Kenneth Kiesler Named Director of Conductors Program

The National Arts Centre of Ottawa, Canada, announced that Director of University Orchestras and Professor of Conducting Kenneth Kiesler has been named the new Director of the NAC Conductors Programme starting in the 2006 season. Kiesler is also Music Director of the New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra, founder and director of the Conductors Retreat at Medomak, and Conductor Laureate of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. He will take over the NAC Conductors Programme from Maestro Jorma Panula who led the program from its inception in 2001 as part of Canada’s NAC Summer Music Institute. Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Artistic Director of the NAC Summer Music Institute of which the Conductors Programme is a part, said: “I am very happy Kenneth Kiesler has accepted our invitation to join the faculty of Canada’s National Arts Centre Summer Music Institute as Director of the Conductors Programme.

Bright Sheng Named Composer-in-Residence

The New York City Ballet announced in January that Bright Sheng, Leonard Bernstein Distinguished Professor of Composition at the School of Music, will join NYCB at the start of the 2006 winter repertory season as the company’s first-ever composer-in-residence. The residency will run through 2007. As part of the residency, NYCB has commissioned Sheng to compose two pieces of music that will be used for world premiere ballets during the company’s 2007 and 2008 seasons. In addition, existing compositions by Mr. Sheng will be used for a new Diamond Project ballet by Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux that will premiere during NYCB’s 2006 spring season. Sheng will work with the company in a variety of ways, including conducting the NYCB Orchestra and participating in educational events. He will also work with choreographers and composers at the New York Choreographic Institute, an affiliate of NYCB, that provides selected choreographers with opportunities to explore the choreographic process. Mr. Sheng’s residency is part of New York City Ballet’s Artist in Residence program, which was begun in 2000 to bring artists of various disciplines to the Company for an extended period of time.

“New music and the commissioning of scores is traditionally a vital element in the life of NYCB,” says Andrea Quinn, NYCB’s Music Director. “We are very proud and honored, therefore, to have the world-renowned composer Bright Sheng join the music staff as composer-in-residence. Bright’s music is characterized by extraordinary beauty and textural exoticism as well as rhythmic drive, and we are truly looking forward to having such an experienced and exciting composer as part of our team.”