FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2023

EARTH
NY Phil Announces Details of 2022–23 Season Theme
Addressing Global Climate Crisis

Two Orchestral Programs Conducted by Jaap van Zweden
World Premiere of Julia Wolfe’s unEarth, June 1–3
New York Premiere of John Luther Adams’s Become Desert, June 8–10
Concerts Also Feature Works by Sibelius, Britten, and Takemitsu

The New York Philharmonic announces details of EARTH, which addresses the global climate crisis through concert programming, June 1–10, 2023.

EARTH comprises two concert programs, each of which is conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden and features a premiere that utilizes the dynamic audiovisual capabilities of the Wu Tsai Theater in the new David Geffen Hall:

• The World Premiere of Julia Wolfe’s unEarth, a New York Philharmonic Commission, June 1–3, 2023, a work that, in Wolfe’s words, “digs deep into the stories and science of our planet — looking at forced migrations, adaptations, species loss, land loss, and changing seas … singing our fears and hoping for a way forward.” Soprano Else Torp; The Men of The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally; and Young People’s Chorus of New York City, directed by Francisco J. Núñez are the featured vocalists; Anne Kauffman directs the multimedia production that features production design by Lucy MacKinnon, lighting design by Ben Stanton, and sound design by Jody Elff (all in their NY Phil debuts). Also on the program is Sibelius’s Violin Concerto, with NY Phil Concertmaster Frank Huang as soloist.

The premiere of unEarth follows Wolfe’s Fire in my mouth, a Philharmonic commission that explored immigration and workers’ rights, which van Zweden conducted in its World Premiere in January 2019. Building on this partnership, Wolfe added, “I am thrilled to be back working with my hometown orchestra, the amazing New York Philharmonic, under the leadership of Jaap van Zweden. Building Fire in my mouth with Jaap, the Orchestra, and all of the singers was one of the greatest experiences of my life.”

• The New York Premiere of John Luther Adams’s Become Desert, a New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with the Seattle Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, June 8–10, 2023, which the composer regards as
“both a celebration of the deserts we are given, and a lamentation of the deserts we create.” The New York Philharmonic Chorus, directed by Malcolm J. Merriweather, joins the Orchestra, which is divided into five instrumental “choirs” placed throughout the hall as well as onstage to sonically surround the audience. Regarding this unique setup, Adams added: “In much of my recent music, the space in which we listen is a fundamental element, so I’m delighted that the New York Premiere of Become Desert will be heard in the newly renovated David Geffen Hall with the Orchestra stationed all around the space, immersing listeners in the musical landscape.” The concerts also present two 20th-century works relating to the planet’s waters: Britten’s Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, and Takemitsu’s I hear the water dreaming, with NY Phil Principal Flute Robert Langevin as soloist.

Become Desert is the third piece in Adams’s Become trilogy, which also includes Become River and Become Ocean.

In connection with EARTH, the New York Philharmonic presents Music of a Changing World, an archival exhibit consisting of various media, such as news clippings, manuscripts, and album covers, showcasing how iconic figures with longstanding ties to the NY Phil — from former Music Director Gustav Mahler to acclaimed composer Angélica Negrón — have reflected the natural world in their art. The exhibit, which is on display now, will run through June 10, 2023, in the Katherine and Gary W. Parr Archive Gallery.

EARTH is the final of the NY Phil’s 2022–23 season initiatives engaging with important questions of our time, following HOME, LIBERATION, and SPIRIT.

Biographies
Jaap van Zweden, Frank Huang, Anne Kauffman, Robert Langevin, Else Torp, The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally, New York Philharmonic Chorus, directed by Malcolm J. Merriweather, Young People’s Chorus of New York City, Directed by Francisco J. Núñez, New York Philharmonic

Health and Safety Protocols
For up-to-date information on our health and safety protocols, visit nyphil.org/safety.

Tickets
Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances 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 Welcome Center at David Geffen Hall. The Welcome Center opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Welcome Center closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or carrl@nyphil.org.
Event Listing for EARTH

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: FRANK HUANG IN SIBELIUS, AND WORLD PREMIERE OF JULIA WOLFE’S unEarth

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, June 2, 2023, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 3, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Frank Huang, violin
The Men of The Crossing, chorus
Donald Nally, director
Young People’s Chorus of New York City
Francisco J. Núñez, director
Else Torp, soprano (Wolfe)
Anne Kauffman, director (Wolfe)
Lucy MacKinnon, projection designer (Wolfe)
Ben Stanton, lighting designer (Wolfe)
Jody Elff, sound designer (Wolfe)

SIBELIUS
Violin Concerto

Julia WOLFE
unEarth (World Premiere–New York Philharmonic Commission)

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: NY PREMIERE OF JOHN LUTHER ADAMS’S BECOME DESERT, AND ROBERT LANGEVIN IN TAKEMITSU

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, June 9, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 10, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Robert Langevin, flute
New York Philharmonic Chorus
Malcolm J. Merriweather, director
ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Julia Wolfe’s *unEarth* is part of the Wu Tsai Series Inaugural Season.

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic’s online press room, nyphil.org/pressroom, or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or pr@nyphil.org.

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