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## Hilary Hahn Announces *In 27 Pieces: The Hilary Hahn Encores*;



**New York, NY**--At age 31, two-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Hilary Hahn has already made a lasting impact on the violin repertoire, premiering two concertos written for her by American composers and championing both well- and lesser-known works in performance and recording. Hahn now delves deeper into the world of contemporary classical music, commissioning over two dozen composers to write short-form pieces for acoustic violin and piano. She will tour these new works over the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons and then record them. The project is called *In 27 Pieces: The Hilary Hahn Encores*.

This idea began to take shape nearly a decade ago, when Hahn noticed that new encore pieces were not being showcased as much as other types of contemporary works. Shorter pieces remain a crucial part of every violinist's education and repertoire, and Hahn believed potential new favorites should be encouraged and performed as well.

Of the project, she writes, "My initial goal was to expand the encore genre to embrace works of different styles. Because I was planning to play the commissioned pieces myself, it was important that the composers' writing spoke to me in some way. I listened to a lot of contemporary classical music,

for hours on end, often late into the night. I loved hearing things I had never heard before. I made nerve-racking 'cold calls' to composers to ask them to participate in my project. I wasn't sure what the reactions would be, but to my surprise, so many people were receptive that the project gained exhilarating momentum.

"It has been thrilling and an honor to get to know these composers as artists and to work with such different personalities and styles. Going into this project, I had no idea how much I would learn from it. Each composer brings his or her own musical language to the table. As a performer, the process of exploring these pieces is both challenging and exciting. The structure may be concise, but each work contains a wealth of expression.

"When composers put ideas down on paper, the aural world takes on a greater dimension. My hope is that these particular contributions will showcase the range of music being written today, while bringing enjoyment to listeners and performers alike."

The 26 commissioned composers are:

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh  
Lera Auerbach  
Richard Barrett  
Mason Bates  
Tina Davidson  
David Del Tredici  
Avner Dorman  
Søren Nils Eichberg  
Christos Hatzis  
Jennifer Higdon  
James Newton Howard  
Bun-Ching Lam  
David Lang  
Edgar Meyer  
Paul Moravec  
Nico Muhly  
Michiru Oshima  
Krzysztof Penderecki  
Einojuhani Rautavaara  
Max Richter  
Somei Satoh  
Elliott Sharp  
Valentin Silvestrov  
Mark-Anthony Turnage  
Gillian Whitehead  
Du Yun

A final, 27th composer will be decided in a non-traditional fashion later this year.

*Gramophone* magazine's 2008 Artist of the Year, Hahn is celebrated for her probing interpretations, technical brilliance, and compelling presence on stage. Hahn has toured extensively for over a decade, and her acclaimed performances and recordings have made her one of the most sought-after artists on the international concert circuit. Hahn appears regularly with the world's elite orchestras and on the most prestigious recital series in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. She appeared on *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien* on January 14, 2010, days before the show was taken off the air. During the 2010-11 season, she tours the U.S., Canada, and Europe with pianist Valentina Lisitsa and performs the Tchaikovsky and Higdon concertos and other orchestral works throughout Asia, Europe, and North America.

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