



## Musical Milestones

The following list of key dates is not comprehensive and is highly subjective compiled by the Philharmonic archivists. If you have a favorite date in the history of the New York Philharmonic, please send us an email and we'll consider adding it to the Milestone list.

Date	Milestone
Apr. 2, 1842	Philharmonic Society of New York founded, American Ureli Corelli Hill named first President
Dec. 7, 1842	First concert by the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Ureli Corelli Hill, H.C. Timm, and Denis Etienne, Apollo Rooms on lower Broadway before an audience of 600
Nov. 16, 1844	U.S. premiere of Beethoven's Symphony No. 8, George Loder conducting
Nov. 22, 1845	U.S. premiere of Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, George Loder conducting
May 20, 1846	U.S. premiere of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 by New York Philharmonic, George Loder conducting, at Castle Garden (text sung in English)
Feb. 17, 1853	Philharmonic Society incorporated
Nov. 22, 1856	First performance of the Philharmonic in the Academy of Music on 14th Street
Nov. 21, 1857	U.S. premiere of Schumann's Manfred Overture, Theodore Eisfeld conducting
Nov. 20, 1858	The Philharmonic increases its subscription season from four concerts to five
Jan. 27, 1866	U.S. premiere of Berlioz' Symphonie Fantastique, Carl Bergmann conducting
Apr. 19, 1873	Anton Rubinstein conducts his Ocean Symphony with Philharmonic
Apr. 22, 1876	U.S. premiere of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, George Matzka conducting

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Nov. 4, 1876	U.S. premiere of Act I of Wagner's Die Walküre, Leopold Damrosch conducting
Nov. 24, 1877	Theodore Thomas conducts the Philharmonic for the first time
Nov. 9, 1878	First concert by the New York Symphony, conducted by Leopold Damrosch, Steinway Hall on 14th Street
Nov. 12, 1881	World premiere of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2, Theodore Thomas conducting
Nov. 1882	First U.S. tour of the New York Symphony, Leopold Damrosch conducting
Nov. 13, 1886	First performance of the Philharmonic in the Metropolitan Opera House on Broadway and 39th Street
Dec. 10, 1886	U.S. premiere of Brahms' Symphony No. 4, Walter Damrosch conducting the New York Symphony
Jan. 31, 1890	First U.S. performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, Walter Damrosch conducting the New York Symphony
May 5, 1891	Walter Damrosch and Tchaikovsky conduct the New York Symphony in the inaugural concert of Andrew Carnegie's Music Hall
Nov. 17, 1891	Ignace Jan Paderewski's American debut, with the New York Symphony, Walter Damrosch conducting
Dec. 30, 1891	First Young People's Educational Concert presented by Walter Damrosch with the New York Symphony
Oct. 21, 1892	Dvořák conducts the Philharmonic and the New York Symphony in his "Te Deum"
Nov. 18, 1892	First performance in Carnegie's Music Hall by the New York Philharmonic, Anton Seidl conducting
Dec. 3, 1892	First New York Symphony performance of a work by a woman composer, the world premiere of Amy Beach's Eilende Wolken, Segler die Lufte
Dec. 16, 1893	World premiere of Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 From the New World, New York Philharmonic, Anton Seidl conducting

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Mar. 16, 1894	U.S. premiere of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 by the New York Symphony, Walter Damrosch conducting
Dec. 7, 1900	Violinist Fritz Kreisler makes his Philharmonic debut
May 8, 1901	Andrew Carnegie elected President of the Philharmonic
Jan. 30, 1904	Victor Herbert conducts the Philharmonic for the first time, Herbert's Hero and Leander performed
Mar. 26, 1904	Richard Strauss conducts program of own works with the Philharmonic; included is Death and Transfiguration
Nov. 11, 1905	Debut of conductor Willem Mengelberg with the New York Philharmonic
Nov. 3, 1906	U.S. debut of Camille Saint-Saëns performing New York premieres of two of his piano concertos with the New York Symphony, Walter Damrosch conducting
Dec. 8, 1908	Gustav Mahler conducts the New York Symphony in U.S. premiere of his Symphony No. 2, Resurrection
Nov. 4, 1909	Mahler begins tenure as the Philharmonic's Conductor
Nov. 28, 1909	U.S. premiere of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Rachmaninoff as soloist, Walter Damrosch conducting the New York Symphony
Dec. 3, 1909	Opening date of first U.S. tour of the New York Philharmonic, Mahler conducting
May 28, 1912	Mary Seny Sheldon, the first woman elected President of the New York Philharmonic
Nov. 1913	The Philharmonic becomes the first American symphony orchestra to establish an endowment, through a bequest from the publisher Joseph Pulitzer
Jan. 24, 1914	First Philharmonic Young People's Concert, Josef Stransky conducting
Jan. 22, 1917	First commercial recording made by the Philharmonic, on Columbia Records, Stransky conducting

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May 4, 1920	Opening date of the first European tour by an American orchestra, New York Symphony, led by Walter Damrosch
Feb. 22, 1922	Joint concert of Philharmonic, New York Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Mengelberg, Stokowski and Stransky in Carnegie Hall
July 6, 1922	First Philharmonic performance in Lewisohn Stadium's summer concert series, initiated by Minnie Guggenheimer
Aug. 11, 1922	First broadcast by a major symphony orchestra, New York Philharmonic, program conducted by Willem van Hoogstraten from Lewisohn Stadium
Feb. 16, 1923	U.S. debut of conductor Bruno Walter, with the New York Symphony
Jan. 26, 1924	Conductor Ernest Schelling begins long-running series of New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts
Apr. 24, 1924	First female member of the New York Philharmonic hired, harpist Stephanie Goldner
Jan. 3, 1925	U.S. debut of conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler, with the New York Philharmonic
Jan. 8, 1925	U.S. conducting debut of Igor Stravinsky, with the New York Philharmonic in an all-Stravinsky program
Dec. 3, 1925	George Gershwin plays world premiere of his Piano Concerto in F, commissioned by Walter Damrosch, with the New York Symphony under Walter Damrosch
Jan. 14, 1926	Debut of conductor Arturo Toscanini with the New York Philharmonic
Aug. 6, 1926	Premiere of the movie "Don Juan," for which the Philharmonic is first symphony to record a soundtrack
Nov. 26, 1927	New York Symphony debut of violinist Yehudi Menuhin
Jan. 12, 1928	New York Philharmonic U.S. debut of pianist Vladimir Horowitz
Mar. 8, 1928	Maurice Ravel conducts the New York Symphony for the first time

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Mar. 30, 1928	Merger of the New York Symphony and the New York Philharmonic, to be known as The Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York, Inc., Clarence MacKay, Chairman, Harry Harkness Flagler, President
Dec. 13, 1928	World premiere of Gershwin's An American in Paris , Walter Damrosch conducting
Nov. 15, 1929	Toscanini conducts U.S. premiere of Ravel's Boléro
May 3, 1930	Philharmonic's first performance in Europe, at the Théâtre national de l'opéra in Paris, during its first European tour led by Toscanini
Oct. 5, 1930	Philharmonic's first coast-to-coast broadcast over the CBS radio network
Jan. 19, 1933	Sergei Prokofiev plays his Piano Concerto No. 3, Bruno Walter conducting
Jan. 13, 1934	First Philharmonic Young People's Concert broadcast live to France, conducted by Ernest Schelling
Aug. 23, 1934	Members of the New York Philharmonic inaugurate Berkshire Festival in Stockbridge, Mass., Henry Hadley conducting. The Festival later became known as Tanglewood
Nov. 11, 1934	Arthur Rodzinski makes his Philharmonic conducting debut
Feb. 20, 1936	Pianist Rudolf Serkin makes his U.S. debut
Nov. 5, 1936	Conductor John Barbirolli makes his U.S. debut
Nov. 17, 1937	Pianist Arthur Rubinstein makes his Philharmonic debut
Feb. 10, 1938	Soprano Kirsten Flagstad makes her Philharmonic debut
Jul. 25, 1938	Antonia Brico, first woman to conduct the Philharmonic, makes her debut (performance at Lewisohn Stadium)
Mar. 28, 1940	World premiere of Britten's Violin Concerto in D minor, with Antonio Brosa, violin, and John Barbirolli conducting

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Dec. 12, 1940	Benny Goodman makes his Philharmonic debut performing Debussy's Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra, John Barbirolli conducting
Dec. 19, 1940	Dimitri Mitropoulos makes his Philharmonic conducting debut
Nov. 14, 1943	Leonard Bernstein makes his historic conducting debut with the Philharmonic as a last-minute replacement for an ailing Bruno Walter
Oct. 5, 1944	World premiere of Richard Strauss' Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Musical Director Artur Rodzinski conducting
Jan. 26, 1946	Igor Stravinsky conducts the world premiere of his Symphony in Three Movements, commissioned by the Philharmonic
Jan. 26, 1950	Philharmonic makes first appearance on television, broadcast from Lewisohn Stadium on the NBC television network
Sep. 1, 1950	The Philharmonic begins performances of four concerts a day at the Roxy Theatre as the stage attraction for the film "The Black Rose," starring Orson Welles and Tyrone Power
Feb. 22, 1951	Leonard Bernstein conducts world premiere of Ives' Symphony No. 2
Aug. 22, 1951	Opening concert of first tour to Scotland's Edinburgh Festival, Bruno Walter and Dimitri Mitropoulos conducting
Oct. 24, 1955	Leonard Bernstein leads the Philharmonic's first appearance at the United Nations for United Nations Day
Jan. 18, 1958	Leonard Bernstein conducts first televised Young People's Concert
Jan. 30, 1958	Aaron Copland conducts his Symphony No. 3 in his Philharmonic debut
Apr. 29, 1958	Opening date of the Philharmonic's first tour to South America, Dimitri Mitropoulos and Leonard Bernstein conducting.
Apr. 8, 1959	Philharmonic debut of Jack Benny in a Pension Fund Concert, Bernstein conducting
Aug. 22, 1959	Opening date of first tour to the Soviet Union, Bernstein conducting

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Apr. 26, 1961	Opening date of first tour to Japan, Bernstein conducting, Seiji Ozawa assistant conductor
Sep. 23, 1962	Philharmonic opens Lincoln Center in its new home, Philharmonic Hall
May 29, 1963	First Promenades concert, Andre Kostelanetz conducting; Carl Sandburg narrates Copland's A Lincoln Portrait
Nov. 24, 1963	Leonard Bernstein conducts the Philharmonic at memorial service for President John F. Kennedy, broadcast live from New York City over the CBS television network
Sep. 21, 1964	New York Philharmonic begins operating as the first orchestra in the United States to work under a 52-week contract
Jul. 30, 1965	Duke Ellington's conducting debut at the Orchestra's French-American Festival
Aug. 10, 1965	First free outdoor Summer Parks Concert, Sheep Meadow, Central Park
Aug. 25, 1968	Leonard Bernstein named Laureate Conductor for Life
Mar. 13, 1969	Philharmonic conducting debut of Pierre Boulez
Oct. 1, 1971	First "Prospective Encounter" concert of contemporary music, Boulez conducting, at the Public Theatre. Discussions include Charles Wuorinen and Steve Reich
Dec. 15, 1971	Leonard Bernstein's 1,000 th concert with the Philharmonic
Aug. 19, 1972	Philharmonic conducting debut of Erich Leinsdorf
Jun. 12, 1973	First "Rug Concert," Philharmonic Hall, Pierre Boulez conducting
Sep. 20, 1973	Philharmonic Hall renamed Avery Fisher Hall in recognition of his major gift
May 9, 1974	Philharmonic conducting debut of Zubin Mehta

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Aug. 16, 1974	Opening date of first tour to Australia and New Zealand, Leonard Bernstein conducting
Jan. 30, 1976	Philharmonic performs the first "Live From Lincoln Center" television broadcast, Van Cliburn, pianist, André Previn conducting
Oct. 19, 1976	Inaugural Gala Concert in the completely renovated Avery Fisher Hall, Pierre Boulez conducting
Sep. 29, 1977	Pianist Emanuel Ax makes his Philharmonic debut
Mar 5, 1978	Cellist Yo-Yo Ma makes his Philharmonic debut
Sep. 14, 1978	Music Director Zubin Mehta conducts his first Philharmonic Opening Night
Jan. 14, 1980	Philharmonic debut of tenor Luciano Pavarotti
Apr. 21, 1980	First performance at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, conducted by Zubin Mehta
Oct. 22, 1980	Philharmonic debut of tenor Plácido Domingo
Jun. 6, 1981	Philharmonic conducting debut of Kurt Masur
Jul. 29, 1982	Mehta and the Philharmonic perform at the White House in honor of Indira Gandhi
Sep. 5, 1982	Philharmonic arranges on one-week notice a free concert as a gift to the people of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, Leonard Bernstein conducting; 100,000 people attend
Dec. 30, 1982	Violinist Midori makes her professional orchestra debut
Jun. 2, 1983	First "Horizons" festival of contemporary orchestral music, Jacob Druckman, director
Mar. 29, 1984	Leonard Bernstein named Honorary Member of the Philharmonic



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Sep. 12, 1984	Opening date of the first Philharmonic tour to India, Mehta conducting
Jul. 5, 1986	The Philharmonic plays to the largest audience ever to attend a classical music concert: 800,000 people, in Central Park to celebrate the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, Zubin Mehta conducting
Apr. 25, 1988	First performance of Philharmonic at Harlem's Apollo Theatre, James DePreist conducting
Apr. 11, 1990	Kurt Masur named Music Director of the Philharmonic
Sep. 20, 1990	Pianist Evgeny Kissin makes his U.S. debut
May 28, 1991	Zubin Mehta, the Philharmonic's longest-tenured Music Director, conducts his final concert, featuring Schoenberg's Gurrelieder
Sep. 12, 1991	Opening night with Kurt Masur conducting his first concert as the Philharmonic's Music Director Nov. 1991 The Philharmonic signs contract with Teldec for 32 live recordings, all with Kurt Masur. For the first time, a complete orchestra roster will be included for each recording
Nov. 19, 1991	First Philharmonic Forum, instituted at the request of Kurt Masur, takes place in Avery Fisher Hall
Jan. 9, 1992	New York premiere of John Corigliano's Symphony No. 1; New York Philharmonic "AIDS Awareness Week"
May 25, 1992	First Annual free concert at St. John the Divine, Kurt Masur conducts Benjamin Britten's War Requiem; 5,500 attend and several thousand more are turned away.
Oct. 5, 1992	Kurt Masur conducts the First Rush Hour Concert, a new series of hour-long programs of accessible music along with informal and instructive commentary geared toward newer audiences.
Dec. 7, 1992	150th Anniversary Concert of the New York Philharmonic is celebrated with three Music Directors on the podium, Pierre Boulez, Zubin Mehta, and Kurt Masur.
May 23, 1994	First Annual Composer's Week opens with British composer Oliver Knussen conducting his own "Whitman Settings," and discussing his music in 2 Pre-Concert Lectures
Oct. 3, 1996	The Philharmonic's celebration of American Classics begins with Mr. Masur conducting Hanson's Symphony No. 2. This four year initiative celebrates the diversity and vitality of our nation's own music.

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Feb. 22, 1997	The New York Philharmonic begins a new series of live national broadcasts on syndicated radio underwritten by Time Warner
Oct. 9, 1997	Launch of the New York Philharmonic's The Historic Broadcasts 1923-1987 , a ten CD set from the new label New York Philharmonic Special Editions.
May 28, 1998	Principal Clarinet Stanley Drucker celebrates his 50th anniversary as a member of the Orchestra by performing Copland's Concerto for Clarinet and String Orchestra.
June 24, 1998	The New York Philharmonic performs for the first time in The Great Hall of the People, Beijing, China
Sep. 16, 1998	Kurt Masur opens the season with the complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies, which have not been performed in their entirety by a single conductor in one season at the Philharmonic since 1941-42 with Toscanini.
Feb. 18, 1999	13,000th Concert of the New York Philharmonic, more than any other symphony orchestra in the world, conducted by Kurt Masur.
Nov. 1999	The Orchestra performs six works - "Messages for the Millennium" commissioned by Maestro Masur and the New York Philharmonic.
Feb. 5, 2001	At a press conference on the Grand Promenade of Avery Fisher Hall, Lorin Maazel is formally introduced as the 22 nd Music Director of the New York Philharmonic.
Sep. 19, 2001	Weekly "Drive Time Broadcasts" begin on New York's WQXR radio.
Sep. 20, 2001	Responding to the September 11 th disaster, the traditional Opening Night Gala is replaced with a Memorial Concert of the Brahms Requiem led by Kurt Masur.
Oct. 12, 2001	In response to the World Trade Center Disaster, the first of a series of downtown chamber concerts for the people who live and work in lower Manhattan takes place at in the Equitable Building on lower Broadway.
Sep. 19, 2002	World premiere of John Adam's On the Transmigration of Souls , commissioned by the New York Philharmonic . This work, in commemoration of the victims of 9/11 received the Pulitzer Prize for music and the world premiere performance, led by Lorin Maazel, was commercially released by Nonesuch records.
Feb. 2003	The Orchestra is honored by The Recording Academy ® with a Trustees Award in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the industry and American culture. Members of the Philharmonic also perform on the 45th Annual Grammy ® Awards ceremony, televised internationally from New York's Madison Square Garden — the first time that a major symphony

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	orchestra has performed solo on the Grammy telecast.
Feb. 2005	The New York Philharmonic's recording of the world premiere performance of John Adams' On the Transmigration of Souls wins Grammys as Best Classical Album and as Best Orchestral Performance. John Adams wins for Best Classical-Contemporary Composition.
July 18, 2007	The appointment of Alan Gilbert as the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic is announced to begin in the 2009-2010.
Feb. 26, 2008	Music Director Lorin Maazel conducts the New York Philharmonic in Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The concert opens with the North Korean national anthem followed by The Star-Spangled Banner; the program also includes Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, From the New World (which was premiered by the Philharmonic in 1893), and Gershwin's An American in Paris (which the Philharmonic premiered in 1928).
May 27, 2009	Alan Gilbert performs the New York premiere of Ligeti's Le Grand Macabre with live animation by Doug Fitch.
Apr. 28, 2011	Pianist Emanuel Ax performs his 100 th concert with the New York Philharmonic and is named an Honorary Member of the Society.
Sep. 10, 2011	Alan Gilbert conducts a free Concert for New York to commemorate the 10 the anniversary of 9/11. Mahler's Symphony No. 2 Resurrection is featured and broadcast on the Lincoln Center Plaza.
Jun. 29, 2012	Alan Gilbert, Magnus Lindberg and Matthias Pintscher conduct Philharmonic 360 , a spatial music performance at the Park Avenue Armory's Wade Thompson Drill Hall featuring Stockhausen's Gruppen.
May-Jun. 2014	Inaugural NY PHIL Biennial, a collaborative contemporary music festival at various venues around New York, directed by Alan Gilbert.
Sep. 2014	Inaugural Residency of the Global Academy as part of the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and Residency Partnership.
Jun. 2015	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks.