

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Minnesota to Confer an Honorary Degree on Marin Alsop, Internationally Acclaimed Conductor, at the School of Music Convocation on Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Minneapolis, MN (9/8/2009)— Marin Alsop, internationally acclaimed conductor and Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will receive an honorary degree from the University of Minnesota at the U of M School of Music Fall Convocation program in Ted Mann Concert Hall. The Doctor of Humane Letters is the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, recognizing individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in their field.

The Convocation program will include a keynote address by Maestra Alsop on “Education and the Arts: Musicians as Engaged Leaders” and a performance of Leonard Bernstein’s “Make Our Garden Grow” by the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs. The School of Music will host Ms. Alsop in residence on October 5-6, where she will dialogue with students and faculty.

School of Music Director David Myers says, “Maestra Alsop has been invited to the University as the quintessential professional model of integrated artistry, publicly engaged musicianship, and civic leadership in the world today. She is an artist-conductor who succeeds creatively across musical styles and genres, and is widely respected for her ability to relate to a wide range of audiences and constituencies. She is highly regarded for her mentorship to young musicians, universally recognized as a role model for contributing to the public good, and deeply valued as an articulate spokesperson for American music and the place of classical music in society. Ms. Alsop is the logical musician-leader to inspire faculty and students around public engagement, and to energize collaborative potential among the university and Twin Cities communities for nurturing attitudes of public value and service among musicians.”

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In September 2007, Alsop made history with her appointment as the 12th music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the first woman to head a major American orchestra. This mirrored her ongoing success in the United Kingdom where she was Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony from 2002-08 and is now Conductor Emeritus. Ms. Alsop also continues her association as Conductor Laureate of the Colorado Symphony following 12 years as Music Director, and since 1992 has been Music Director of California's acclaimed Cabrillo Festival which has won the coveted ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music every single year since her appointment.

Maestra Alsop's visit to the U of M coincides with the launch of a new initiative to integrate public engagement into the curriculum and research of the School of Music. Supported by a \$10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota's Office of Community Engagement, the School will undertake a career enhancing effort for aspiring professional musicians of the 21st century: preparing them, through projects, internships, and entrepreneurial efforts, to become engaged artist-leaders among the increasingly diverse societies and communities in which they live and work.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

LISTING INFORMATION

University of Minnesota School of Music Convocation

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 10:00 am

Keynote by Marin Alsop, internationally acclaimed conductor, on "Education and the Arts: Musicians as Engaged Leaders"

Featuring a performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Make Our Garden Grow" by the University Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs.

Ted Mann Concert Hall (University of Minnesota's West Bank Campus)

2128 4th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Free and open to the public

Visit www.music.umn.edu for more information.