



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akron Symphony's New Music Director Interviewed on NewsNight Akron

NewsMaker Akron special airs on Friday, Sept. 1 at 9 p.m.

KENT, Ohio — Aug. 21, 2006 — While music lovers in greater Akron are eager for the inaugural season of Christopher Wilkins, the Akron Symphony Orchestra's new music director, the new maestro is even more excited about the season at hand. Join **NewsNight Akron** regular panelist Jody Miller for a special **NewsMaker Akron** program to air on Friday, Sept. 1 at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49. Wilkins talks about his background, musicianship and aspirations for the future of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. The program repeats on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 5 a.m.

Wilkins was selected this past spring from an original 180-member pool of applicants that was narrowed to a list of five music director finalists, each of whom "auditioned" during the 2005-06 Akron Symphony Orchestra season. Wilkins' "strong musicianship, his artistic vision and his commitment to community engagement" were qualities instrumental in his selection, according to the search committee. "With Christopher Wilkins, we have a music director with the talent and breadth of experience to bring out the best in our fine orchestra," said Search Committee Chair George Rosin.

Wilkins talks about the upcoming season, which opens on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m., and how that season has been designed to highlight the talents of the orchestra's musicians and the Akron Symphony Chorus, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary year. He also discusses his hopes to inspire not just the orchestra musicians, but audience members as well.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-854-4549.

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Cutline: Christopher Wilkins, conductor of the Akron Symphony Orchestra

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45 & 49**

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