



September 29, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
and the Roosevelt Institute present
"FDR&NYC: Bold, Persistent Experimentation"
A Free Public Forum and Musical Performance by the
Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra of New York City
October 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home
Call (845) 486-7745 to register**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute present, "**FDR&NYC: Bold, Persistent Experimentation**," a free public forum and musical performance on October 25, 2014 in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. The forum will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a moderated discussion on the interaction between three larger-than-life New Yorkers -- Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fiorello La Guardia, and Robert Moses -- and their work in creating today's New York City. At 5:00 p.m., forum attendees will enjoy a special, hour-long musical performance by the **Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra** of New York City performing the Gary S. Fagin original *Robert Moses Astride New York* and a selection of FDR's favorite songs. **Registration required. Call (845) 486-7745 for information.**

In many ways, FDR was quintessentially New York City: big and bold, full of experimentation, and always rising to meet the challenges of the day. It is impossible to experience today's modern New York City without also experiencing the legacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt. For a time, he was himself a New Yorker: he once lived on East 65th Street and worked as a lawyer on Wall Street. But FDR had the greatest impact on the Big Apple not when he lived there, but when he lived in the White House.

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Working closely with one of New York's greatest mayors, Fiorello La Guardia, and sometimes at odds with perhaps the greatest urban planner of the modern era, Robert Moses, FDR and the New Deal changed the face of New York City and the way people move through that urban landscape.

With New Deal money and workers, La Guardia and Moses oversaw the building of roads and highways, bridges and tunnels, utilities and sewage treatment plants, schools, parks, and hospitals, and an airport in Queens later named for La Guardia. Slums were cleared, and public housing was built. The New Deal supported the arts, including orchestras, museums, theater companies, artwork in public buildings, and the writing of a complete guide to the City. Public health and education programs and new labor and safety laws further improved the quality of life for New York's citizens. Thousands of unemployed and starving New Yorkers were put back to work in gainful and useful employment remaking the face of their City.

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. on October 25, the Roosevelt Library will host a moderated discussion of these three remarkable personalities and how they worked to shape New York City. The discussion will be led by **Robin Pogrebin**, Culture Reporter, *The New York Times*. Panelists will include: **Owen Gutfreund**, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College and co-author of *Robert Moses and the Modern City*; **Nick Taylor**, author of *American Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work*; and **Mason B. Williams**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and author of *City of Ambition: FDR, La Guardia, and the Making of Modern New York*. In addition to house seating, the 2:00 p.m. discussion will be webcast live -- with online viewer participation -- at www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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Following the discussion, and a short break, forum attendees will enjoy a special, hour-long musical performance by the **Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra (KCO)** of New York City beginning at 5:00 p.m. KCO will perform musical director Gary S. Fagin's original *Robert Moses Astride New York* and a selection of President Roosevelt's favorite songs.

Under the direction of KCO founder, musical director and conductor Gary S. Fagin, the **Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra's** mission is to perform classical orchestral repertoire in Lower Manhattan's most distinctive settings; to offer educational music programs, particularly for young people; and to provide classical music ensembles for events.

For more information about the discussion and live webcast, the musical program, or to register, please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

As generations of Americans that have no personal memory of the Roosevelt Era emerge, it is more critical than ever that the lives and legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt be preserved and presented to new generations. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum stands ready to serve as a visible and valuable resource for children and families, educators and students, and an international audience seeking to understand the past to make a better tomorrow. With a newly renovated building and new permanent museum exhibits the Library seeks to honor President Roosevelt's vision in dedicating his Library to the American people. The Roosevelt Library is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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