

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**ANNOUNCES**

**NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR**

**ANKUSH KUMAR BAHL**

**Appointment begins with 2011-12 Season**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The National Symphony today announced the selection of its new assistant conductor, Ankush Kumar Bahl, who will join the NSO's conducting roster with the beginning of the 2011-12 season. The selection was made following auditions and interviews, with a selection committee overseen by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach.

"It gives me great pleasure to welcome Ankush Kumar Bahl to the National Symphony Orchestra family," said Christoph Eschenbach. "He is a very gifted young man, with true musicality, and I have no doubt that he will contribute greatly to the NSO, especially in its community and education programs. We will also enjoy helping this young artist grow and develop."

*The New York Times* praised Mr. Bahl's 2005 Carnegie debut, citing "an energetic reading of the Brahms overture with clear authority and enthusiasm."

Mr. Bahl's appointment with the NSO is for two years. His conducting duties will include the National Symphony's annual two weeks of Young People's Concerts, which reached nearly 27,000 students from the District, Maryland, and Virginia this season; one of the NSO's three Family Concert programs; community engagement concerts; and activities with the NSO's training programs.

Additionally, Mr. Bahl will serve as cover conductor for all of Music Director Christoph Eschenbach's concerts, as well as four additional weeks of subscription concerts. He also will be the cover conductor for national and international tours.

Indian-American conductor Ankush Kumar Bahl is a native of the San Francisco Bay area, and is currently an Assistant Conductor with the Orchestre National de France. The recipient of the 2009 Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship, he spent time in Germany working privately with Kurt Masur and Riccardo Chailly, along with the Gewandhaus Orchestra, as the city of Leipzig celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth. Most recently Mr. Bahl was Music Director of the New Jersey

Youth Symphony (2005-2010), and has worked as assistant conductor with the Royal Concertgebouw, Prague Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and the New York Youth Symphony.

Recent seasons have included his debuts with the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Symphony. This coming season will include his debut with the National Opera Orchestra of Nancy.

During the 2009 Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar at the Park Avenue Armory Mr. Bahl once again caught the attention of the *New York Times*: "By Saturday the orchestra had become as fine a Mendelssohn vehicle as any young conductor could want...One [of the conductors] who did seem to inspire it was Ankush Kumar Bahl, in the finale of the "Reformation" Symphony. Mr. Bahl was also one of the few who, in the earlier sessions, took the lead in rehearsing the orchestra in detail rather than simply waiting for Mr. Masur to interrupt and take matters into his own hands... the "Reformation" Symphony was a great success."

Ankush Bahl received a double degree in music and rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley. He has been a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and completed his master's degree in conducting at the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Zdenek Macal and George Manahan. He has participated in master classes and workshops with Christoph Eschenbach, Sir Colin Davis, Michael Tilson Thomas, David Zinman, David Robertson, James Conlon, and many others, in addition to those cited above.

Currently he has been spending his summers as a guest conductor of the Kinhaven Music School, and performing at other summer festivals in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information about Ankush Kumar Bahl, please visit:

<http://www.boleroartists.com/akb.htm>

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