

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

NEWS *from Young Concert Artists, Inc.*

6 WINNERS IN THE 12TH YOUNG CONCERT ARTISTS EUROPEAN AUDITIONS IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY

September 9, 2008 - On Saturday, September 6, the Jury of the Finals of the Young Concert Artists European Auditions in Leipzig's historic Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy," chose six First Prize Winners: **21-year-old French violinist Jérôme Benhaim, 22-year-old Greek violinist Noé Inui, 23-year-old Japanese pianist Akihito Okuda, 25-year-old German soprano Carolina Ullrich, 16-year-old French pianist Guillaume Vincent, and 20-year-old Czech violinist Jiří Vodička.** They each received a \$1,000 prize and performed in the Prize Winners' Concert in the Mendelssohn House in Leipzig. Guillaume Vincent was also awarded the Usedom Music Festival Prize, for a performance at the German Festival on October 2. There were 111 artists from 41 countries who applied to be heard in the Auditions.

The Jury for the Auditions was comprised of Chairman **Susan Wadsworth**; the Director of the European Auditions, pianist **Joel Shapiro** (YCA Alumnus); flutist **Irmela Bossler**; cellist **Alexander Chaushian** (YCA Alumnus); violinist **Christiane Edinger** (YCA Alumna); and soprano **Edith Wiens**.

The Young Concert Artists European Auditions were established in Leipzig in 1994 by Joel Shapiro to offer accessibility to musicians from Eastern European countries who might not otherwise be able to participate in the final rounds of the annual Young Concert Artists International Auditions, which are held in New York City. The winners of the European Auditions are provided with round-trip air travel and accommodation in New York, to be heard in the Semi-Finals of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, held at the 92nd Street Y from January 13 to 15, 2009. If they win at the Finals on January 17, they will be added to the management roster of **Young Concert Artists, Inc.**

The Young Concert Artists European Auditions are co-sponsored by Young Concert Artists, Inc. and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy."

Any number may be chosen as Winners of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. They will be presented in New York and Washington concert debuts and receive career management services from Young Concert Artists, including concert engagements throughout the U.S.

Young Concert Artists, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1961, has launched the careers of such renowned musicians as violinist Pinchas Zukerman, pianists Murray Perahia, Richard Goode, and Emanuel Ax, and soprano Dawn Upshaw.

For further details, contact: Sam Clapp, Publicity Associate, (212) 307-6655, sam@yca.org