

LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER
December 29, 2004, 8:00 p.m. on PBS
Sir James Galway @ The Penthouse
Grand Opening

Our last telecast originated from the newest of the Lincoln Center venues, Frederick P. Rose Hall, the new home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, 5 blocks south of the main Lincoln Center campus. Our next *Live From Lincoln Center* telecast, on Wednesday evening, December 29, will originate in the by-now familiar confines of the Kaplan Penthouse atop the Lincoln Center administration building at 70 Lincoln Center Plaza on Manhattan's Upper West Side. I say "familiar" because this will be the sixth of our programs to come to you from the Kaplan Penthouse, and it will spotlight the artist who has been called a "musical leprechaun"-flutist Sir James Galway.

Sir James is no stranger to our series, having appeared for us previously as soloist with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. However, as you *Live From Lincoln Center* regulars know, the format for our presentations from the Kaplan Penthouse is a change of pace from the normal concert structure. The Kaplan Penthouse is normally used by Lincoln Center for receptions, press conferences and the like. For our *Live From Lincoln Center* performances, however, the Kaplan Penthouse is transformed into an intimate music salon: our artists drop the formality of the concert hall and speak directly to the invited audience and to the millions watching on television. In this setting our earlier offerings have brought you Itzhak Perlman (twice), Renee Fleming, Wynton Marsalis and Joshua Bell. We feel that setting is the perfect one for the pixie wit and superb musicianship of Sir James Galway.

A native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Galway first played the penny whistle as a child. From there he went on to study the violin, but ultimately switched to the instrument for which he seems to have been pre-ordained: the flute. He enjoyed a brief early career as a piano tuner (attesting to his remarkably sensitive musical ear) but then continued his flute studies at the Royal College of Music in London, London's Guildhall School, the Paris Conservatory and the Marlboro School of Music in Vermont. In his early twenties he played in the flute sections of the Sadlers Wells and Covent Garden Opera Companies and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, then as Principal Flutist in the London Symphony and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras. The climax of his orchestral flute playing came with his appointment as Principal Flute of the Berlin Philharmonic, where he stayed for six seasons until 1975.

Before the emergence in the 1940s and 50s of the late Jean Pierre Rampal (with whom Galway studied for a time), the concert stage was virtually closed to a solo flutist, this despite a reasonably large and rewarding repertoire. But with Rampal having blazed the trail, Galway decided to abandon his Berlin Philharmonic

position and embark on a career as a soloist. Within a year he had played 120 concerts, including appearances with all the London orchestras. Since then Galway and his 14-karat golden flute have enchanted audiences throughout the world. His Knighthood was conferred upon him in 2001 by Britain's Queen Elizabeth. He of course plays virtually everything ever written for the flute, along with his own special arrangements of music composed for other media. And he has commissioned new music for flute by such composers as David Amram, William Bolcom, John Corigliano, David Heath, Henri Lazarof, Lowell Lieberman and Thea Musgrave.

Several of the works we'll hear on December 29 call for the services of a second flutist. For these Sir James will be joined by the other flutist in the Galway family-his wife, Jeanne, with whom he regularly collaborates in music for two flutes. Jeanne herself is a remarkable and adventurous player who has appeared as soloist with many of the leading orchestras in the United States and Europe. The two of them, Sir James and Lady Jeanne, are President and Vice President respectively of Flutewise, an educational organization for young flute players that donates instruments to low-income students and young people with disabilities.

As to other repertoire on our program, we'll have some of the usual suspects: the *Badinerie* from Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 2*; the *Finale* from Mercadante's *E Minor Concerto*; and the "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" from Gluck's opera *Orpheus*. Speaking of "Orpheus," it will be New York's supreme Orpheus Chamber Orchestra that will again provide the orchestral framework for the evening-as it has for nearly every one of our earlier Kaplan Penthouse programs. As to other music to be heard, I leave that for you to discover along with us on Wednesday evening, December 29: *Live From Lincoln Center, Sir James Galway @ The Penthouse*.

As usual, I urge you to consult your local PBS station for the exact date and time of the telecast in your community.

See you then!