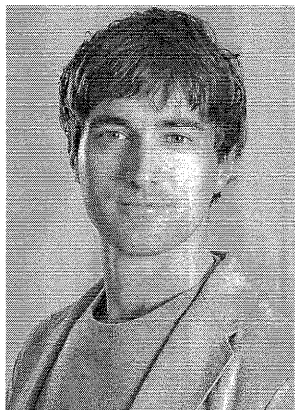


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# NEWS *from Young Concert Artists, Inc.*

## **LIQUID INTERFACE BY MASON BATES RECEIVES WORLD PREMIERE BY LEONARD SLATKIN AND THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY**



February 1, 2007 – Commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra, *Liquid Interface* by YCA composer Mason Bates will receive its world premiere in three performances by the NSO under the direction of Leonard Slatkin on February 22, 23 and 24 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The composer will join the orchestra for those concerts, performing the “electronica” part on electronic drum pad and laptop.

The work was inspired by Bates’s time living on the Wannsee, a linked pair of lakes in southwestern Berlin. “In the course of barely two months,” writes Bates, “I watched this huge body of water transform itself from an ice sheet thick enough to support sausage vendors to a refreshing swimming spot heavy with humidity. If the play of the waves inspired Debussy, then why not examine the phenomenon of water in its variety of forms?

*Liquid Interface* moves through all of them, inhabiting an increasingly hotter world in each progressive movement.” The first movement, “Glaciers Calving”, includes actual recordings of glaciers breaking in the Antarctic. Next is “Scherzo Liquido”, which explores water on the smallest level, the “electronica” producing the sounds of water droplets. “Crescent City” examines water as a destructive force, with references to the Dixieland swing music of New Orleans and sonic evocations of a horrific storm. The final movement, “On the Wannsee” transports us to “a kind of balmy, greenhouse paradise.”

The recipient of both an American Academy in Berlin Fellowship and a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, Mason Bates moves fluidly between the worlds of classical concert music and underground electronica. His recent successes include the premieres of *Digital Loom*, an electro-acoustic work commissioned by The Juilliard School to celebrate its 100th anniversary in January 2006 and *Rusty Air in Carolina* for electronics, commissioned by the Winston-Salem (NC) Symphony in May 2006. Raised in Virginia where he studied piano with Hope Armstrong Erb and composition with Dika Newlin, Mason Bates enrolled in the Columbia-Juilliard program in New York City. Earning degrees in music composition and English literature, he worked with John Corigliano, David Del Tredici, and Samuel Adler. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where he has worked with Edmund Campion, David Wessel, and Jorge Liderman.

**Young Concert Artists, Inc.** is a non-profit organization which presents the winners of its annual Auditions in debuts in New York, Boston, and Washington, DC and provides ongoing management services to launch the careers of exceptional young musicians. For more information about Mason Bates and Young Concert Artists, please visit <http://www.yca.org>.

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