

For immediate release please

Contact: Yukiko Takahashi  
Coordinator/ Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra  
vnso.ustour2011@gmail.com/ 646-369-4068  
www.vnso.org.vn



## **VIETNAM NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** **First Harmony Tour to the USA 2011**

- Presented by The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam & VNSO -

**The Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra (VNSO)** visits the U.S. for the first time in its fifty years of history, making North American premiere appearances at Carnegie Hall (Sunday, October 23, 2011) and Boston Symphony Hall (Monday, October 24, 2011). Led by the internationally renowned maestro Tetsuji Honna, the VNSO performs both western classical masterpieces and the works inspired by the cultural heritage of Vietnam in this historic occasion.

The VNSO was founded in 1959 prior to the country's unification. The orchestra has continually developed since, overcoming the nation's social and financial struggles after the Vietnam War. Currently, the VNSO performs sixty concerts in Vietnam and abroad annually and its ambitious programming includes Mahler Cycle, Beethoven Cycle and Mozart Cycle. **The VNSO First Harmony Tour to the USA 2011**, presented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, has been a long-cherished wish for the orchestra as well as for the country.

The program includes **Adagio for Strings**, the much beloved work by American composer Samuel Barber, known as the score for Oliver Stone's anti-war film "Platoon." This elegiac composition has also been performed at the funerals of Albert Einstein, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Princess Grace of Monaco, and the memorial ceremonies for the victims of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. In the same spirit, the VNSO commemorates its performance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The award-winning violinist Le Hoai Nam, a principal of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, is featured in the violin concerto **Thang Long** composed by a legendary Vietnamese composer Dam Linh.

Mr. Honna, a native of Fukushima, Japan, has won many significant prizes including the first prize and Bartok prize at Budapest International Conducting Competition in 1992. His commitment to the VNSO began in 2001 as a Music Adviser and Conductor, then in 2009, he was appointed as the Music Director and Principal Conductor. Mr. Honna has recently been awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Award for his tireless contributions to the international cultural exchange through music.

This concert is also to reciprocate New York Philharmonic's first-ever visit to Hanoi during its Asian Horizons tour in October 2009. The concerts conducted by maestro Alan Gilbert took place at the VNSO's home, Hanoi Opera House, and they were broadcasted on television and were simultaneously projected onto

the outside jumbo screens to charm the passerby on the streets of busy Hanoi.

The ultimate goal of the **VNSO First Harmony Tour to the USA** is to communicate and connect with other cultures and people of other nations, and express Vietnam's wishes for peace through music of each country and the world.

### **[Fukushima, Japan & VNSO]**

This concert tour is supported by quite a few corporations and organizations from Japan. One notable supporter is a group of the people from Fukushima Prefecture, Mr. Honna's hometown, which donated approximately \$60,000 to the VNSO before it was struck by the earthquake and tsunami in March. "Is it appropriate to use their money under the circumstances?" the members of the VNSO and Mr. Honna questioned, especially because Fukushima is suffering from the ongoing nuclear crisis. However, the VNSO is determined to repay the kindness of the people of the area and held a charity concert titled "Be Strong Japan" in April in Hanoi, and is planning charity concerts in Fukushima in the coming years. The donation boxes will be placed at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall to benefit the musical activities of children in Fukushima.

### **[INFORMATION]**

#### **New York**

Date: Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2:00PM  
Venue: Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall (57<sup>th</sup> Street & Seventh Avenue, NYC)  
Tickets: \$60/ \$40/ \$25 (50% discount for students and seniors with proper IDs at the Box Office)  
To order tickets: Box Office, CarnegieCharge: 212-247-7800/ [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org)

#### **Boston**

Date: Monday, October 24, 2011 at 8:00PM  
Venue: Boston Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston)  
Tickets: \$55/ \$35/ \$25 (50% discount for students and seniors with proper IDs at the Box Office)  
To order tickets: Box Office, SymphonyCharge: 888-266-1200/ [www.bostonsymphonyhall.org](http://www.bostonsymphonyhall.org)

For more information: [www.vnso.org.vn](http://www.vnso.org.vn)

<http://www.facebook.com/VNSO.UStour2011>

[http://twitter.com/VNSO\\_UStour2011](http://twitter.com/VNSO_UStour2011)

*\*The photographs and interviews are available upon request.*

*Please contact Yukiko Takahashi at [vnso.ustour2011@gmail.com](mailto:vnso.ustour2011@gmail.com) / 646-369-4068.*

###