

Lincoln Center Festival 08

Date: April xx, 2008

Press Contacts:

Eileen McMahon, 212.875.5391
emcmahon@lincolncenter.org
Marian Skokan, 212-875-5386
mskokan@lincolncenter.org

BALKAN SUPERSTAR GORAN BREGOVIC AND HIS WEDDING AND FUNERAL BAND RETURN TO *LINCOLN CENTER FESTIVAL* ON JULY 8 AND 9

Goran Bregovic—charismatic Balkan rock star in his youth turned opera and film composer and concert performer—returns to Avery Fisher Hall, scene of his *Festival 06* triumph, on July 8 and 9, as part of *Lincoln Center Festival 08*. Along with his mainstay ensemble, the Wedding and Funeral Band, the Sarajevo-born Bregovic performs a repertoire of Balkan folk arrangements infused with his own musical ingredients, drawing inspiration from his war-torn homeland and the raw energy of brass-powered Gypsy bands.

For this *Festival* appearance, Bregovic and his nine-piece band will perform songs from his upcoming CD, *Alcohol*—scheduled for a May 2008 release—along with material from two other recent projects: the gypsy opera, *Karmen with a Happy End*, and the album *Tales and Songs from Weddings and Funerals*.

A native of Serbia calling Paris his home base, Bregovic still makes appearances in his home country. An August 2007 concert at the Guca Festival in front of 100,000 people was recorded for his new release, *Alcohol*—so titled, the artist says, because “it’s through that filter that people listen to music in Guca.” On the disc, Bregovic performs several “Bjelo Dugme” songs, which he adapted for his brass band.

Balkan composer **Goran Bregovic** was born in Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia to a Croatian father and a Serbian mother. The cult rock group White Button (Bijelo Dugme) that he founded at age 16 became one of the most popular groups in Eastern Europe in the late 1970s. Director Emir Kusturica convinced Bregovic to work in films; he has composed soundtracks for *Time of the Gypsies*, *Queen Margot*, *Underground*, and *Arizona Dream*. His music carries Slavic and Gypsy themes, fusing popular music with traditional polyphonic music of the Balkans, tango, and brass bands. In June 2002, his collaboration with Oliviero Toscani, *My Heart Has Become Tolerant*, had its world premiere at the St. Denis Basilica near Paris, performed by three singers from three religions—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim—with the Moscow Orthodox Choir, a string section from Tetouan in Morocco, and Bregovic’s own Wedding and Funeral Orchestra. Another project, *Forgive Me, Is This the Way to the Future?—Three letters for three prophets*, commissioned by ECHO (European Concert Hall Organisation), toured Europe in April 2007, as Bregovic’s Wedding and Funeral Band was joined by Absolute Ensemble, under the direction of Kristjan Järvi.

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Goran Bregovic's Wedding and Funeral Band

Two performances:

Tuesday-Wednesday, July 8 and 9 at 8 p.m.

Running time: approximately 2 hours, no intermission

Avery Fisher Hall, Broadway at 64th Street

Tickets: \$30, 40, 50

SYMPOSIA

As it has done since its inception to enhance the performance experience, *Lincoln Center Festival* will present symposia and special events with various *Festival* artists and performers. Most events last approximately one hour, are free of charge, and take place at 6 p.m. in the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse in the Rose Building at Lincoln Center. For more information, visit LincolnCenter.org in April.

TICKETS

Tickets for *Festival* 08 are on sale via CenterCharge 212-721-6500, online at www.LincolnCenter.org and at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office, 65th Street and Broadway.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

For more information visit www.LincolnCenter.org and register for "My Lincoln Center" to receive a *Festival* brochure, updates, and special offers. You may also call Lincoln Center Customer Service at 212-875-5456.

Programs and artists subject to change.

PHONE NUMBERS/CONTACT INFORMATION

CenterCharge: 212-721-6500

Lincoln Center's website: www.LincolnCenter.org

Lincoln Center Customer Service: 212-875-5456

Lincoln Center Information Line: 212-875-5766

VENUE LOCATIONS

Avery Fisher Hall, 65th Street and Broadway

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, the Rose Building, 165 W. 65th Street, 10th floor

Gerald W. Lynch Theater, John Jay College, Amsterdam Avenue between 58th and 59th Streets

Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue, between 66th and 67th Streets

The Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, 60th Street and Broadway

Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th Street

Lincoln Center Festival 2008 is sponsored by Altria Group, Inc. and American Express.

Lincoln Center Festival 2008 is also made possible by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Alice Tully Foundation, Nancy A. Marks, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Susan and Elihu Rose, The Starr Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Jennie and Richard DeScherer, The Skirball Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Katzenberger Foundation, Inc., The Shubert Foundation, The Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Norman & Rosita Winston Foundation, Solomon and Blanche De Jonge Foundation, The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, The Mortimer Levitt Foundation, Inc., One Anonymous, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

Public support for Festival 2008 is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional corporate support is provided by Sumitomo Corporation of America Foundation.

Movado is an Official Sponsor of Lincoln Center, Inc.

WNBC/WNJU are Official Broadcast Partners of Lincoln Center, Inc.

Continental Airlines is the Official Airline of Lincoln Center, Inc.

Nokia is the Official Mobile Equipment Provider of Lincoln Center, Inc.

MetLife is the National Sponsor of Lincoln Center, Inc.

"Summer at Lincoln Center" is sponsored by Diet Pepsi and RR Donnelley.

Lincoln Center Festival is a presentation of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. (LCPA), which serves three primary roles: presenter of superb artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. As a presenter of over 400 events annually, LCPA's programs include *American Songbook*, *Great Performers*, *Lincoln Center Out of Doors*, *Midsummer Night Swing*, the *Mostly Mozart Festival*, and *Live From Lincoln Center*. In addition, LCPA is leading a series of major capital projects on behalf of the resident organizations across the campus.

Lincoln Center is committed to providing and improving accessibility for people with disabilities. For information, call the Department of Programs and Services for People with Disabilities at (212) 875-5375.
