legendary Principal Clarinet Stanley Drucker, who was appointed Principal by Leonard Bernstein in 1960 and this season celebrates his 60th and final season with the Philharmonic. Also presented is Dvořák's *American Quartet*, a work that illustrates the American influence on the Czech composer while he visited the United States, and when he also composed the famous Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, premiered by the New York Philharmonic in 1893, and to be performed this October.

Hosted by Matías Tarnopolsky, Artistic Administrator of the New York Philharmonic.

Wednesday, September 24 5:30 p.m. New York City Opera

Love American Style

Romance, desire, longing and true love! New York City Opera, acclaimed for its pioneering role in creating an American operatic repertory, presents selections from the operas *Susannah*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Vanessa*, and *Madama Butterfly*, the operettas *Candide*, *Naughty Marietta*, *The Student Prince*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*; and musical theater favorites *Knickerbocker Holiday*, *South Pacific*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Brigadoon*. Performed by gifted young City Opera artists - sopranos Inna Dukach and Lielle Berman, mezzo-soprano Heather Johnson, tenors Raúl Melo and Andrew Drost, and bass-baritone Matthew Burns, and accompanied by pianist William Barto Jones.

Hosted by Cori Ellison, Dramaturg of the New York City Opera.

Thursday, September 25 5:30 p.m. Orchestra of St. Luke's

Clash Tango

Virtuoso musicians from the Grammy award-winning Orchestra of St. Luke's present highlights from the upcoming St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble season at The Morgan Library & Museum, Brooklyn Museum and Dia:Beacon. The melodious and intricate music of two Argentine composers is featured: Ástor Piazzolla's *La Muerte del Angel* and Osvaldo Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina*, both written for flute, clarinet, string quartet and double bass. Also on the program: Johannes Brahms' *Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in b minor, Op. 115*.

Hosted by Jeff Spurgeon, Weekday Morning Host on 96.3FM, WQXR.

The Metropolitan Opera

Tuesday, September 30 5:30 p.m. Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Young Artists from the Met

Arias, duets and trios are presented by singers from the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Highlights include selections from operas featured in the upcoming Met season, including works by Verdi, Tosti, Donizetti, Puccini, and Mozart, as well as gems from the American songbook. Performed by tenor Matthew Plenk, soprano Grazia Doronzio, and baritone Edward Parks, and accompanied by pianist In Sun Suh.

Hosted by Margaret Juntwait, Radio Host of the Metropolitan Opera.

Wednesday, October 1 5:30 p.m. New York City Opera

Faraway Places

Journey throughout the world with music. New York City Opera, acclaimed for its pioneering role in creating an American operatic repertory, presents selections from the operas *The Pearl Fishers*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Vanessa*, *Tosca*, and *Regina*; operettas *Candide*, *The Student Prince* and *Naughty Marietta*; and musicals *Kismet*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Cinderella*, and *Lost in the Stars*. Performed by gifted young City Opera artists - soprano Lielle Berman, mezzo-sopranos Heather Johnson and Cherry Duke, tenor Raúl Melo, baritone Michael Chioldi, and bass-baritone Matthew Burns, and accompanied by pianist Liora Maurer.

Hosted by Cori Ellison, Dramaturg of the New York City Opera.



Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private not-for-profit company, was founded in 1980 to renovate, finance and operate Bryant Park in New York City. BPC is funded by income from events, concessions and corporate sponsors, as well as an assessment on neighboring properties, and does not accept government or philanthropic monies. In addition to providing security and sanitation services, and tending the park's lush lawn and seasonal garden displays, BPC provides public amenities and activities, including movable chairs and tables, café umbrellas, restaurants, food kiosks, world-class restrooms, and a wide range of free events throughout the year. The Midtown park, conveniently located at 6th Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets, is visited by over 5 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world. BPC's website, www.bryantpark.org, is available for more detailed information and a schedule of upcoming events.

Bank of America and the Arts

Bank of America is a leading supporter of arts and culture in the United States. Through a wide variety of programs, Bank of America works to strengthen artistic institutions and provide greater access to treasured works of art for both its customers and those who might not otherwise experience them. Each year, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation provides millions of dollars in grants to a wide range of arts organizations, supporting education and access programs and enabling institutions to expand their scope, and underwrites national and local performances, arts programs, and exhibitions. Through its unique loaned exhibition program, the bank offers its art collection to museums throughout the country, free of charge, so they may expand their offerings for the benefit of their communities.

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