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LINDBERG'S VIOLIN CONCERTO IN WORLD PREMIERE AT LINCOLN CENTER'S MOSTLY MOZART FESTIVAL

On Tuesday, August 22, Louis Langrée leads violin soloist Lisa Batiashvili and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra in the world premiere of **Magnus Lindberg's** *Violin Concerto*. The program at Avery Fisher Hall is repeated on Wednesday, August 23.

for a Mozart-sized orchestra

Violin Concerto was commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, in association with the Barbican Centre, Casa da Música - Porto, and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra. Generally, Lindberg favors a large orchestra, affording him access to the widest possible range of instrumental colors. However, in the spirit of its commission, *Violin Concerto* is scored for a Mozart-sized ensemble: only paired oboes, bassoons, and horns join the strings. Moreover, within its 20-minute, single-movement span, it sketches a traditional fast-slow-fast concerto design, complete with a solo cadenza.

a protean soloist

Until recently, Lindberg has tended to avoid the concerto genre; writer Risto Nieminen speculates that this is because Lindberg "forges his works primarily out of harmony and rhythm," rather than unfolding melodic lines. However, in his witty and engaging *Clarinet Concerto* (2001-02), Lindberg found ways to incorporate a free-wheeling and virtuosic solo line into his tightly-constructed musical language, and that line of development continues in the current work. Observes Nieminen, "The violin concerto, like the one for clarinet, sounds surprisingly tonal for a Lindberg piece... In Lindberg's writing the kaleidoscopic solo instrument is like a joker playing several roles in the piece... sometimes in dialog with [the orchestra] or contrasting sharply to it. At some points the violin turns from a purely melodic or textural actor into a polyphonic vehicle carrying the harmony with it."

Meanwhile, Lindberg's *Sculpture* (2005), commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, is launched into worldwide orbit with upcoming performances in London (at Proms), Tokyo, Turin, Stockholm, and Cologne. For further news, visit www.boosey.com/lindberg.