



**GERARD SCHWARZ'S ALL-STAR ORCHESTRA
CLASSICAL MUSIC TELEVISION SERIES WINS 3rd EMMY® AWARD**

Results announced by The New York Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the 58th Annual New York Emmy® Awards

May 4, 2015 (New York, NY)—*All-Star Orchestra* took home its 3rd Emmy® Award Saturday at the 58th Annual New York Emmy® Awards, which took place at the Marriott Marquis' Broadway Ballroom in New York City. "*What Makes a Masterpiece*," a program featuring Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and Philip Glass' *Harmonium Mountain*, won in the category: **Special Event Coverage (Other than News and Sports)** with John Forsen as Producer, Gerard Schwarz as Music Director, Habib Azar as Director, and Dmitriy Lipay as Audio Engineer. The program is part of the multi-program classical music series featuring top musicians from across the country performing major symphonic masterpieces and works from leading contemporary American composers. The series premiered nationwide on public television and in the New York metro area on THIRTEEN in September 2013.

"*What Makes a Masterpiece*" was also nominated this year in the category: Audio. In 2014 an earlier program from the All-Star Orchestra series, "Music for the Theatre," featuring music by Stravinsky, Ravel and Bright Sheng, was awarded at the 57th New York Emmy® Awards in two categories: Special Event Coverage (Other than News and Sports) and Audio: Post Production.

Music Director Gerard Schwarz said, "I have such a strong belief in the power and importance of great music, and I care so deeply about making it available to as many people as possible. Our goal is to bring musical masterpieces to life through innovatively filmed performances by outstanding musicians from America's top orchestras. For all of us at the *All-Star Orchestra* receiving these honors are the confirmation of the importance of all of the incredibly hard work, and the affirmation of its impact and reach. We are so grateful to WNET and all of the remarkable public television stations in our vast country for believing in classical music."

Maestro Schwarz's *All-Star Orchestra* is comprised of top players from some of the country's greatest orchestra's including Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Florida, Houston,

Los Angeles, Minnesota, Nashville, New Jersey, New York (the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra), Oregon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, St Louis, Utah, Washington D.C., and more. Together these musicians perform on one stage under the leadership of Maestro Schwarz, who led the Seattle Symphony for 26 years, and now serves as its Conductor Laureate.

The series features classical masterpieces as well as new works from leading contemporary American composers. The series aims to expose classical music to an even broader audience while keeping the listening experience informative and accessible. In addition to performances of classical and contemporary works, the programs also feature musical excerpts, images, interviews and educational commentary by Maestro Schwarz, the **All-Star Orchestra** musicians, and special guests. The first eight programs have been released on DVD by Naxos of America and are available from Amazon and other retailers. The first eight programs are available to stream at <http://www.thirteen.org/programs/all-star-orchestra>.

The All-Star Orchestra has also launched a music education program in partnership with the **Khan Academy** (www.khanacademy.org), the free educational website that reaches 15 million students and 500,000 teachers each month in 200 countries. The collaboration brings, for the first time, classical music to the already widely visited website that teaches Math, Science, Economics, Humanities and many other subjects. [Click <http://bit.ly/1kPmtLJ> for the All-Star Orchestra partner content home page.]

All-Star Orchestra is a co-production of the All-Star Orchestra (John Forsen, executive producer; Paul Schwendener, executive director) and WNET (Stephen Segaller, executive-in-charge; Julie Anderson, executive producer). American Public Television (APT) distributes **All-Star Orchestra** to public television stations nationwide.

All-Star Orchestra is made possible by Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, The Gladys Rubinstein Trust, The M. J. Murdock Trust, The Hearst Foundation, Van Ness Feldman LLP, David Gannett, Bruce and Jeanne McNae, Agnes Gund, The Park Foundation, and others.

About WNET

As New York's flagship public media provider and the parent company of [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of [NJTV](#), WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [PBS NewsHour Weekend](#), [Charlie Rose](#) and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as [Get the Math](#), [Oh Noah!](#) and [Cyberchase](#) and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through [NYC-ARTS](#), [Reel 13](#), [NJTV News with Mike Schneider](#) and [MetroFocus](#), the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the [THIRTEEN Explore iPad App](#) where users can stream PBS content for free.

About American Public Television

[American Public Television](#) (APT) has been a leading distributor of high-quality, top-rated programming to America's public television stations since 1961. For nearly 10 years, APT has distributed approximately half of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, news and current affairs programs, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies, including *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Moyers & Company*, *Doc Martin*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Globe Trekker*, *BBC World News*, *Lidia's Italy*, *Rosemary & Thyme*, *Live From the Artists Den*, *NHK Newsline*, *Simply Ming*, *Midsomer Murders*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* and more. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched [Create®](#) TV – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. APT is also a partner in [WORLD™](#), public television's premier news and documentary channel.

The New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, founded in 1955, is the preeminent membership organization serving media professionals by offering career enhancing events and networking opportunities. NYNATAS fosters creativity and inspires artistic and technical excellence through the renowned Emmy® Award, the coveted peer-recognition symbol of distinction in television.

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