

Temple University Sinfonia
Luis Biava, conductor
Jeffrey Lang, horn

November 24, 2009 at 7:30pm – Trinity Center for Urban Life

About the Artists

LUIS BIAVA is internationally renowned as a conductor for his work with symphony orchestras around the globe. He was appointed professor of music at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in 2000, where has been music director and conductor of the university's Symphony Orchestra since 1986.

Maestro Biava served as conductor in residence emeritus for The Philadelphia Orchestra from 1994-2004, where he also served as principal second violin for nearly two decades.

He is artistic and music director of the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, South America. He has been a guest conductor of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, The Camerata and the University Orchestra in Bloomington, Indiana, as well as a regular guest conductor with Vermont's Mozart Festival, at the Brevard Music Center, the Casals Festival, and he has served for the last fifteen years as the music director of the Festival Orquesta Sinfonica Juvenil de las Americas, a festival for young musicians from throughout the Americas held every June in Puerto Rico, educational branch of the Casals Festival. For the last six years he has also served as a senior administrator and faculty member of the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. In 2002 he was the guest conductor for the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association State Festival Orchestra, leading them in a performance in Philadelphia's Kimmel Center which was recorded for broadcast by WHYY TV 12.

A strong advocate of contemporary music, Maestro Biava has presented premieres of works by many American composers. In February 2001, he conducted The Philadelphia Orchestra in a newly commissioned composition by Roberto Sierra that was performed on a series of concerts for thousands of area students during the orchestra's Education Week. In 1995, he conducted the Philadelphia premiere of John Corigliano's First Symphony with the Temple University Symphony Orchestra. In March and April 2010, he will lead the Temple University Symphony Orchestra in premieres of Dave and Chris Brubeck's *Ansel Adams: America* and a new piece for trumpet and orchestra by Bill Cunliffe at the Kimmel Center and Lincoln Center (NY).

For nearly twenty years, Maestro Biava has also served as music director and conductor of the Youth Chamber Orchestra, an ensemble for advanced players in Temple's pre-college Center for Gifted Young Musicians. In recognition of his dedicated work with students and for outstanding accomplishments in his field, he has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his distinguished career. They include The Philadelphia Orchestra's C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given to a musician who demonstrates "both musical ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the musical standards and reputation of The Philadelphia Orchestra," the Comcast Newsmaker of the Year for the Arts Award, the Arts Recognition Award from the Society for Performing Arts of the Media Theater, the Order of Merit from Italy, and the Medal of San Carlos, from the President of the Republic of Colombia.

Maestro Biava joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1968. He was a founding member of the Philarte String Quartet and first violin with the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble.

JEFFREY LANG performs and teaches French horn in the greater New York - Philadelphia area. He is currently Associate Principal horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Principal horn of the American Symphony Orchestra. Formerly Principal horn of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Jeff has been invited as guest principal horn of the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, the New York City Opera Orchestra, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed with the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. Jeff has developed an active horn studio at Vassar College, and is currently on the faculty of Temple University and Bard College. He studied at the Juilliard School and Temple University. Jeff is a frequent soloist and has appeared with Zubin Mehta, Mung-Whun Chung, Kurt Masur and Leon Botstein conducting. Chamber music performances at home and abroad have included concerts with Bella Davidovitch, Diane Walsh, Simone Dinnerstein, The Israel Piano Trio, the Wister Quartet, Rolf Schulte, Melvin Chen, Richard Wilson, the Canadian Brass, and members of The Philadelphia Orchestra. He has participated in the Kingston Chamber Music Festival, Bard Rediscoveries, OK Mozart and the Spoleto Festivals. Jeff records for several TV, film, and commercial artists in the metropolitan area and was principal horn of Disney's long running Broadway hit, *Beauty and the Beast*. He is an active member of the Recording Academy, the International Horn Society and the American Federation of Musicians. Jeff lives in New Jersey with his wife, Finnish cellist Elina Snellman-Lang, and their two sons, Johannes and Markus.