

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
02.15.2008

Contact: April Thibeault, AMT PR
212.861.0990
april@amtpublicrelations.com

WORLD PREMIERE!

The American Symphony Orchestra
Premieres Glen Roven's *The Runaway*
Bunny with Special Guest Narrator
Brooke Shields and Solo Violinist
Ittai Shapira
*To benefit the Schneider Children's Medical
Center of Israel*



New York City – The Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (SCMCI), in conjunction with The Feher Foundation, proudly present the world premiere of Glen Roven's *The Runaway Bunny* at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, Tuesday, April 29th @ 7:30pm. Performed by the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO) with guest narrator Brooke Shields and internationally renowned violinist Ittai Shapira, *The Runaway Bunny* is a contemporary Concert Piece for Violin, Reader and Orchestra that serves as the musical adaptation of one of the most beloved and best-selling children's books of all time.

Taking the audience through the journeys of the wayward bunny, this special one-night only, star-studded concert introduces the beauty and power of classical music to audiences of all ages. Filling a much-needed gap in the symphonic repertoire, *The Runaway Bunny* touches the hearts of anyone who has had a mother or is a mother. "I can't get through this book without crying. It's an honor to be sharing this story," says Shields, mother of two. As an organization dedicated to improving the well-being of children, SCMCI is thrilled to be joining hands with fellow advocates Brooke Shields and the ASO. "We're proud to be hosting such a memorable evening that successfully relays our organization's mission through the universal language of music," exclaims Kimberlee Fish, Executive Director of the Medical Development for Israel, Inc (MDI), the American fundraising arm for SCMCI.

In 2006, Emmy award-winning composer Glen Roven collaborated with violin supernova Ittai Shapira to produce *The Runaway Bunny* recording with Brooke Shields and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Since its UK release on the SONY/BMG label, millions of listeners have embraced it. "To see how honestly this piece resonates and communicates with the audience is truly gratifying as a composer," explains Roven. Following its recent success across the pond, SONY/BMG is slated to release *The Runaway Bunny/Paddington Bear's First Concert/Tubby The Tuba* children's classics album in the United States April 8th.

Ticket Info:

Ticket proceeds benefit the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel

WHAT: Benefit Concert Featuring the World Premiere of *The Runaway Bunny*

WHEN: Tuesday, April 29th @ 7:30pm

WHERE: Stern Auditorium @ Carnegie Hall. Corner of 57th St./7th Ave. Train N/Q/R/W to 57th St.

HOW: General Tickets \$50-\$100. To buy tickets, call 212.247.7800, or visit

<http://www.carnegiehall.org>. To purchase Gala Tickets, call MDI at 212.759.3370 or visit

<http://www.mdinyc.org>

-more-

Program Details

**Programmed by The Feher Foundation and Conducted by Glen Roven*

J.S. **BACH** *Double Concerto* for two violins
Solo Artists: Shmuel Ashkenasi and Arnold Steinhardt

Joseph **ACHRON** *Hebrew Melody* (1911)

Jeno **HUBAY** *Hejre Kati*
Solo Artist: Hagai Shaham

Leonard **BERNSTEIN** *Candide Overture*

-intermission-

Pablo de **SARASATE** *Navarra* for two violins
Solo Artists: Netanel Draiblate and Itamar Zorman

Glen **ROVEN** World premiere of *The Runaway Bunny*
Solo Artists: Ittai Shapira (violin) and Brooke Shields (narrator)

About The Artists:

Glen Roven

A four-time Emmy Award winner, Glen Roven is equally at home in the classical field as he is in the popular arena. He made his Israeli conducting debut in 2001 conducting the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in two sold out concerts honoring Leonard Bernstein. He has conducted the National Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, The Munich Philharmonic, The Radio Luxembourg Orchestra, as well as many others. In addition, he has conducted for Renee Fleming, Placido Domingo, Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle. He was chosen to conduct the last four Presidential Inaugural Concerts as well as America's Millennium Celebration produced by Steven Spielberg. In addition to appearing hundreds of time on television, he has written, conducted and produced for Julie Andrews, Aretha Franklin, Kenny G., Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, Kermit the Frog, Patti LaBelle, Liza Minnelli, Diana Ross, etc. His new musical, *Norman's Ark*, opens the LA Musical Festival in May at the Ford Amphitheater. His new Broadway musical, *The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T*, opens in Dallas 2008 and New York 2009. He is also a contributing author to *Games We Played*, a collection of essays published by Simon and Schuster as well as the *City Secrets Guide to London and New York*. <http://www.glenroven.com>

Ittai Shapira

Violinist Ittai Shapira has appeared with numerous orchestras including the Detroit Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Russian Philharmonic, Czech National Symphony, English Chamber Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Philharmonia, Polish Chamber Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic, Israeli Virtuosi at Alice Tully Hall, Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Jerusalem, Budapest, Shanghai, Omaha, and Harrisburg. Most recently, he premiered his first self-composed concerto *Concierto Latino* with the Israel Sinfonietta. Shapira has assumed the role of conductor-soloist with various chamber orchestras, including the ECO, the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. He has performed as recitalist and chamber musician and has appeared at festivals worldwide. He also performs regularly as a chamber musician with Concertante. Shapira made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2003 with the Orchestra of St. Luke's performing the world premiere of the violin concerto written for him by Shulamit Ran. His discography ranges from Bruch to Berio, and he is the dedicatee of twelve concertos. His diverse projects move from the standard repertory to the eclectic and popular, and he is featured on the soundtrack for a film about Daniel Pearl, *The Journalist and the Jihadi*.

-more-

Before graduating from the Juilliard School, Shapira studied in Israel with Ilona Feher. A recipient of the Clairmont Award, he, along with colleague Hagai Shaham, founded the Ilona Feher foundation dedicated to the promotion of young Israeli violinists. <http://www.ittaishapira.com>

American Symphony Orchestra

The American Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1962 by Leopold Stokowski. Its current music director and principal conductor is Leon Botstein. As part of Lincoln Center Presents Great Performers, the American Symphony Orchestra has pioneered the performance of thematically organized concerts, linking music to the visual arts, literature, politics, and history. In addition, the American Symphony Orchestra performs in a lecture/concert series with audience interaction called Classics Declassified at Peter Norton Symphony Space. It is also the resident orchestra of the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College. There, the American Symphony Orchestra maintains a winter season and also performs in Bard's annual SummerScape Festival and the Bard Music Festival. Its music education programs are presented at numerous high schools throughout New York, New Jersey, and Long Island. Among the American Symphony Orchestra's recent recordings are music by Copland, Sessions, Perle, and Rands for New World Records and music of Ernst von Dohnányi for Bridge Records. Its recordings of Richard Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena* with Deborah Voigt and *Die Liebe der Danae* were made for Telarc. Other recordings with Leon Botstein include Franz Schubert: Orchestrated on the Koch International label, with works by Joachim, Mottl, and Webern, and, on the Vanguard Classics label, Brahms's *Serenade No.1 in D major, Op.11 (1860)*. The American Symphony Orchestra inaugurated São Paulo's new concert hall and has made several tours of Asia and Europe. Last season it performed with the Peer Gynt Theater Company of Norway in Central Park, and this season will provide live accompaniment to screenings of *The Fellowship of the Ring* at Radio City Music Hall. It also has a long history of appearing in charitable and public benefits for such organizations as Sha'are Zedek Hospital, the Jerusalem Foundation, and PBS. <http://www.americansymphony.org>

The Ilona Feher Foundation (IFF)

Established in 2003, IFF honors the late violin pedagogue Ilona Feher (1901-1988) whose guidance helped shape the world's greatest violinists. Honoring Ms. Feher's legacy, IFF is a non-profit organization that will support promising young Israeli violinists. A network of highly respected, established musicians will work together to select award recipients. These young artists will be awarded monetary grants to be applied towards performing opportunities, recordings and instrument loans. Furthermore, they will receive guidance and mentorship from Foundation members and have access to private lessons, master classes, and other intensive courses in Israel and abroad. <http://www.feherfoundation.org>

Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (SCMCI)

Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel is the only comprehensive, tertiary care hospital of its kind in the country and the entire Middle East, dedicated exclusively to the healthcare of all children up to age 18. Offering the full range of pediatric specialties, Schneider Children's also receives patients from the Palestinian Authority and Jordan, and from as far away as Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, thus fulfilling its mandate to serve as a "bridge to peace" in the region. Since its establishment in 1991, Schneider Children's has become recognized for its medical and academic excellence, and today it is considered one of the leading pediatric care centers in the world. <http://www.mdinyc.org>

###