2009 PCI Building Bridges
Award Recipient:

Lorin Maazel

On February 19th, the Pacific Century Institute will be honoring Maestro Lorin Maazel of the New York Philharmonic with the 2009 Building Bridges Award for exemplifying PCI’s commitment to building bridges to a better future. As stated in the formal invitation letter to Maestro Maazel, the Board of Directors of PCI wanted to specifically recognize the Maestro’s leadership in the historic and magnificent New York Philharmonic concert held in Pyongyang late last February. To quote, “The reverberations of that great event are still positively at work, as we seek to draw North Korea out of its isolation into richer and fuller contact with the outside world.” The following is a biography of Maestro Lorin Maazel.

For over five decades, Lorin Maazel has been one of the world’s most esteemed and sought-after conductors. He currently holds two prominent music directorships, which together with a wide range of guest conducting engagements, encompass an extraordinary breadth of activity. He is in his seventh and final season as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic, which is not only the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States but also the world’s most prolific, having given over 14,000 concerts since its founding. At the other end of the historical spectrum, Maestro Maazel is also Music Director of a newly created musical organization: the spectacular, Santiago Calatrava-designed opera house in Valencia, Spain, the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia (which opened with the start of the 2006-07 season).

Maestro Maazel’s 2007-08 season was highlighted by his third Asian tour with the New York Philharmonic, including a historic concert in Pyongyang, North Korea; a Tchaikovsky Festival in New York, a nationally televised New Year’s Eve concert with Joshua Bell as soloist, among a full subscription schedule. At the Palau de les Arts, he leads productions of Carmen (directed by Carlos Saura to open the season in Valencia), Don Carlo and Madama Butterfly, as well as a number of concert programs, including the Verdi Requiem. As guest conductor, he returned to the Metropolitan Opera for the first time in 45 years to lead performances of Wagner’s Die Walküre, and gave concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the orchestra of the Norwegian National Opera to help inaugurate the new opera house in Oslo. In June 2008, he embarks on a series of concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London devoted to Brahms, the first of several consecutive annual collaborations with The Philharmonia.

Maestro Maazel is also a highly regarded composer, with a wide-ranging catalogue of works written primarily over the last dozen years. His first opera, 1984, based on George Orwell’s literary masterpiece, had its world premiere at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in May 2005, and was broadcast on radio and television by the BBC and on many other national radio networks worldwide. A high-definition video production of 1984, recorded at Covent Garden, was given a world premiere screening as one of the centerpiece events at the 2006 MIDEM Festival in Cannes, France (an occasion which prompted MIDEM to give a special award to Maestro Maazel for his lifetime achievements as conductor, composer and recording artist—only the 2nd such prize ever bestowed). A major revival of 1984 took place in May 2008 at the the Teatro alla Scala (Milan) coinciding with the DVD release of the opera by Decca.

A second-generation American born in Paris, Lorin Maazel began violin lessons at age five, and conducting lessons at age seven. He studied with Vladimir Bakaleinikoff, and appeared publicly for the first time at age eight, conducting a university orchestra. Between ages nine and fifteen, he made his New York debut at the 1939 World’s Fair, conducting the Interlochen Orchestra; led the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, sharing a program with Leopold Stokowski; and conducted most of the major American orchestras, including the NBC Symphony at the invitation of Toscanini. His New York Philharmonic debut came in 1942. He was only twelve years old.

At 17, he entered the University of Pittsburgh to study languages, mathematics and philosophy. While a student, he

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was a violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, where he also served as apprentice conductor during the 1949–50 season, and organized the Fine Arts Quartet of Pittsburgh. In 1951 he went to Italy on a Fulbright Fellowship to further his studies, and two years later made his European conducting debut, stepping in for an ailing conductor at the Massimo Bellini Theatre in Catania, Italy. He quickly established himself as a major artist, appearing at Bayreuth in 1960 (the first American to do so), with the Boston Symphony in 1961, and at the Salzburg Festival in 1963.

In the years since, Maestro Maazel has conducted more than one hundred and fifty orchestras in no fewer than five thousand opera and concert performances. He has made over three hundred recordings, including symphonic cycles/complete orchestral works of Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Mahler, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Richard Strauss, winning 10 Grands Prix du Disques. His discography includes a range of violin recordings, often in a double role as soloist and conductor, from virtuoso showpieces to Mozart Concertos to Stravinsky’s “Soldier’s Tale.” He is the recipient of two ASCAP awards for contributions to American music and has made appearances in every major music center and at every prominent festival internationally. He has conducted numerous world premieres by both established and up-and-coming composers and performed hundreds of concerts as a violin soloist, including appearances with such orchestras as the Vienna Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia and the New York Philharmonic, among many others.

Maestro Maazel has been music director of the Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Radio (1993 until summer 2002), music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony (1988–96); general manager and chief conductor of the Vienna State Opera (1982–84)—the first American to hold that position; music director of the Cleveland Orchestra (1972–82); and artistic director and chief conductor of the Deutsche Oper Berlin (1965–71). He was named Honorary Member of the Israel Philharmonic in 1985 when he conducted its 40th Anniversary concert. He is also an Honorary Member of the Vienna Philharmonic, and is the recipient of the Hans von Bülow Silver Medal from the Berlin Philharmonic. His close association with the Vienna Philharmonic includes 11 internationally televised New Year’s Concerts from Vienna (often with Maestro Maazel making an added contribution to the festivities as violinist).

Alongside his prodigious performing activity, Maestro Maazel has found time to work with and nurture young artists, based on his strong belief in the value of sharing his experience with the next generation(s) of musicians. He founded a major competition for young conductors in 2000, culminating in a final round Carnegie Hall two years later, and has since been an active mentor to many of the finalists (and instrumental in launching their international careers). Through his Châteauville Foundation, in Castleton, Virginia, he has created a new festival/residency program for young artists, centered around fully staged productions of chamber operas, bringing together aspiring singers, instrumentalists, conductors, designers, directors, and stage management personnel to work in an intensive, collaborative environment, with guidance from senior artists/mentors, Maestro Maazel included. This program has met with such immediate success that it will be expanded into a full-fledged Castleton Festival, beginning in July 2009.

He has an equally strong commitment to environmental and humanitarian causes. He has raised millions of dollars on over fifty occasions for the benefit of such entities as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Wide Fund for Nature, the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Maestro Maazel speaks French, German and Italian fluently (and has a working knowledge of Portuguese, Russian and Spanish). Among his honors, decorations, and awards are the Commander’s Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Legion of Honor of France, the Knight Grand Cross from the Republic of Italy, and the Commander of the Lion of Finland. He also has been awarded the title of Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations.

An avid reader, classic film buff, and theatergoer, he also enjoys playing tennis, swimming and collecting American paintings and Oriental art.

PCI’s “Vietnam Project”

The following is a report from Desai Anderson, a board member of PCI, concerning PCI’s efforts with the country of Vietnam, specifically highlighting the recently held seminar at Princeton University.

PCI and College of Economics, VNU- sponsored seminar on “Entrepreneurship” in Hanoi on October 6, 2006, PCI and COE joined forces again to co-host a major and highly successful two-day seminar on “Vietnam and East Asia in the Globalized Context” at Princeton University on October 17-18, 2008. We enjoyed superb cooperation and contributions from co-sponsors, the Princeton Institute of International Relations (PIIRS), Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs,” Princeton’s East Asia Department, and the Maureen and Michael Mansfield Foundation” of PCI’s “Vietnam Project”

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Washington, DC. PCI founder Spencer Kim and Board Member Ambassador Raymond Burghardt actively participated in the seminar. I organized the seminar.

The seminar was an extraordinary success. Princeton had not been involved publicly, in recent years, in events in Southeast Asia or Vietnam, and this was a major event at a prestigious university on contemporary Vietnam. A prestigious delegation from Vietnamese academia and retired governmental figures was impressive and held their own with an array of the first-class American experts on Vietnam and Princeton professors who participated in the seminar.

The array of issues discussed - Vietnam’s economy, Vietnam’s financial system, its healthcare system, education system, civil governance, the social impact on Vietnam of globalization – was comprehensive and ambitious, but allowed us to survey possibilities for common interests and joint research as a result of the seminar – our goal.

Princeton President Shirley Tilghman opened the seminar. Princeton Professor Alan Blinder, former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve provided his views on the origins of the financial crisis – with a great sense of humor. He also delivered very insightful comments, calling the sub-prime loans the origin of the crisis.

Having just been awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics, Princeton Professor Paul Krugman gave the keynote address at Friday’s dinner. Professor Krugman described the crisis in familiar terms, praised Gordon Brown’s role in his proposed solution to the financial crisis, and expressed cautious optimism, but not certainty that it would work. Referring to his Noble prize, Krugman also talked about his perception on trade patterns that altered Ricardo’s 19th Century thesis on trade determined by comparative advantage by noting that 50% of world trade is between developed countries and 50% by Ricardo’s rule of comparative advantage.

He pondered the meaning of the contemporary dilemma on trade that poses severe political problems to developed countries in sustaining their domestic manufacturing bases. Whereas at about 50% of trade is still determined by comparative advantage even that percentage is being affected by contemporary developments. Trade patterns are now being re-oriented because of transportation costs by geographic proximity, in addition to comparative wage advantages. But our dilemma, how to maintain the global free trade system, which Krugman said he still supported in the face of the disadvantages of current patterns, poses crucial problems. This tangled puzzle must be dealt with in an imaginative but effective way to avoid descent into isolationist protectionism which could risk the world trade system that has brought so much advantage to the entire world. Krugman concluded noting, as had Blinder, that even if the financial crisis eases, we will still be stuck with a global recession that may be severe and long-lasting.

In the closing session of the seminar, PIIRS Director Katherine Newman invited suggestions on joint research topics that might be pursued, the goal of the Vietnamese and the seminar. TriVie University project founder Mme Ton nhi Nh, Vietnam’s architect for economic transformation Dr. Le Dang Da of the Institute of Development Studies, and others offered excellent possibilities.

As follow-up to the seminar, PIIRS Director Katherine Newman made known that she had obtained funds for four or so Princeton professors to visit Vietnam on a work-study visit to see Vietnam personally, which would, hopefully, inspire a desire to pursue research with and on Vietnam. The possibility of inviting distinguished members of the Vietnamese delegation to Princeton to conduct seminars is also under consideration. The Vietnamese delegation brought letters of invitation from the Vietnam Foreign Ministry to Professors Alan Blinder and Paul Krugman to visit Vietnam.

Encouraged by our initiative with Princeton, the Princeton-in Asia Program that sends dozens of Princetonians to teach in Asia (and other programs do so in Latin America and Africa) wants to create a new program in Vietnam – whereby Princetonians would go to rural Vietnam to teach teachers. We are looking into the possibility of helping this program.

I have agreed to conduct for the third year in June-July 2009 the seminar that I designed and inaugurated in the summer of 2007, to lead a dozen or so Princeton undergraduates in a seminar at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University in Hanoi on “American and Vietnam at War: Origins, Implications, and Consequences.” Two Princeton professors will join me next summer and take over the Vietnam program in 2010. This process will institutionalize the seminar, my goal.

This panoply of programs and plans weave a very promising incipient web between Princeton and Vietnam – a very satisfying result of our “seed money” to initiate expanded contact between Vietnam and the United States – PCI’s goal in these past two years.


Project Bridge Update

Project Bridge is an annual collaboration between the Korea Society and PCI. Participants are high school juniors and seniors from New York and Los Angeles. The primary goal is to create relationships between Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds and foster mutual understanding between different cultures. Activities during the year-long program

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include: monthly workshops on multicultural youth leadership issues and relations; seminars covering history, language and culture; field trips; community service; and, for those who successfully complete the program, a ten day educational study tour of Korea.

The following is a brief review so far of this year’s Project Bridge program and what goals and challenges lay ahead. This report was written by Robin Kim, one of the PB leaders from the Los Angeles group.

With the ideals of diversity and understanding as central to its mission, Project Bridge has matured into an established, well-respected yearlong study opportunity. After over a decade of developing the curriculum and fine-tuning the program, Project Bridge has established a strong network in which current Youth Ambassadors can call upon scholars, notable politicians and businessmen, formers group leaders and past YAs for guidance. The beauty of Project Bridge lies in the fact that every year, the different Youth Ambassadors from different cities, ethnicities and upbringings come together to mold Project Bridge into a unique experience. While the program’s general form has remained constant throughout the years, every incoming group changes with the program, taking the basic mission of Project Bridge and adapting it to their own personal growth. In turn, the group as a whole contributes back to Project Bridge, reshaping the existing program to better serve its future Youth Ambassadors.

This year, Project Bridge looks to have an impressive group of high school juniors. Overwhelmingly, these Youth Ambassadors have voiced their own desire to learn about cultures outside their own. Each has a differing motivation to learn yet all share the same eager, open curiosity and genuine enthusiasm. While we are still in the early stages of the program, we have already seen a broadening of perspective needed to successfully maneuver through Project Bridge.

After a lovely welcome dinner with the Youth Ambassadors and their parents, my co-leader Kaytan Shah and I held our first meeting with the Youth Ambassadors that following weekend at the Korean American Museum in Koreatown. After a showing of Saigu, the documentary directed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson about the LA Riots, we pressed the students to critically think about these past events and try to understand what led to such violent outbursts from all parties. The leaders soon realized that the LA Riots, the principal catalyst to the creation of Project Bridge, had occurred the same year most of our current Youth Ambassadors were born. Though the students lacked the direct memory of the events, they were still affected by what they had just witnessed in the documentary. Furthermore, because the Riots had been a vague historical event up until this meeting, the students seemed to have been shocked out of complacency and started investigating the details of race, power and media to better understand the full scope of the events for their own sakes.

After only one meeting, it is impressive to already see the difference Project Bridge will make on these students. Future meetings will take place at an array of locations, from the Museum of Tolerance to the UCLA campus to a retreat at the White Eagle Ranch. Culminating with a study tour to Korea, Project Bridge aims to not only teach students about different cultures, but to give them the necessary tools to be able to use their knowledge for the betterment of others. Through a research paper and presentation on various Korean subjects, students will learn how to critically analyze information and present their findings in an intellectual and concise manner. By the end of the program, we hope that the students mature into delightful, young minds, eager to make a change in the world.

In this next article from Seoho Hahm, a Youth Ambassador from the 2007-2008 program, Ms. Hahm reflects upon some lessons learned from her experiences in Project Bridge.

Even as I was discovering the Western world of art, I realized that I had neglected the art of East Asia, or more specifically, Korea, the home of my ancestors. When I lived in Korea, I was always surrounded by its art. Because I had seen it all the time, I took no notice of it and took it for granted. It seemed too obvious a thing for me and boring compared to the still uncovered mysteries of European art for the curious little girl I was. The past few years have come to rescue me from such naiveté as I have re-experienced my culture in various ways. Summers spent in Korea revisiting palaces, Buddhist temples, and museums or exhibitions made me realize how far from 'boring' Korean art was and in fact, so exquisite that it evoked a sense of regret inside me.

One of the biggest factors in breaking down the provincial barrier was a program I participated in the past year called 'Project Bridge'. It was a year round leadership program that selected eight juniors or seniors of all different backgrounds each from Los Angeles and New York, meeting every two weeks and learning how to build bridges between diverse cultures. The program focused on the Korean culture while basing itself upon the whole idea of community and
acceptance of dissimilar cultures. We learned about the LA Riots, met with a federal court judge, went on an inspirational hike, and many more motivational activities but perhaps the most significant ones for me were the research paper on the Gyeongbokgung Palace I was required to write, and the ten day study tour in Korea in April 2008. Through both projects, I began to appreciate the beauty of the palace. Seeing it in person once again and paying attention to the minute details stirred inside me respect for the meticulous and painstaking work of art displayed by the colorful and graceful constructions of wood. Also, the supple brush strokes of calligraphy and rhythmic flow of painted cranes, pine trees, mountains, waterfalls, the sun and the moon that characterize Korean paintings gave me a new outlook. It was not just about how realistically the images portrayed the objects being painted. The harmony with nature in Korean art and architecture and the country's long history and traditions embedded within them struck me as something wonderfully distinct.

2nd Northeast Asia Journalists Dialogue

In this report from Ambassador Raymond Burghardt of the East-West Center, a board member of PCI, Ambassador Burghardt gives his account of this program for journalists.

The 2nd Northeast Asia Journalists Dialogue was held at the East-West Center in Honolulu September 2-5. We had 16 journalists from South Korea, Japan, the United States, and for the first time, China, to discuss important and often sensitive issues in Northeast Asia. This was one of the most influential groups of journalists we have ever gathered at one time at the East-West Center.

Participants included senior editors and reporters from Caijing Magazine, China Daily, 21st Century Business Herald and South China Morning Post in Beijing and Hong Kong; Kikkei, NHK Hapan Broadcasting Corp. and Ashi Shimbun from Japan; Joongang Ilbo, Financial News, Seoul Shinmun and YTN Cable News in Seoul; and Associated Press, Newsweek, LA Times and Washington Post in the U.S.

Panels of journalists highlighted the different perspectives and priorities of each country, clashpoints that challenge regional relationships and the difficult job media face in reporting these often sensitive topics. We covered North Korea and the Six Party Talks; New Leaders and Northeast Asia Diplomacy (including Taiwan); the U.S. Presidential Election; Sino-Japanese Relations: On the Mend?; Post-Olympics China; and Regional Changes and Media Challenges. In addition to the closed discussions among the journalists, a panel of dialogue participants spoke on "Post-

The participants’ evaluations after the program were very positive. I’m confident that, as in last year’s event, they will continue to communicate with each other long after they return home. They really learned a lot from each other and attitudes are definitely changed. This is a classic bridge-building activity and involves people who really are able to influence opinion. In addition to the support from PCI, we also were able to get financing from The Japan Foundation for Global Partnership and the Korea Press Foundation.

Op-Ed: Entrepreneurs, Get Ready

This op-ed section will be a regular feature of the PCI News, featuring opinions on important issues from prominent PCI members. The following is a piece from Spencer H. Kim, Chairman of CBOL Corp., an aerospace product and services company, and Celltron, Inc., a designer and manufacturer of wiring harness systems. He has served on the APEC Business Advisory Council from 2005 to 2008.

Eternal truths are, well, eternal. That is the capstone of my spiritual life. In business, I have also believed there are certain immutable truths. Entrepreneurial vision, sound fiscal management, contained risk – and timing -- are the fundamental elements of success.

Like almost everyone else, I have been thrown off by the financial tsunami and wondered if I knew what I thought I knew. Two experiences from a recent trip have reassured me that I do. The truth is still the truth and the fundamentals are still the fundamentals. The financial crisis, despite its stunning scope, and dare I say it, its stupidity, is an aberration that will eventually pass away. Those who refuse to be paralyzed by it will profit the most, and increasingly the paralysis is melting away.

First, as a U.S. representative to the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Business Advisory Council, I met last November in Lima, Peru with other members of the Council in a face-to-face private dialogue with the twenty-one Presidents, Prime Ministers, Sultans, etc. who comprise the leadership of half the world that touches on the Pacific Rim. I also saw many of them speak publicly at a coincident CEO Summit. Not a one demonstrated a hint of doubt in either the public or private discussions that their economies should continue to pursue capitalism, globalization and trade liberalization. Most forward leaning was the titular host of the meeting, Peruvian President Alan García, a previously avowed socialist, who delivered an impassioned speech about the ability of capitalism to

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overcome. In his speech to the gathered CEOs, President Bush summed it up, “The policies of free enterprise that lifted up so many in this region can help chart a path to recovery for the whole world. That’s what’s important for people to know.” As entrepreneurs we will not be operating in a new environment.

Second, and most importantly, were the myriad discussions I had with the other business persons who represent their economies on the APEC Business Advisory Council and the business attendees from around the Pacific Rim who were at the CEO conference. Most come from businesses that are not overleveraged, have managed their risk well, and have clear visions of where they want to go. There are a lot of those companies out there, many of them small and medium-sized but with ambitions to be large. While admitting to some temporary blindness, most of the people I spoke to already have put their entrepreneurial glasses back on. They are making plans to exploit the opportunities of lower prices and available talent in the coming months to get ready for the post-crisis return to growth. This matches my own instincts. We are increasing hiring by 25% and looking at buying two companies. “Yankee” ingenuity, and sound business practices, will reign again.

Remember to Save the Day!
PCI Award Dinner: February 19, 2009

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