

PRESS RELEASE

15 May 2012

**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME
AWARDS PRESTIGIOUS MCKIM MEDAL TO RICCARDO
MUTI**

Rome - The American Academy in Rome is pleased to announce the 2012 McKim Medal Laureate, Maestro **Riccardo Muti**. The award celebrates the internationally renowned conductor for his significant accomplishments and contributions to classical music throughout his career. Muti will be honored with the McKim Medal in Rome on **Monday 28 May 2012, which will be presented to him at the 8th annual McKim Medal Gala at Villa Aurelia.**

Adele Chatfield-Taylor, President of the American Academy in Rome, stated: "We are proud to present the 2012 McKim Medal to Maestro Riccardo Muti, one of the most important artists and cultural ambassadors of our day. The Trustees of the American Academy in Rome established the McKim Medal to honor exceptional individuals whose work has had a global impact on the arts and humanities, beyond the boundaries of Italy and the United States. On behalf of the Academy, let me express our gratitude to the Italian and American patrons and sponsors who make this award, this glorious evening, and thereby the Italian fellowships each year at the American Academy in Rome, possible."

For over four decades, the work of Riccardo Muti has captivated audiences worldwide. He has conducted most of the important orchestras in the world and currently serves as the Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and as honorary director for life at the Rome Opera. Previous McKim Medal laureates include **Umberto Eco, Ennio Morricone, Luigi Ontani, Renzo Piano, Miuccia Prada, Cy Twombly, and Franco Zeffirelli.**

Academy Trustee **Mercedes T. Bass** will present Maestro Muti with the McKim Medal. This year's McKim Gala is chaired by **Valentina Moncada di Paternò**, together with Founding Chair and Academy Trustee, **Verdella Caracciolo de Benedictis**, and Honorary Chair, **Rose Thorne**. The McKim Medal Gala makes possible fellowships that provide both Italian and American winners with important opportunities to pursue their individual studies and engage in the international dialogue of scholarship and the arts. Funds raised by the Gala allow Italian artists to join the Academy community each year, and support an exchange program for scholars in the humanities that links the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa with the American Academy in Rome. These opportunities have proven to be an enrichment both to the individual Fellows and to the larger international community.

The McKim Medal Gala kicks off a week of special activities at the American Academy in Rome that include the Fellows Opens Studios, Readings, and Concerts.

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

The McKim Medal

The McKim Medal was established by the Trustees of the American Academy in Rome in 2005 as an annual prize that honors an individual whose work internationally – most particularly in Italy and the United States – has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities. Named for Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909), noted architect who established the Academy in 1894, the Medal recognizes an individual whose work and life exemplify creative and intellectual exchange across the arts, scholarship, language, and culture. The McKim medal was designed by Cy Twombly. This year's medal has been crafted and donated by Roman jeweler Fabio Salini.

The American Academy in Rome

A leading overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities, the American Academy in Rome has for over 118 years offered support, time, and a collaborative environment to some of America's most gifted artists and scholars. Through a national juried competition, the Academy offers up to 30 Rome Prize fellowships in architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, musical composition, and the visual arts; as well as in ancient studies, medieval studies, Renaissance and early-modern studies, and modern Italian studies. The Academy also appoints Italian Fellows in the arts and humanities. The Fellows, who live in a dynamic and interactive community set high up on the Janiculum, are joined by a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director. Founded in 1894 and chartered as a private institution by an act of Congress in 1905, the Academy is supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and competitive grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. Of the 30 foreign academies in Rome, only the American Academy relies on private rather than government support.

For more information, please contact:

Milena Sales - tel. +1 212 751 7200 ext. 345 or +39 339 380 2290, email: m.sales@aarome.org

Maria Bonmassar - tel. +39 335 777 6814, email: maria.bonmassar@tiscali.it