



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***FROM THE TOP AT CARNEGIE HALL*  
DEBUTS IN PRIME TIME ON PBS JANUARY 2009**

**Special Presentation Features America's Most Extraordinary Young Classical Musicians**

**Boston, MA, Thursday, November 13, 2008**—The award-winning series *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* makes its PBS prime time debut when three of the show's most popular episodes—"Rhythm and Strings," "Star Quality," and "Music Is Where the Heart Is"—air over the course of three evenings. Based on the popular NPR program and hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley, *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* takes viewers backstage with today's rising young classical musicians and captures the excitement of their Carnegie Hall debuts. The first of the three selected episodes, "Rhythm and Strings," will air on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 10:30 p.m. (check local listings). Broadcast dates for "Star Quality" and "Music Is Where the Heart Is" will be confirmed at a later date.

"Music and the arts have always been my passion," says PBS president and CEO Paula Kerger. "Music is PBS's passion too, an enthusiasm shared by the brilliant performers of *From the Top at Carnegie Hall*. With this special presentation, we're thrilled to introduce these extraordinary performers to our prime time audience."

"Rhythm and Strings" begins with a hypnotic performance on the marimba by sixteen-year-old Joshua Jones of Chicago, a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Percussion Scholarship Group who frequently accompanies his church's Gospel choir. Also featured is twelve-year-old violinist Anna Lee from Queens, New York whose classmates affectionately call her "one small girl with one big attitude." Accompanied by host Christopher O'Riley, Anna gives a performance of Pablo de Sarasate's *Ziguenerweisen* (Gypsy Airs), Op. 20, No. 1, and also appears as one-third of the Maggiore Trio, the third and final performers featured on this episode. Rounding out the trio are eleven-year-old pianist Alice Burla, who was featured in Season One of *From the Top at Carnegie Hall*, and thirteen-year-old cellist Taeguk Mun. The Maggiore Trio brings this episode to its climax with a performance of the third movement *Presto* (Gypsy Rondo) from Haydn's Piano Trio in G Minor.

Exclusive corporate funding  
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Helen and Peter Bing  
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Earlier this year, *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* launched a brand new Web site at [pbs.org/fromthetop](http://pbs.org/fromthetop). The site features streaming video, downloadable podcasts, series and performer information, and a comprehensive teacher's guide - including activity guides, lesson plans, and an educator's index that groups content by instrument, genre, and composer.

The series is a co-production of WGBH, *From the Top*, and Don Mischer Productions in partnership with Carnegie Hall. Executive producers for *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* are Laurie Donnelly for WGBH, Gerald Slavet and Jennifer Hurley-Wales for *From The Top*, and Don Mischer for Don Mischer Productions. Producer and director for the series is Gary Halvorson.

Exclusive corporate funding for *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* is provided by Liberty Mutual Insurance. Responsibility. What's Your Policy? Major foundation funding is provided by The Bernard Osher Foundation – proud to celebrate *From the Top at Carnegie Hall's* second season and the commitment of young people to music and the arts. Additional funding is provided by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Helen and Peter Bing, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the E.H.A. Foundation.

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**WGBH Boston** is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of fully one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup, along with some of public television's best-known lifestyle shows and children's programs and many public radio favorites. WGBH is the number one producer of Web sites on [pbs.org](http://pbs.org), one of the most trafficked dot-org Web sites in the world. WGBH is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in technologies and services that make media accessible to the 36 million Americans who rely on captioning or video descriptions. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, duPont-Columbia Awards...even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH was honored with a special institutional Peabody Award for 50 years of excellence. For more information visit [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

**From the Top** is an independent non-profit organization that celebrates the passion, dedication and person stories of the nation's outstanding young classical musicians. Through entertaining radio and television broadcasts, online media, and a national tour of live events and outreach programs, these performers inspire the pursuit of excellence, and encourage participation in the arts as an integral part of a vibrant and civil society. *From the Top's* training and mentorship programs prepare young musicians to serve as positive peer role models, connect with new audiences, and give back to their communities in different ways.

**Don Mischer Productions** is an internationally acclaimed production company with a commitment to producing programs that share the best of human experience, whether it be the work of our most acclaimed artists or the celebration of our most cherished monuments and greatest international events. Credits include the opening and closing ceremonies of the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games, the Kennedy Center Honors, PBS Dance in America, the 100th Anniversary of Carnegie Hall, Motown 25, the Presidential Inaugural Gala, Barbra Streisand's Millennium Concert in Las Vegas, and the Superbowl Halftime Shows with Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, and Prince.

**Carnegie Hall** presents more than 200 performances by the world's finest artists each season on its three great stages—the renowned Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, intimate Weill Recital Hall, and innovative new Zankel Hall—with offerings ranging from orchestral concerts, chamber music, and solo recitals to jazz, world, and popular music. Through the work of The Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall, wide-reaching music education programs serve more than 115,000 people annually, playing a central role in Carnegie Hall's commitment to making great music accessible to as many people as possible.

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