The New Mexico Philharmonic Appoints Roberto Minczuk
As the Orchestra’s First Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ALBUQUERQUE, NM, June 26, 2017—The New Mexico Philharmonic announces the appointment of Brazilian-born Roberto Minczuk as the first Music Director of the orchestra starting with the 2017-2018 season. Maestro Minczuk’s responsibilities will include conducting the orchestra, choosing the repertoire for the upcoming seasons, and shaping the artistic vision of the New Mexico Philharmonic.

Roberto Minczuk will conduct his first concert on October 14, 2017, when he will kick off the season with Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. “Maestro Minczuk’s appointment is the result of a rigorous process which lasted two years and culminated with last season’s concerts, when each conductor was a finalist in the search for the Music Director. The musicians of the orchestra, a special search committee comprised of community members, musicians, and board members as well as the audience all arrived at the same conclusion. Maestro Minczuk is about to start a new era for the New Mexico Philharmonic, and it is with great excitement that we are all welcoming him,” says Marian Tanau, Executive Director of the organization.

“I am thrilled and most honored to be the first Music Director of the New Mexico Philharmonic. Each rehearsal and every concert we have performed together have been very powerful experiences of beautiful music-making, and I look forward to this wonderful journey together!” Roberto Minczuk said.

Earlier this year, Minczuk was appointed Music Director of the Theatro Municipal Orchestra of São Paulo. He is also Music Director Laureate of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in Canada and Conductor Emeritus of the Orquestra Sinfônica Brasileira in Rio de Janeiro. In Calgary, he recently completed a 10-year tenure as Music Director, becoming the longest-running Music Director in the orchestra’s history.

Highlights of Minczuk’s recent seasons include the complete Mahler Symphony Cycle with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra; Bach *St. John Passion*, Bruckner Symphony No. 7, *Fidelio*, and *The Damnation of Faust* with the Theatro Municipal Orchestra of São Paulo; debuts with the Cincinnati Opera (Don Giovanni) and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra; and return engagements with the Orquesta Nacional de Lille and the New York City Ballet. In the 2016-2017 season, he made return visits to the Israel Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Teatro Colón Philharmonic and Orchestra Estable of Buenos Aires. His most recent appearance with the New Mexico Philharmonic was in April 2017, when he conducted Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony.

A protégé and close colleague of the late Kurt Masur, Minczuk debuted with the New York Philharmonic in 1998, and by 2002 was Associate Conductor, having worked closely with both Kurt Masur and Lorin Maazel. He has since conducted more than one hundred orchestras worldwide, including the New York, Los Angeles, Israel, London, Tokyo, Oslo, and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestras; the London, San Francisco, Dallas, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras; and the National Radio (France), Philadelphia, and Cleveland Orchestras, among many others.

Minczuk’s recording of the complete *Bachianas Brasileiras* of Hector Villa-Lobos with the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (BIS label) won the Gramophone award of excellence in 2012 for best recording of this repertoire. His other recordings include *Danzas Brasileiras*, which features rare works by Brazilian composers of the 20th century, and the *Complete Symphonic Works of Antonio Carlos Jobim*, which won a Latin Grammy in 2004 and was nominated for an American Grammy in 2006.

The New Mexico Philharmonic is a nonprofit corporation recognized as a charitable 501(c)(3) organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. To learn more about upcoming performances or to become a volunteer, please visit nmphil.org. Donations are gratefully accepted at nmphil.org/donate-to-the-nm-phil/.

# # #

Media Contact: Marian Tanau 505-323-4343 x 2 mtanau@nmphil.org