

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY

Presented by the New York Philharmonic and Warner Bros.

**GEORGE DAUGHERTY To Conduct New York Philharmonic in
Original Animation Scores as Classic *Looney Tunes* Are Screened**

Celebrating 25th Anniversary of *Looney Tunes* on the Live Concert Stage

WHOOPI GOLDBERG To Appear as Special Guest

May 15–16, 2015

The New York Philharmonic and Warner Bros. will present *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*, a program celebrating classic *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* cartoons with the New York Philharmonic playing the music live while the animation is screened. Emmy Award winner George Daugherty will conduct in his Philharmonic debut, and Academy Award winner and New York Philharmonic Board Member Whoopi Goldberg will appear as a special guest. The concerts take place Friday, May 15, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m.; and Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony was created by George Daugherty and David Ka Lik Wong, and the New York Philharmonic's performances will celebrate the 25th anniversary of this concert's world premiere and subsequent international performances, beginning with *Bugs Bunny on Broadway* in 1990 at the Gershwin Theatre. The New York Philharmonic engagement also marks the concert's first return to New York City since then. The program includes, among many others, such iconic *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* as *What's Opera, Doc?*, with music by Milt Franklyn based on Wagner operas; *A Corny Concerto*, in its first live New York performance, with music by Carl W. Stalling based on J. Strauss, Jr.'s *Tales of the Vienna Woods* and *The Blue Danube*; *The Rabbit of Seville*, with music by Carl W. Stalling based on Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville*; and *Rhapsody Rabbit*, with music by Carl W. Stalling based on Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. These cartoons feature animation direction by Chuck Jones, Friz Freleng, Bob Clampett, Matthew O'Callaghan, William Hanna, Joseph Barbera, and others. The program will also include two new 3D-CGI cartoons from Warner Bros.: *I Tawt I Taw a Puddy Tat* and *Coyote Falls*.

In addition, costumed *Looney Tunes* characters will greet audience members in the Avery Fisher Hall lobby before the concerts and during intermission.

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Following its 1990 World Premiere at the Gershwin Theatre, also conducted by George Daugherty and created by Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Wong, the concert has toured the world continuously, playing to millions of fans, with more than 100 orchestras ranging from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to The Philadelphia Orchestra, and at iconic venues ranging from The Hollywood Bowl to the Sydney Opera House. In 2010 Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Wong recreated *Bugs Bunny on Broadway* in a reimagined new version, *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*.

Artist

George Daugherty has conducted more than 100 American and international orchestras and earned a Primetime Emmy Award, five Emmy nominations, and numerous other awards for his work in television and film. He has conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic at The Hollywood Bowl, where he returns in 2015, and the National Symphony Orchestra at Wolf Trap, appearing with each orchestra more than 20 times. Recent appearances include the Pittsburgh and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras; The Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Minnesota orchestras, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He has been a frequent guest conductor at the Sydney Opera House and with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, with whom he also recorded, as well as at Mexico's Bellas Artes Opera House and with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra in London and on tour, including to the United States and Canada with Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, dancers of The Royal Ballet, and the Westminster Choir and Bell Ringers. Mr. Daugherty has also conducted the symphony orchestras of Dallas, Houston, Seattle, Baltimore, Montreal, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Vancouver, Toronto, Atlanta, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Syracuse, Winnipeg, Columbus, Edmonton, North Carolina, Charlotte, Delaware, Phoenix, New Orleans, and Grant Park, as well as the Rochester Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, and Pacific Symphony. His international credits include the Danish National, Moscow, West Australia, Melbourne, and Adelaide symphony orchestras, as well as the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Ireland's RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Orquesta Sinfonica de Venezuela, New Japan Philharmonic, and the major Italian opera houses of Rome, Florence, Torino, and Reggio Emilia. He has conducted for ballet dancers including Baryshnikov and Nureyev, and performances for American Ballet Theatre, Bavarian Staatsoper Ballet, La Scala Ballet, and Teatro Regio di Torino. He has been music director of Ballet Chicago, Chicago City Ballet, Louisville Ballet, and Ballet San Jose. George Daugherty received a Primetime Emmy as executive producer of ABC's animation-and-live action production of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, which he also directed, wrote, and conducted, and for which he was also Emmy-nominated for Outstanding Music Direction. He was executive producer and writer of the Emmy-winning PBS/Sesame Workshop children's series *Sagwa, The Chinese Siamese Cat*, based on Amy Tan's book, and received an Emmy nomination for *Rhythm & Jam*, his ABC specials teaching the basics of music to teenagers. Mr. Daugherty created the *Bugs Bunny* symphonic concert legacy in 1990, which has since played to millions of people worldwide. These performances mark his New York Philharmonic debut.

Whoopi Goldberg is an Oscar, Emmy, Grammy, and Tony Award winner. She is equally well known for her humanitarian efforts on behalf of children and the homeless, in support of human rights and education, against substance abuse and AIDS, as well as efforts for other causes and
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charities. Among her many philanthropic activities, Ms. Goldberg is a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador. She is also a *New York Times* best-selling author of books for adults and children. Born and raised in New York City, she worked in theater and improvisation in San Diego and the Bay Area, where she created the characters that evolved into the eponymous hit Broadway show and Grammy Award–winning album, and the HBO special that helped launch her career, *Whoopi Goldberg: Direct from Broadway*. Ms. Goldberg made her motion-picture debut in Steven Spielberg’s film version of Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*, for which she earned an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe Award. Her performance in *Ghost* earned her the Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress. On television, Ms. Goldberg appeared for five seasons on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and hosted her own syndicated late-night talk show. In 2007 she was named moderator of ABC’s *The View*. She has appeared on many television series and specials, including eight *Comic Relief* telecasts with Billy Crystal and Robin Williams, and has hosted both the Academy Awards and Tony Awards telecasts. She has produced and appeared in several Broadway productions and made her debut as a radio host in 2006. In addition to an Oscar, Grammy, and two Golden Globe Awards, Ms. Goldberg has been honored with multiple NAACP Image Awards, as well as various honors for her many humanitarian efforts. Whoopi Goldberg made her New York Philharmonic debut in December 2014 narrating *The Night Before Christmas* during *Holidays with the Philharmonic*.

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Programs are supported, in part, by public funds from **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**, the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and the **New York State Council on the Arts**, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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Looney Tunes Costumed Characters provided courtesy of Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, New Jersey.

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Tickets

Tickets go on sale to subscribers and donors Monday, January 12; tickets for the general public go on sale January 16. Tickets for these concerts start at \$45. Tickets may be purchased online at nyphil.org or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office**. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. To determine ticket availability, call the Philharmonic’s Customer Relations Department at **(212) 875-5656**. [Ticket prices subject to change.]

For press tickets, call Lanore Carr in the New York Philharmonic Marketing and Communications Department at (212) 875-5714, or e-mail her at carrl@nyphil.org.

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Bugs Bunny at the Symphony

New York Philharmonic

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

Friday, May 15, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

George Daugherty*, conductor

Whoopi Goldberg, special guest

Created by George Daugherty and David Ka Lik Wong

From WAGNER	<i>The Ride of the Valkyries</i> (adapted from <i>Die Walküre</i>)
Max STEINER	<i>The Warner Bros. Fanfare</i>
Charles TOBIAS, Murray MENCHER & Eddie CANTOR	<i>Merrily We Roll Along</i> (<i>The Merrie Melodies Theme</i>)
Milt FRANKLYN	<i>Baton Bunny</i> (based on Suppé's Overture to <i>Morning, Noon, and Night in Vienna</i> ; animation direction by Chuck JONES and Abe LEVITOW)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>Rhapsody Rabbit</i> (based on Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2; animation direction by Friz FRELENG)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>A Corny Concerto</i> (based on J. Strauss, Jr.'s <i>Tales of the Vienna Woods</i> and <i>The Blue Danube</i> ; animation direction by Robert CLAMPETT)
Scott BRADLEY	<i>Johann Mouse</i> (after music by Johann Strauss, Jr.; animation direction by William HANNA and Joseph BARBERA)
Scott BRADLEY	<i>Tom and Jerry in the Hollywood Bowl</i> (based on Johann Strauss, Jr.'s Overture to <i>Die Fledermaus</i> ; animation direction by William HANNA and Joseph BARBERA)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>Back Alley Oproar</i> (based on Rossini's "Largo al factotum" from <i>The Barber of Seville</i> ; animation direction by Friz FRELENG)
Carl W. STALLING & Milt FRANKLYN	<i>Zoom and Bored</i> (based on "The Dance of the Comedians" from Smetana's <i>The Bartered Bride</i> ; animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>Pepe Le Pew, le Chanteur Romantique</i> <i>For Scent-imental Reasons</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES) <i>A Scent of the Matterhorn</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES) <i>Scent-imental Romeo</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>The Rabbit of Seville</i> (based on Rossini's Overture to <i>The Barber of Seville</i> ; animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Alan LIVINGSTON, Billy MAY & Warren FOSTER	<i>I Tawt I Taw a Puddy Tat</i> (animation direction by Matthew O'CALLAGHAN)
Christopher LENNERTZ	<i>Coyote Falls</i> (animation direction by Matthew O'CALLAGHAN)
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Milt FRANKLYN	<i>Robin Hood Daffy</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Milt FRANKLYN	<i>Show Biz Bugs</i> (animation direction by Friz FRELENG)
Carl W. STALLING	<i>Long-Haired Hare</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Milt FRANKLYN	<i>What's Opera, Doc?</i> (animation direction by Chuck JONES)
Arr. & Orch. Carl W. STALLING	<i>Merrie Melodies: That's All Folks</i>

**denotes New York Philharmonic debut*

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