

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director
2019-20 SEASON



Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and members of the Choir of the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts at the Girard College Chapel following The Philadelphia Orchestra's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concert in January 2019.

BOOK YOUR GROUP TICKETS TODAY!
215.893.1968 www.philorch.org/groupsales



Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. Photo by Neal Santos.

Dear Group Leaders and Trip Planners,

Welcome to the 2019-20 season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Yannick Nézet-Séguin's eighth season as music director. We are pleased to share this season with you and invite you to join us once again.

This season we showcase the brilliance of Beethoven for the 250th anniversary of his birth with cycles of his complete symphonies and piano concertos. For the first time in 18 years we return to our beloved Academy of Music for subscription concerts that will feature works by Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. By booking as a group, you can experience all that this season has to offer while taking advantage of our amazing group benefits.

Group Benefits:

- Incredible savings up to 30% off for most concerts
- A low minimum of just 10 tickets to qualify as a group purchase
- Personal attention, advice, and flexibility throughout the planning and ordering process
- Ability to purchase tickets before the Box Office opens to the general public
- No down payment required with seat reservation
- Flexible payment policy
- No per-ticket handling fee: With a group order there is only one low service charge per performance date

Book your group TODAY!

As you explore our 2019-20 season, you will find the corresponding group ticket prices listed in the last few pages of this brochure. To place a group ticket order or ask questions, please call **215.893.1968** or e-mail the Group Sales department at **groupsales@philorch.org** with any questions or ticket needs.

We look forward to assisting you in planning your next group visit to The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Geoffrey Cohen

Director of Audience Development

Kayla Delgado-Partridge

Audience Development Manager

Megan O'Neill

Audience Development Coordinator

www.philorch.org/groupsales



Turn your group visit into a SPECIAL EVENT

Add a private reception or city dining experience to complete your group's visit to The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Pre- or Post-Concert Catered Reception

A reception at the Kimmel Center with Garces Catering is the ultimate way to turn your concert visit into an affair to remember. With menus inspired by renowned Philadelphia chef and *Iron Chef* winner Jose Garces, and multiple event space options, the Kimmel Center is one of the premier reception venues in the city.

Cocktails at Volvér

Chef Garces's Volvér offers guests a casual dining experience in a sophisticated atmosphere. The Volvér experience is perfect for a pre-show dinner or post-show drinks. Special events, such as networking events, can be arranged. Let The Philadelphia Orchestra's Group Sales team help arrange an amazing night!

Nearby Dining Options

Take advantage of the many nearby dining options Center City has to offer. Not sure where to start? Ask our Group Sales Department for help in your planning.

Make it an event with a pre- or post-concert activity.

ENHANCE your concert experience

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Group Sales team can turn a concert visit into an amazing experience with these enhancement options.

Free Docent-Led Tour of the Kimmel Center

At no additional cost, your group can receive a tour of the Kimmel Center, led by a volunteer docent. The tour takes roughly one hour and covers the building's history, its significance to The Philadelphia Orchestra, and its great architectural marvels. Groups can schedule their tour based on their itinerary needs.

Backstage Tours

The group sales team can provide a short backstage tour of Verizon Hall. The tour will take roughly 15-25 minutes depending on the time it takes place and size of the group. It's a great opportunity for groups to explore behind-the-scenes before the concert, and you never know who you might see. The tour is free, but subject to availability, and generally for groups of 30 people or less.

Meet and Greet with the with an Orchestra musician



Make your Philadelphia Orchestra visit more personal with a chance to meet Orchestra musicians. Whether you'd like to learn more about the Orchestra, take a picture, or have a program autographed, we can request this at no additional charge. Please note that a room fee may apply depending on the size of the group, and all requests for a meet-and-greets are subject to musician and space availability.

Large Ensemble Clinic and Sectional Rehearsals

Create an unforgettable experience for your students by participating in either a large ensemble clinic under the direction of a Philadelphia Orchestra musician or a sectional rehearsal where young musicians get the chance to work with their professional counterparts in a coaching session, typically led by one to three Orchestra musicians and grouped by similar instrumentation. Bring repertoire that the students have been working on and get feedback from our world-class musicians.

Contact The Philadelphia Orchestra's Group Sales department to plan your special event or concert enhancements.

groupsales@philorch.org 215.893.1968

www.philorch.org/groupsales

Concert enhancements and event opportunities require a corresponding group ticket order on file during the 2019-20 season.

All concert enhancement and event opportunities with the purchase of group tickets are subject to availability. Kimmel Center room fees may apply.

Large ensemble clinics and sectional rehearsals are subject to fees, and availability as determined by The Philadelphia Orchestra's Audience Development department.

“What a pleasure it is to invite you to my eighth season as music director of the fabulous, unique, truly best-in-the-world Philadelphia Orchestra—Your Orchestra. Why do I say Your Orchestra? Because it is for you, our beloved audiences. Every week, we perform for you.”

—Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Violinist Julia Li, bassist David Fay, and clarinetist Socrates Villegas at The Franklin Institute. Photo by Jeff Fusco.

We are excited for the return of our LiveNote® app, providing real-time program notes on your smartphone during the concert for select weekends. Please look for the LiveNote icon below to see when the app will be used.

This season we are pleased to continue our exploration of great organ works through the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience. Look for the organ icon below to know when the organ will be a feature on a program.



These concerts are LiveNote® enabled



Concerts with this icon are part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience, supported through a generous grant from the Wyncote Foundation.



Vision 2020 is a national women's equality coalition headquartered at Drexel University's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. In 2020, Vision 2020 will lead *Women 100: A Celebration of American Women* to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: women's right to vote. Vision 2020 applauds The Philadelphia Orchestra, one of its early *Women 100* Proud Partners—organizations committed to gender equality that have created their own programming in support of *Women 100*—on the Orchestra's commitment to advancing women's equality.

NOW Beethoven

“Beethoven’s music was groundbreaking, original, and provocative. To celebrate his legacy in 2020, we must pay attention to the VOICES OF TODAY through music that sheds a light on contemporary struggles and aspirations.”

—Yannick Nézet-Séguin



The year 2020 marks the 250th birthday of Beethoven.

The Philadelphia Orchestra celebrates this milestone by performing music by composers of today in dialogue with **Beethoven’s symphonies**. Composer-in-Residence **Gabriela Lena Frank**, and a diverse group of composers from her Creative Academy of Music, offer newly written works that inspire and push boundaries—to elevate the context in which Beethoven’s legacy is understood today.

The Symphonies: March 12-April 5

Revolutionary from the start and immensely popular 200 years later, Beethoven’s nine symphonies challenged musical norms at their creation and transformed the symphonic canon forever. Here is a rare chance to journey through **all nine of these masterworks** in a **concentrated four-week period**, and to listen with a fresh, bold perspective. See pages 28-29 for details.

The Piano Concertos: January 23-February 8

All five piano concertos in **three binge-worthy weeks**—including a special one-week **return to the Academy of Music, January 23-26**—with three of the world’s greatest pianists: Yefim Bronfman, Daniil Trifonov, and Emanuel Ax. See pages 20-21 for details.

NOW Women



Marin Alsop



Philadelphia Orchestra
Composer-in-Residence, Gabriela Lena Frank



Valerie Coleman



Susanna Mälkki



Vivian Fung



Zosha Di Castri



Leila Josefowicz



Women innovators and creators take center stage in the 2019-20 season.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra present composers, conductors, instrumentalists, vocalists, and thinkers in programs that showcase rarely heard works of the past and inspiring music of today. A world premiere by Valerie Coleman during opening weekend sets the stage for a season-long (and beyond) celebration of women's voices, and Gabriela Lena Frank joins the Orchestra as composer-in-residence.

The Philadelphia Orchestra is a Proud Partner of Vision 2020's Women 100 initiative, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women's right to vote.

Music that Transforms

Experience the genius of John Adams and 16 other living composers who feature prominently in a season of distinctive, inspiring musical voices.

Strauss's revolutionary *Elektra* comes to life as Yannick leads a stunning symphonic staging.

Be inspired by Bach's Mass in B minor, one of the greatest choral works ever written.

And re-live timeless films as the Orchestra performs live the extraordinary original scores to *Fantasia*, *An American in Paris*, and *Up*.

Special Events



Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal

Sunday, November 24 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor and Piano
Joyce DiDonato Mezzo-soprano

Mozart "Ch'io mi scordi di te? ...
Non temer, amato bene"

Mozart "Parto, ma tu ben mio," from
La clemenza di Tito

Bruckner Symphony No. 4 ("Romantic")

Yannick has been artistic director and principal conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain in his hometown of Montreal since 2000. Hear him conduct the ensemble for the first time in Philadelphia, leading a masterpiece by his beloved Bruckner. The radiant Joyce DiDonato joins for two ethereal arias by Mozart.



BeethovenNOW: Solo Piano Recital with Evgeny Kissin

Thursday, May 14 7:30 PM

Evgeny Kissin Piano

Beethoven Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 ("Pathétique")

Beethoven Fifteen Variations and a Fugue on an Original Theme in E-flat major, Op. 35 ("Eroica")

Beethoven Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2

Beethoven Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53 ("Waldstein")

In a season presenting all nine of Beethoven's symphonies, and all five of his piano concertos, we can't ignore his solo piano pieces, some of the most unforgettable music ever written. From the "Pathétique" with its echoes of Mozart to the "Eroica" Variations, using thematic material from his Third Symphony, to the innovative D-minor and the heroic and technically challenging "Waldstein," this brief survey underscores yet again Beethoven's monumental musical genius. The internationally acclaimed virtuoso Evgeny Kissin performs these masterpieces.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

A co-presentation by the Kimmel Center and The Philadelphia Orchestra.



The Phantom of the Opera

Thursday, October 31 7:30 PM

Peter Richard Conte Organ

The Phantom of the Opera
(silent film with organ accompaniment)



The 1925 version of *The Phantom of the Opera* is technically a silent movie ... but not when the mighty Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ is unleashed! Verizon Hall's magnificent instrument creates the perfect soundtrack for this Hollywood classic, a tale of doomed love in the spooky confines of the Paris Opera House. Known for his performances on the legendary Wanamaker Organ, Peter Richard Conte is master of the keyboard for this special Halloween presentation.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

Disney's Fantasia—Live in Concert

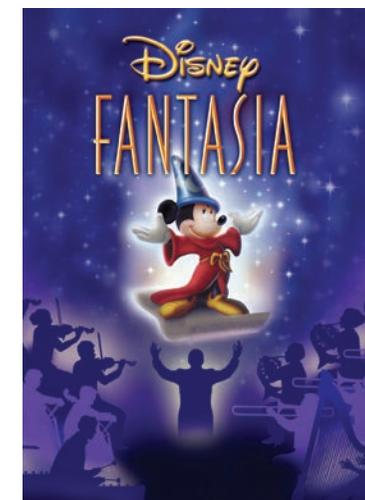
Friday, January 3 7 PM

Saturday, January 4 7 PM

Sunday, January 5 2 PM

Fantasia is a pinnacle of cinematic art, and a landmark in The Philadelphia Orchestra's incredible tradition of innovation. This groundbreaking 1940 collaboration between the visionary genius Walt Disney and the Orchestra's commanding maestro Leopold Stokowski has never lost its capacity to move, delight, and astonish audiences all over the world. There is simply nothing like a live performance of this classic by your Philadelphia Orchestra.

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Up—Live in Concert

Thursday, June 11 7 PM

Friday, June 12 7 PM

Saturday, June 13 7 PM

A 78-year-old curmudgeonly balloon salesman is not your average hero. When he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America, he finally fulfills his lifelong dream of adventure. But after Carl discovers an 8-year-old stowaway named Russell, this unlikely duo soon finds themselves on a hilarious journey in a lost world filled with danger and surprises. This film is enhanced by Michael Giacchino's Academy Award-winning original score performed live by the incomparable Philadelphia Orchestra.

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Opening Night Concert and Gala

Wednesday, September 18 7 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Plácido Domingo Tenor

Plácido Domingo is a paragon of the opera world, continuing to add roles to his repertoire while amassing raves all over the world. The truly legendary Spanish tenor joins Yannick and the Orchestra, performing beloved highlights of Italian grand opera.

Join us for this glamorous evening, celebrating a superstar of classical music, Yannick's eighth fabulous season as music director, and the lush sounds of your Philadelphia Orchestra. Opening Night Co-Chairs Richelle Rabenou, Peter Shaw, and Assistant Principal Cello Yumi Kendall, and the Opening Night Gala committee look forward to welcoming you to this celebratory evening with Philadelphia's cultural leaders and arts patrons.

Contact **Dorothy Byrne** in the Volunteer Relations office at **215.893.3124** or via e-mail at **dbyrne@philorch.org** to be sure you are on the invitation list.

Concert-only tickets for the evening are also available—simply add them to your subscription.



Piccolo player Erica Peel at Reading Terminal Market. Photo by Jessica Griffin.

Holiday Concerts

Spend the most wonderful time of the year with #YourPhilOrch. Add these concerts on to your subscription today and share the spirit of the season with family, friends, and The Philadelphia Orchestra.



Organ and Brass Christmas

Sunday, December 1 2 PM

Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Brass Section

Peter Richard Conte Organ



Hark the herald trumpets (and horns, trombones, and tuba) sing! The unmatched sound and musicality of The Philadelphia Orchestra's legendary brass section usher in the holiday season on a high note. And the glory of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ adds another heavenly voice to this collection of treasured Christmas music, with master organist Peter Richard Conte at the keyboard for this festive presentation.

Messiah

Sunday, December 22 2 PM

Jane Glover Conductor
Philadelphia Symphonic Choir
Joe Miller Director



Handel *Messiah*

Shortly after sending Handel his libretto for a new oratorio, Charles Jennens wrote to a friend, hoping that the composer "will lay out his whole genius and skill upon it." In 24 days of feverish writing, Handel did just that, creating his immortal *Messiah*. Pioneering conductor and Handel expert Jane Glover brings her decades of experience with opera and Baroque music back to the Kimmel Center for our holiday presentation of this masterwork, with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir joining the Orchestra for a revelatory performance.



The Glorious Sound of Christmas®

Thursday, December 19 7 PM

Friday, December 20 7 PM

Saturday, December 21 7 PM

Bramwell Tovey Conductor

The Glorious Sound of Christmas has been a Philadelphia Orchestra tradition since the Philadelphians and Eugene Ormandy released the now-iconic recording in 1962. Make these concerts part of your holiday tradition with these jubilant and family-friendly concerts.

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31 7:30 PM

Bramwell Tovey Conductor

The popular Bramwell Tovey returns, bringing his inimitable flair and irrepressible joy to our New Year's Eve concert. Bring on the bubbly and ring in 2020 with the Fabulous Philadelphians.

FAMILY Concert Series



Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday, October 26 11:30 AM

Aram Demirjian Conductor

Put on your best Halloween costume and the Orchestra will put on theirs! We've got plenty of musical treats to fill up your goodie bag. The Philadelphia Orchestra explores the spooky and the silly in this orchestral adventure, an annual audience favorite!

Christmas Kids' Spectacular

SPECIAL ADD-ON

Saturday, December 14 11:30 AM

Aram Demirjian Conductor

It's the start of the holiday season! Join us for a festive celebration of all your favorite Christmas sounds and sing-alongs. Listen closely for those jingle bells, too—you never know who might pay a special visit to Verizon Hall. Add these tickets on to your subscription today as this one sells out each year!

Carnival of the Animals

Saturday, March 7 11:30 AM

Dancers from the Rock School for Dance Education
Bojan Spassoff Director

Lions and tigers and ... pianists? Oh, my! Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* is a musical journey through the animal kingdom that's fun for all ages. Verizon Hall will be magically turned into a zoo through your child's imagination as animals are conjured up by the musicians of the Orchestra.

The Life and Times of Beethoven

Saturday, May 2 11:30 AM

Michael Boudewyns Actor

Professor Nigel Taproot, the affable and learned classical music aficionado, invites you to an original Really Inventive Stuff program for families celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday, his remarkable age, and four famous notes. Featuring the music of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, with a playful peppering of fascinating facts and timely trivia. (Did you know Washington was president during Beethoven's lifetime? Roller skates were invented, too!) This enlightening performance is a splendid introduction to Beethoven's musical genius.





Héléne Grimaud



Leila Josefowicz



Haochen Zhang



Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Yannick and Héléne Open the Season

Thursday, September 19 7:30 PM
Friday, September 20 2 PM
Saturday, September 21 8 PM
Sunday, September 22 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Héléne Grimaud Piano

Coleman *Umoja*, for orchestra
 (world premiere—Philadelphia
 Orchestra commission)

Bartók Piano Concerto No. 3
Dvořák Symphony No. 9
 (“From the New World”)

Umoja, a world premiere commission by American composer Valerie Coleman, launches our 2019–20 season. Ms. Coleman’s spirited music draws from Afro-Cuban, jazz, and classical genres. *Umoja*—meaning unity in Swahili—is alive with all these influences. Bartók’s gorgeous Third Concerto, performed by Yannick’s good friend Héléne Grimaud, is as vibrant today as the day The Philadelphia Orchestra and Eugene Ormandy gave the world premiere at the Academy of Music in 1946. This program, inspired by music of American roots, concludes with Dvořák’s wondrous “New World” Symphony.

John Adams Conducts Adams

Thursday, September 26 7:30 PM
Friday, September 27 2 PM
Saturday, September 28 8 PM

John Adams Conductor
Leila Josefowicz Violin

Ravel *Alborada del gracioso*
Stravinsky *Song of the Nightingale*
Adams *Scheherazade.2*, Dramatic Symphony
 for Violin and Orchestra

Composer, conductor, teacher, writer, thinker—John Adams is an American musical icon. His work—exciting and beautiful—unflinchingly confronts, defines, and embraces contemporary culture. He wrote *Scheherazade.2* for the stellar violinist Leila Josefowicz, inspired by an art exhibit about *The Tales of the Arabian Nights* and Rimsky-Korsakov’s original. Josefowicz’s solo violin plays the role of a modern Scheherazade. Adams’s musical exploration of the present-day struggle of women in a patriarchal society reverses the roles, putting the woman in a position of strength. These lyrical musical threads are further evoked in Ravel’s *Alborada del gracioso* and Stravinsky’s *Song of the Nightingale*—signature works by superb composers, and each a showcase for The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2

Friday, October 4 8 PM
Saturday, October 5 8 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Haochen Zhang Piano

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2
Strauss *An Alpine Symphony*

Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2 marked the composer’s triumphant recovery from the disastrous premiere of his First Symphony. While some elements are familiar thanks to movie soundtracks and pop songs, the Concerto as a whole is a testament to Rachmaninoff’s brilliance as a composer and pianist. Haochen Zhang is a worthy interpreter of this masterwork: Not yet 30, he’s renowned for dazzling technique and thoughtful interpretation. Strauss’s *Alpine Symphony* was inspired by a trek up a mountain, from pre-dawn darkness to deepening nightfall. The extra large orchestra is heavy on woodwinds, brass, and percussion, the better for Strauss to evoke waterfalls, grazing cattle, and even yodels. An extraordinary work by a master of the tone poem.

All Mozart with Yannick

Thursday, October 10 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 13 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Juliette Kang Violin
Choong-Jin Chang Viola

Mozart Symphony No. 35 (“Haffner”)
Mozart Sinfonia concertante, for violin,
 viola, and orchestra
Mozart Symphony No. 40

Yannick leads an all-Mozart program displaying the seemingly infinite range of his musical gifts. The “Haffner” Symphony, named for the commissioning Salzburg family, began as a serenade, but Mozart tweaked and enhanced it into its present form, now recognized as a true breakthrough in his musical style. The Symphony No. 40, perhaps his most famous symphony, is also hailed as a turning point in composition. In the Sinfonia concertante, a hybrid of symphony and concerto, Mozart beguiles with rich, brilliant music for both orchestra and soloists—First Associate Concertmaster Juliette Kang and Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang.





Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Nathalie Stutzmann



Kelley O'Connor



Gil Shaham

Yannick and Mahler

Thursday, October 17 7:30 PM

Friday, October 18 2 PM

Saturday, October 19 8 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Louis Lortie Piano

Schubert/Liszt *Wanderer Fantasy*, for piano and orchestra

Mahler Symphony No. 5

Mahler summons a large orchestra to explore the full range of human emotions in his Fifth Symphony, a work that Yannick returns to with the Philadelphians for the first time in nine years. Schubert himself struggled to play the *Wanderer Fantasy*. More than just a technical challenge, the piece is an ingenious set of variations on the composer's song "Der Wanderer," transformed by Liszt into a rarely heard piano concerto. The four movements are played without a break, building intensity until the mesmerizing finale. Louis Lortie brings his "faultless pianistic sheen and mastery" (*Gramophone*) to this pinnacle of Schubert's art.

Bruch and Brahms

Thursday, October 24 7:30 PM

Friday, October 25 8 PM

Saturday, October 26 8 PM

Nathalie Stutzmann Conductor
David Kim Violin

Mendelssohn *Hebrides Overture*

Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1

Brahms Symphony No. 2

Max Bruch may have struggled to write it, but Concertmaster David Kim calls this violin concerto "the perfect combination of beautiful melodies and themes, virtuosic yet accessible." Brahms's Second Symphony, possibly his most popular, is said to be his personal favorite as well. Its pastoral aura surely accounts for some of its appeal; but Brahms being Brahms, there is tension and drama as well, building to an extraordinary, triumphant finale. Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann returns to demonstrate her superb chemistry with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Firebird

Thursday, November 21 7:30 PM

Friday, November 22 2 PM

Saturday, November 23 8 PM

Stéphane Denève Conductor
Kelley O'Connor Mezzo-soprano

Auerbach *Icarus for Orchestra*

Lieberson *Neruda Songs*

Stravinsky *The Firebird* (complete ballet)

With these concerts our esteemed colleague Stéphane Denève begins his sixth and final season as our principal guest conductor. Soviet-born American composer Lera Auerbach says she was drawn to the myth of Icarus because of "his wish to reach the unreachable, the intensity of the ecstatic brevity of his flight, and the inevitability of his fall." Her adventurous musical palette exploits the full sonic range of the orchestra: shimmering, soaring, and ultimately dying away. Stravinsky describes a different myth about feathered flight in his *Firebird*. He mined everything from Russian folk music to his classical forebears (especially his teacher, Rimsky-Korsakov) to tell this story of a prince, an evil king, and, of course, a magical firebird. Peter Lieberson set five love poems by Pablo Neruda to music in this touching work written for his wife, mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, who gave the world premiere.

BeethovenNOW The Violin Concerto

Friday, November 29 8 PM

Saturday, November 30 8 PM

Susanna Mälkki Conductor
Gil Shaham Violin

Jolas *A Little Summer Suite*

Beethoven Violin Concerto

Prokofiev Symphony No. 5

Beethoven's only violin concerto is "an amazing trip," says Gil Shaham, from the opening drumbeats, through some of "the most sublime, most beautiful violin passages ever," to the "perfect fiddling" of the final dance. Susanna Mälkki, renowned interpreter of new music, leads Betsy Jolas's *A Little Summer Suite*, written in 2015 on the eve of the composer's 90th birthday. The deceptively simple opening of Prokofiev's rhapsodic Fifth Symphony gives way to a rich and complex display of his expansive talents, conceived, in the composer's words, as "a symphony of the greatness of the human spirit!"





Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Composer Wynton Marsalis

Bach's Mass in B minor

Thursday, December 5 7:30 PM
Friday, December 6 2 PM
Saturday, December 7 8 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Westminster Symphonic Choir
Joe Miller Director

Bach Mass in B minor

This work of towering musicality and deep spirituality is a fitting summation of J.S. Bach's epochal career; he finished it the year before he died. It's "above and beyond every piece of music that's been created for liturgical purposes," says Yannick Nézet-Séguin. A setting of the complete Latin Mass, it demands superlatives, at the same time rendering them inadequate. Yannick's mastery of vocal music, the Westminster Symphonic Choir, distinguished vocal soloists, and the inimitable Philadelphia Orchestra will bring the Mass to life as a peak musical and spiritual experience for every listener.

Wynton Marsalis's Blues Symphony

Thursday, December 12 7:30 PM
Friday, December 13 2 PM
Saturday, December 14 8 PM

Cristian Măcelaru Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin

Shostakovich Violin Concerto No. 1
Marsalis *Blues Symphony*

Pulitzer Prize-winner Wynton Marsalis switches from jazz band to symphony orchestra for his *Blues Symphony*. "Blues is affirmation with absolute elegance," says Marsalis, and he uses the classic 12-bar musical form as the basis for this work, which celebrates all types of American and African-American music, from spirituals to ragtime, from marches to bluegrass. This Philadelphia premiere is conducted by our long-time friend Cristian Măcelaru. Shostakovich's emotional First Violin Concerto reveals the pure power and technical prowess of orchestra and soloist. Leonidas Kavakos, "a marvel of exactitude" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), describes the dialogues between the two as "absolutely breathtaking."



Yefim Bronfman



Daniil Trifonov

BeethovenNOW Bronfman Plays Concerto No. 4

Academy of Music

PREMIUM

Thursday, January 23 7:30 PM
Friday, January 24 2 PM
Sunday, January 26 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Yefim Bronfman Piano

Fung *Dust Devils*
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4
Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 3

The Orchestra returns to the Academy of Music for its first subscription concerts since moving to Verizon Hall in 2001. It's a fitting venue for Rachmaninoff's nostalgic, romantic Symphony No. 3, premiered by the composer's cherished Philadelphians in 1936 on that very same stage, with Leopold Stokowski conducting. The gentle, lone piano chords that open the Fourth Concerto were a radical construct when Beethoven premiered the wide-ranging and emotional work in 1808. Yefim Bronfman says he's always been drawn to its tenderness.

BeethovenNOW Trifonov Plays Concertos No. 1 and 5

PREMIUM

Thursday, January 30 7:30 PM
Friday, January 31 2 PM
Saturday, February 1 8 PM
Sunday, February 2 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Daniil Trifonov Piano

Boulanger *Of a Sad Evening*
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1
 (Thursday and Friday)
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5
 ("Emperor") (Saturday and Sunday)
Farrenc Symphony No. 2

Daniil Trifonov, the Orchestra's Grammy-winning recording partner, returns for four performances. Amplifying the programs are two underappreciated works by formidable women composers: Lili Boulanger, the first woman to win, in 1913, the prestigious Prix de Rome composition prize, and Louise Farrenc, whose Symphony No. 2 dialogues with Beethoven, and leaves us asking why her works are not a more integral part of the canon today.





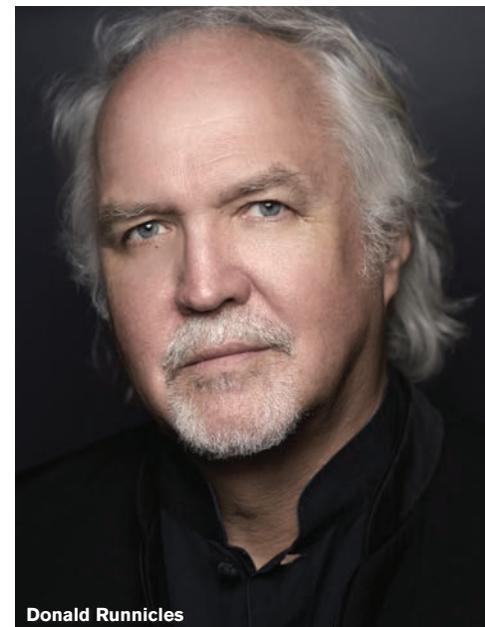
Emanuel Ax



Stéphane Denève



Lise de la Salle



Donald Runnicles

Beethoven NOW Ax Plays Concertos No. 2 and 3

PREMIUM

Thursday, February 6 7:30 PM
Friday, February 7 8 PM
Saturday, February 8 8 PM

Karina Canellakis Conductor
Emanuel Ax Piano

Di Castri Lineage

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 2
(Thursday and Saturday)

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3
(Friday)

Lutosławski Concerto for Orchestra

Beethoven composed “the most positive music ever written,” with every work containing “every emotion known to man,” says Emanuel Ax, who completes our piano concerto cycle. Beethoven made his public debut with his Second Concerto, a dramatic, humorous, ebullient work that announced the young artist’s arrival. The muscular Third embodies Beethoven’s “proud Prospero-like assertion of his beloved C-minor powers.” (*Gramophone*) Rising star and Curtis Institute of Music graduate Karina Canellakis makes her Philadelphia Orchestra debut, also leading Canadian composer Zosha Di Castri’s 2015 tribute to her grandmother and Lutosławski’s fascinating showpiece for orchestra.



Sorcerers, Spells, and Magic

Thursday, February 13 7:30 PM
Friday, February 14 2 PM
Saturday, February 15 8 PM

Stéphane Denève Conductor
Westminster Symphony Choir
Joe Miller Director
Philadelphia Boys Choir
Jeffrey R. Smith Artistic Director

Mozart Overture to *The Magic Flute*

Dukas *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*

Williams Selections from *Harry Potter*

Ravel *L’Enfant et les sortilèges*

The Philadelphia Orchestra celebrates Valentine’s weekend with spellbinding music, beginning with Mozart’s bewitching *The Magic Flute*. Magic takes a darker turn in *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*, Dukas’s symphonic poem immortalized by Mickey Mouse battling demonic brooms in *Fantasia*. Stéphane Denève is a passionate exponent of John Williams’s endlessly creative music for the cinema, represented here by his spookily charming *Harry Potter* scores. Youth and magic reappear in Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les sortilèges* (*The Child and the Magic Spells*), a one-act fairy tale opera with libretto by renowned French author Colette, and featuring talent from the **Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program**. Enchanting!



Symphonie fantastique

Thursday, February 20 7:30 PM
Friday, February 21 2 PM
Saturday, February 22 8 PM

Herbert Blomstedt Conductor
Lise de la Salle Piano

Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 2
Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

Mendelssohn wrote his Second Piano Concerto right after he got married and there’s plenty of joy expressed, especially in the final movement, which the composer himself described as “piano fireworks.” He was the soloist at the premiere in 1837. The young French pianist Lise de la Salle (“For much of the concert, the audience had to remember to breathe...” —*The Washington Post*) is a riveting choice to interpret this concerto. Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* is a tour de force of compositional color, a breakthrough that set the stage for his most assured writing. While said to depict the opium-inspired visions of a lovesick young artist, the music needs no libretto to communicate its passion. Who better to lead this celebration of youthful intensity than the ageless Herbert Blomstedt!



Respighi’s Pines of Rome

Thursday, February 27 7:30 PM
Friday, February 28 2 PM
Saturday, February 29 8 PM

Donald Runnicles Conductor
Paul Jacobs Organ

Elgar *In the South*

Daugherty *Once Upon a Castle*,
for organ and orchestra

Elgar Introduction and Allegro

Respighi *Pines of Rome*

Two journeys to Italy bookend this program. Respighi’s *Pines of Rome* is a sweeping pictorial of the Italian landscape. Edward Elgar’s scintillating tone poem *In the South* commemorates a family holiday; the richly textured music conveys the Italian Riviera in all its warmth. Elgar’s Introduction and Allegro is a showcase for strings. Inspired by the theater organ in William Randolph Hearst’s San Simeon (fictionalized as Xanadu in *Citizen Kane*), Michael Daugherty’s lush *Once Upon a Castle* brings out what the composer calls the “Technicolor” nature of the instrument. The esteemed Scottish maestro Donald Runnicles conducts; keyboard virtuoso Paul Jacobs returns to the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ.





Angel Blue



Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Porgy and Bess

Thursday, March 5 7:30 PM

Friday, March 6 2 PM

Saturday, March 7 8 PM

Marin Alsop Conductor
Angel Blue Soprano
Lester Lynch Baritone

Gershwin Highlights from *Porgy and Bess*

This American classic is the story of a man trying to rescue a woman from her distressing life. To help create his masterpiece, George Gershwin immersed himself in African-American life and culture on Charleston's Catfish Row, honoring the area's folk traditions with timeless melodies. Pioneering conductor Marin Alsop leads our performances of this tale of oppression, struggle, hope, and love. The cast includes soprano Angel Blue (hailed by Plácido Domingo as "the next Leontyne Price") and celebrated baritone Lester Lynch.

BeethovenNOW Symphonies 5 & 6

PREMIUM

Thursday, March 12 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 14 8 PM

Sunday, March 15 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Habibi Work in Dialogue with Beethoven
 (world premiere—Philadelphia
 Orchestra commission)

Beethoven Symphony No. 5

Beethoven Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

The indelible four-note opening of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony lays the foundation for a truly fateful symphonic journey. Written in 1804, and on the program when The Philadelphia Orchestra gave its first concert in 1900, it's an epic tour de force that resonates in 2020. Following its rousing conclusion come the verdant valleys and sweet smells of the woods and the Austrian countryside, an exposition of Beethoven's love of nature. Composed and premiered at the same time, the "Pastoral" offers a striking contrast to the assertive Fifth.

BeethovenNOW Symphonies 2 & 3

PREMIUM

Thursday, March 19 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 21 8 PM

Sunday, March 22 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Hunt Work in Dialogue with Beethoven
 (world premiere—Philadelphia
 Orchestra commission)

Beethoven Symphony No. 2

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica")

Beethoven was just beginning to go deaf when he wrote his Second Symphony and though he was losing his hearing, he was finding his voice. He could have composed a manifestation of despair, but instead gave the world one of his most ebullient and life-affirming works. The Third Symphony was groundbreaking, a turning point in the composer's oeuvre and a watershed in musical history. A vast ode to heroism, revolution, and freedom, the "Eroica" is considered by many to be the greatest not just of Beethoven's symphonies, but of all time.

BeethovenNOW Symphonies 8, 4, & 7

PREMIUM

Friday, March 27 2 PM

Saturday, March 28 8 PM

Sunday, March 29 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Simon Work in Dialogue with Beethoven
 (world premiere—Philadelphia
 Orchestra commission)

Beethoven Symphony No. 8

Beethoven Symphony No. 4

Beethoven Symphony No. 7

Buoyant and humorous, the Eighth Symphony belies none of the composer's worsening health issues or what had to be the devastating end of a love affair, detailed in a famous letter written around the same time to his "Immortal Beloved." Perhaps the least known, the Fourth was widely admired: Schumann compared it to "a slender Greek maiden" between the two "Norse giants" of the Third and Fifth; Berlioz insisted it was the work of an angel. And Tchaikovsky described the triumphant Seventh as "full of unrestrained joy, full of bliss and pleasure of life." The exhilarating and familiar second movement is said to have been so inspiring at the premiere, an encore was demanded instantly.





Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Beethoven NOW Symphonies 1 & 9

PREMIUM

Thursday, April 2 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 4 8 PM
Sunday, April 5 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Angel Blue Soprano
Mihoko Fujimura Mezzo-soprano
Rolando Villazón Tenor
Quinn Kelsey Baritone
Westminster Symphonic Choir and Community Voices
Joe Miller Director

Frank Work in Dialogue with Beethoven
(world premiere—Philadelphia
Orchestra commission)
Beethoven Symphony No. 1
Beethoven Symphony No. 9 (“Choral”)

Beethoven was just 25 when he wrote his First Symphony. Delightful and high-spirited, floating on strains of Mozart and Haydn, it's a fascinating glimpse of the greatness and genius to come—all on full, glorious display in the climactic Ninth. Written just a few short years before his death, Beethoven's profound ode to brotherhood, salvation, and pure joy reminds us why we are here as an orchestra, says Yannick, and why we constantly try to make our world better by playing music.



Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Thibaudet and Liszt

Friday, April 17 2 PM
Saturday, April 18 8 PM

Stéphane Denève Conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet Piano

Clyne *This Midnight Hour*
Liszt Piano Concerto No. 2
Strauss *Ein Heldenleben*

Stéphane Denève's final subscription concerts as the Orchestra's principal guest conductor culminate with Strauss's epic *Ein Heldenleben*—literally, *A Hero's Life*—an extravagant, all-encompassing, semi-autobiographical tone poem that quotes from his own prodigious masterpieces. Anna Clyne's imaginative *This Midnight Hour*, highlighting the power of the lower strings, evokes the journey of a mysterious woman “stripped bare, running mad through the night.” Liszt's heady Second Piano Concerto is gorgeous and technically challenging. Jean-Yves Thibaudet brings to it his intense power and quintessential flair.



Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla

Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony

Thursday, April 23 7:30 PM
Friday, April 24 8 PM
Saturday, April 25 8 PM

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla Conductor
Jeffrey Khaner Flute

Šerkšnytė *De Profundis*
Nielsen Flute Concerto
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

After a compelling debut in 2018, the young conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla returns to the podium with *De Profundis*, written by her Lithuanian countrywoman Raminta Šerkšnytė. This surging, brooding work exploits the richness and color of the Orchestra's strings to the fullest. Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner is especially pleased to be performing the Nielsen Concerto. “I love the back and forth in the orchestration; it's a lot of fun to play and listen to!” Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony was written at a time of intense personal turmoil. He poured all his passion into the work, at times letting traditional symphonic structure take a back seat to his matchless gift for melody. From the fateful opening fanfare to the explosive, folkloric finale, the Fourth is a sonic spectacular.



Tugan Sokhiev

Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich

Thursday, April 30 7:30 PM
Friday, May 1 2 PM
Saturday, May 2 8 PM

Tugan Sokhiev Conductor
Lukas Geniušas Piano

Firsova *The Garden of Dreams: Hommage to Shostakovich*
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2
Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto may be overshadowed by his more famous First, but it's the piece that earned Lukas Geniušas top honors at the Tchaikovsky Competition. Balanchine, too, recognized its consummate beauty, choosing it as the score for his tribute to classical Russian ballet. The government decided what was art when Shostakovich wrote his vehement and complicated Fifth Symphony under an oppressive Soviet regime (and threat of the Gulag). Elena Firsova—blacklisted and exiled from the Soviet Union in the latter part of the 20th century—pays tribute to her compatriot with *The Garden of Dreams*. Tugan Sokhiev, music director of the Bolshoi Theatre, leads this incisive program.





An American in Paris

Thursday, May 7 7:30 PM

Friday, May 8 2 PM

Saturday, May 9 8 PM

Ludovic Morlot Conductor

Gershwin *An American in Paris*
(complete with film)

George Gershwin's Jazz Age tone poem *An American in Paris* both inspired the now-classic Hollywood movie and provides the score for its groundbreaking finale: a dreamy—and, at 17 minutes, unheard-of—ballet sequence starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. The 1951 film, directed by Vincente Minnelli, swept the Academy Awards, winning six Oscars, including Best Picture. The music also features George and Ira Gershwin standards like “I Got Rhythm,” “S Wonderful,” and “Love Is Here to Stay.” See the film in its entirety with the lush sound of The Philadelphia Orchestra performing the score live.



Christine Goerke

Elektra

PREMIUM

Friday, May 15 8 PM

Sunday, May 17 2 PM

Tuesday, May 19 7:30 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Christine Goerke Soprano (Elektra)
Amber Wagner Soprano (Chrysothemis)
Michaela Martens Mezzo-soprano
(Klytämnestra)
Mikhail Petrenko Bass (Orest)
Jay Hunter Morris Tenor (Aegisth)
Philadelphia Symphonic Choir
Joe Miller Director
Jonathon Loy Stage Director

Strauss *Elektra*

The reviews were rapturous for Yannick's “blazing and urgent, yet richly nuanced account of Strauss's still-shocking score” (*The New York Times*) when he led *Elektra* at the Metropolitan Opera in 2018. He reprises the triumph with these symphonically staged performances starring The Philadelphia Orchestra and a cast of vocal powerhouses. Christine Goerke sings the title role, a tormented daughter obsessed with avenging the death of her father, Agamemnon. Mikhail Petrenko portrays the brother she hopes will kill the murderous culprits: their mother and her lover. This is a hair-raising, harrowing, 100 minutes of electrifying music, heard in full, vivid detail with the Orchestra on stage.



Yannick Nézet-Séguin

BeethovenNOW Symphonies 5 & 6

PREMIUM

Saturday, May 16 8 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Beethoven Symphony No. 5

Beethoven Symphony No. 6 (“Pastoral”)

Yannick reprises a highlight of our season's Beethoven celebration for a special, one-night-only performance of two masterpieces. The indelible four-note opening of the Fifth Symphony lays the foundation for a truly fateful symphonic journey. Written in 1804, and on the program when The Philadelphia Orchestra gave its first concert in 1900, it's an epic tour de force that resonates in 2020. Following its rousing conclusion come the verdant valleys and sweet smells of the woods and the Austrian countryside, an exposition of Beethoven's love of nature. Composed and premiered at the same time, the “Pastoral” offers a striking contrast to the assertive Fifth.



Yuja Wang

Yuja Wang and the Brahms Piano Concertos

PREMIUM

Thursday, May 28 7:30 PM

Friday, May 29 2 PM

Saturday, May 30 8 PM

Sunday, May 31 2 PM

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Yuja Wang Piano

Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1
(Thursday and Friday)

Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2
(Saturday and Sunday)

Sibelius Symphony No. 3

Brahms wrote just two piano concertos. He was 25 when he completed his youthful and vigorous First Concerto. Two decades later he composed his tremendous Second; Yannick compares the final, fourth movement to playing in heaven, surrounded by angels. The fiery Yuja Wang, Curtis Institute of Music graduate and Philadelphia favorite, returns to her second home for four performances, bringing her technical virtuosity and thoughtful depth of music-making to these two corresponding and harmonious works. Hear them both, paired with Sibelius's Symphony No. 3, a masterpiece of the Finnish national hero.



June 2020



The Season Finale

Thursday, June 4 7:30 PM

Friday, June 5 2 PM

Saturday, June 6 8 PM

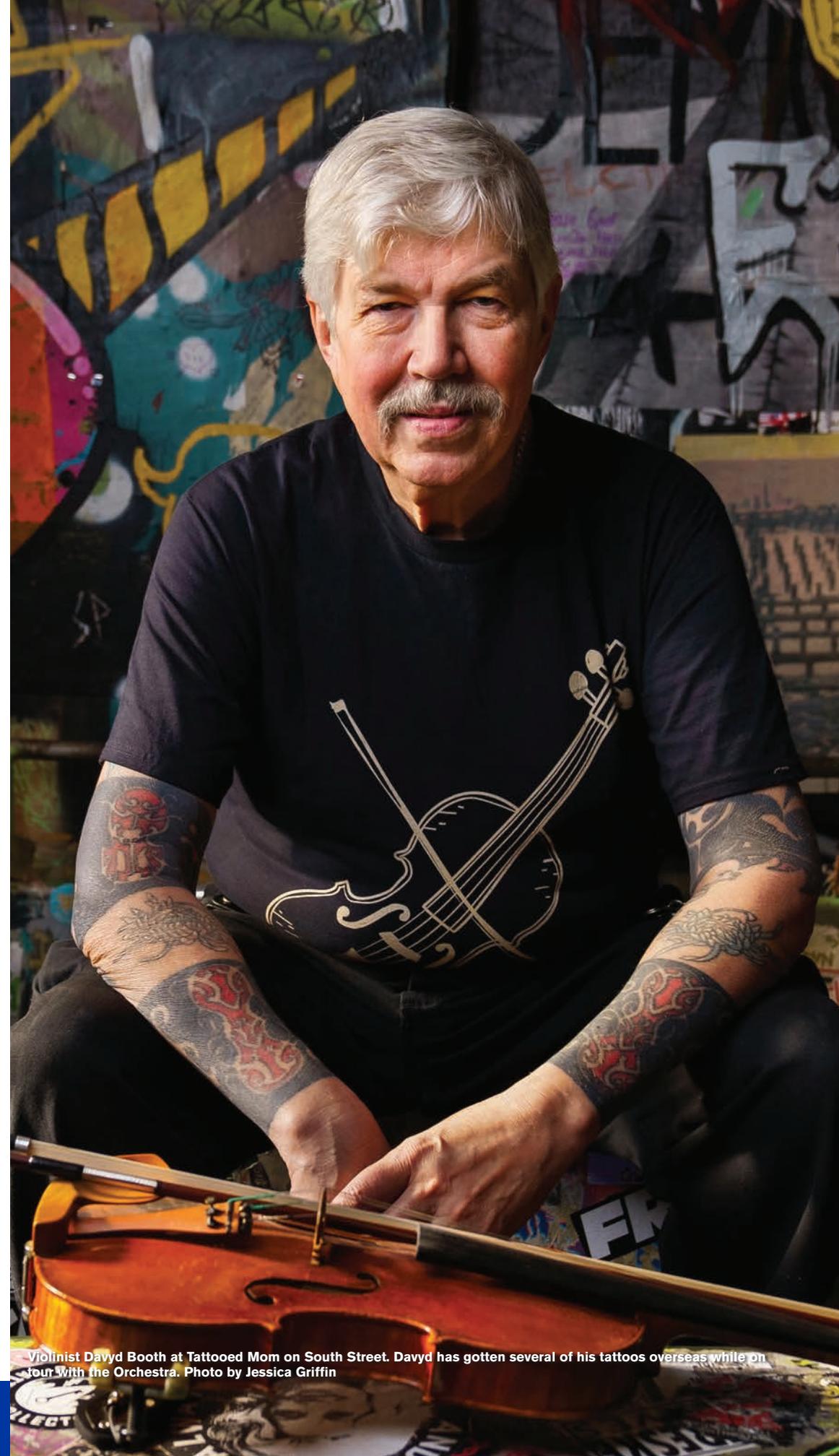
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Philadelphia Symphonic Choir
Joe Miller Director

Bruckner Selected Motets

Bruckner Symphony No. 3

("Wagner Symphony") (original version)

Bruckner is "one of the great symphonists of all time," says Yannick. His music is "spiritual, romantic, dreamy, imposing, cataclysmic ... music that excites all the emotions and magnifies the results of the symphony." A Bruckner champion and world-renowned interpreter, Yannick's deep affinity for the composer shines in passionate performances of the thrilling Third Symphony, "an unquestioned masterpiece, a citadel that no critic can pull down. Bruckner's invention is exuberant throughout: the finale confidently transforms the tragic mood of the first movement into triumph." (*The New Yorker*) A set of exquisite Bruckner motets, sung a cappella, provides a contemplative opening to a program that aims to end the season's musical journey in communion with the divine.



Violinist Davyd Booth at Tattooed Mom on South Street. Davyd has gotten several of his tattoos overseas while on tour with the Orchestra. Photo by Jessica Griffin

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2019-20 GROUP TICKET PRICING*

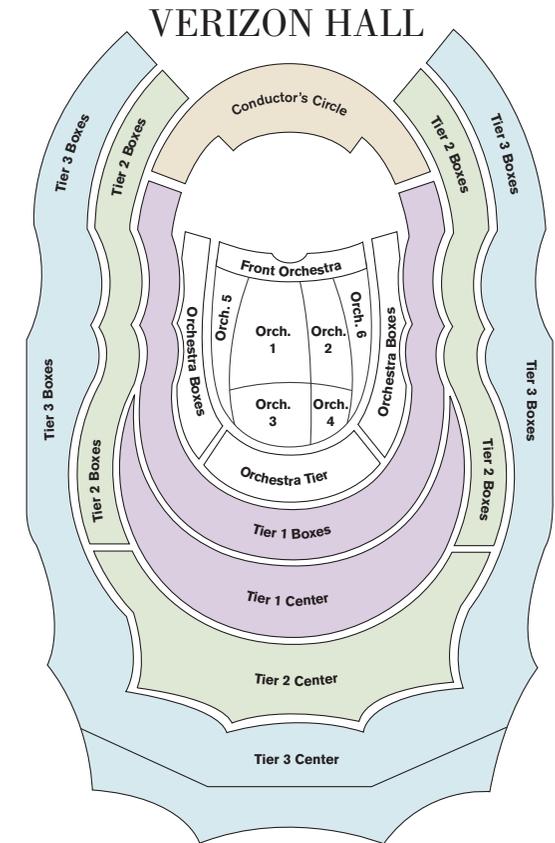
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	Orchestra 1	Orchestra 2	Orchestra 3	Orchestra 4	Orchestra 5	Orchestra 6	Front Orchestra	Orchestra Tier
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Friday PREMIUM	\$77	\$77	\$66	\$54	\$62	\$54	\$44	\$62
Saturday	\$74	\$74	\$65	\$57	\$60	\$56	\$39	\$60
Saturday PREMIUM	\$79	\$79	\$68	\$59	\$65	\$59	\$44	\$65
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Sunday PREMIUM	\$82	\$82	\$73	\$62	\$69	\$61	\$46	\$69
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Messiah	\$90	\$90	\$80	\$60	\$55	\$55	\$35	\$60
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The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director

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