



# Matías Tarnopolsky

President and Chief Executive  
Officer  
The Philadelphia Orchestra and  
Kimmel Center, Inc.

## 2023–24 Season



In December 2021, Matías Tarnopolsky was appointed president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Kimmel Center, Inc., a visionary partnership that brings the greatest performances and most impactful education and community programs to audiences in Philadelphia and beyond. The groundbreaking new organization reimagines the power of the arts to bring joy, create community, and effect change—to uplift all Philadelphians.

Tarnopolsky served as president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, beginning in August 2018. Described in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a “quiet revolutionary,” he has—in partnership with Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra—accelerated change toward a more equitable, inclusive, and engaged organization. By enriching programming with works of BIPOC musicians, composers, and artists; launching the Digital Stage; offering free virtual content; and encouraging a change to the formal dress code for Orchestra musicians, Tarnopolsky dismantles barriers to access to reach broader and more diverse audiences. He is a passionate believer in the arts as a unifying force, helping to form connections, spark conversations, and offer strength and solace.

During Tarnopolsky’s tenure, The Philadelphia Orchestra received the largest gift in its history, launched an innovative free ticket program for the School District of Philadelphia, strengthened history-making partnerships with international collaborators, and in 2019 negotiated an early contract with the musicians of the Orchestra designed to provide a stable and secure financial future. Tarnopolsky has brought a fresh approach to programming, working with Nézet-Séguin to create unique concert experiences and further The Philadelphia Orchestra’s place in the communities it serves locally, nationally, and internationally. In 2022, The Philadelphia Orchestra and Nézet-Séguin won their first GRAMMY Award for Best Orchestra Performance and a Diapason d’or for their Deutsche Grammophon recording of Florence Price’s First and Third symphonies.

In 2022, Tarnopolsky was awarded the William J. Clothier II Award from the Pan American Association of Philadelphia. The *Philadelphia Business Journal* recognized Tarnopolsky and the Orchestra with the 2021 Faces of Philanthropy award. It also named Tarnopolsky to its list of 2021 Most Admired CEOs. He was selected as one of the 100 most powerful people in Philadelphia for City & State Pennsylvania’s Philadelphia Power 100 list in December 2021. Under his leadership, The Philadelphia Orchestra was named *Gramophone* magazine’s 2020 Orchestra of the Year.



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Driven by a lifelong passion for and innate knowledge of the arts, Tarnopolsky has deep experience molding the artistic profiles of orchestras and cultural centers, including key leadership roles at the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He previously served as executive and artistic director of Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, the largest multi-disciplinary university-based arts presenter and producer in the United States.

Tarnopolsky received degrees in music and musicology from the University of London's King's College. In 2013, he was named one of Musical America's international "Movers & Shakers: 30 Key Influencers in the Performing Arts" and was selected as Classical Music "MVP" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In 2015 he was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. He serves on the boards of New Music USA, the Executive Committee of the Avery Fisher Artist Program, the Advisory Council of the Tianjin Juilliard School, the Pacific Harmony Foundation, and the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia.

*September 2023*

*Photo by Jeff Fusco*



## The Philadelphia Orchestra 50th Anniversary China Residency Delegation

### Assistant Conductor

### [Tristan Rais-Sherman](#), Assistant Conductor



American conductor Tristan Rais-Sherman was conducting fellow of The Philadelphia Orchestra for the 2022–23 season and was named assistant conductor in June 2023, a role he will continue through the 2023–24 season. While in Philadelphia, he will assist Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as other guest conductors and lead The Philadelphia Orchestra in a variety of different concert programs. He is a recipient of the 2022 Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation US.

### Violinists

### [Davyd Booth](#)



Davyd Booth joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1973. A native of Clarksburg, West Virginia, he made his professional debut at the age of 13. He toured the United States for four years, giving recitals and performing with such orchestras as the San Antonio and Pittsburgh symphonies. Since 1998 Mr. Booth has been the harpsichordist for The Philadelphia Orchestra. He also serves as the Orchestra's second keyboard player and has been featured on piano, celesta, harmonium, organ, synthesizer, and accordion.

### [Mei Ching Huang](#)



Violinist Mei Ching Huang joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in January 2015. Previously, she was associate principal second violin of the San Diego Symphony and a member of the New York Philharmonic and the Grant Park Orchestra in Chicago. She holds a graduate diploma and a master's degree from the Juilliard School, where her principal teacher was Robert Mann. She continued graduate studies with Midori at USC's Thornton School of Music.



### [Yu-Ting Chen](#)

Yu-Ting Chen joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2017. She received her bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Ida Kavafian and Shmuel Ashkenasi; her earlier studies in Taiwan were with Chun-Yinh Lee and I-Ching Li. A native of Taiwan, Ms. Chen made her solo orchestral debut at the age of seven, performing Mozart's Third Concerto with the National Taiwan Symphony.



### [Willa Finck](#)

Willa Finck joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2023. Prior to her appointment she was a member of the first violin section of the Rochester Philharmonic from 2017 to 2023. She earned her bachelor's degree summa cum laude and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music in 2018, studying with Mikhail Kopelman. In the summers of 2021–23 she performed with the Verbier Festival Orchestra



### [Daniel Han](#)

Daniel Han joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in September 2006 after having been a member of the Minnesota Orchestra and the Fort Worth Symphony, and guest concertmaster of the Daejeon Philharmonic in Korea. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees and Artist Diploma from Boston University, where he was a student of Roman Totenberg and was awarded the prestigious Esther Kahn Award. Mr. Han has also served on the faculties of several music schools in Boston.



### [Philip Kates](#)

Philip Kates joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in November 1980. He was formerly a guest concertmaster with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops and the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, with which he has made nearly annual solo appearances since 1981. Mr. Kates began his studies before the age of three with his father, violinist-composer Henry Kates, and later studied with Jascha Brodsky, Sally Thomas, and former Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster Norman Carol.



### [Amy Oshiro-Morales](#)

Amy Oshiro-Morales joined The Philadelphia Orchestra's second violin section in January 2008; she was previously assistant concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony. She also previously held the associate concertmaster chair of the Colorado Symphony and was assistant concertmaster of the Grant Park (IL) Orchestra. She has also performed as a guest musician with the New York Philharmonic.

## Viola



### [Marvin Moon](#)

A native of Philadelphia, violist Marvin Moon came to The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2007 from the Boston Symphony, which he joined at the start of the 2005–06 season. He previously performed for several years as a substitute player with The Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. From 2000 to 2003 he was principal viola of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He was also previously a member of the Haddonfield Symphony (now Symphony in C), the New York String Seminar Chamber Orchestra, and the Curtis Symphony, serving as principal viola in 2000.

## Cellists



### [Ohad Bar-David](#)

Ohad Bar-David is one of the most versatile cellists in the world today. Equally at home as a classical cellist and an innovative improviser of music of all genres, he has enjoyed performing on international stages with both classical and ethnic musicians from all over the world. His classical music training began at the age of seven in Tel-Aviv, supported by the American Israel Cultural Foundation. Later he came to the United States to study at the Juilliard School and at the Curtis Institute of Music.





### [John Koen](#)

John Koen has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1990. He has been a frequent guest on the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble series and is also a member of the Mondrian Ensemble and the Network for New Music. He performed with the ensemble 1807 & Friends Chamber Music Society from 1990 to 1993. Mr. Koen studied at the Curtis Institute of Music. He has appeared as a soloist with the New Symphony Orchestra of Sofia, Bulgaria, and with the Lansdowne (PA) Symphony, of which he was principal cello.

## Clarinet



### [Ricardo Morales](#), Principal

*Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Chair*

Ricardo Morales joined The Philadelphia Orchestra as principal clarinet in 2003 and made his solo debut with the Orchestra in 2004. He previously served as principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He has also been a featured soloist with the Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Columbus, Memphis, and Flemish Radio symphonies, and the Seoul Philharmonic. In addition, he was a featured soloist with the U.S. Marine Band, "The President's Own," with which he recorded

Jonathan Leshnoff's Clarinet Concerto. Mr. Morales has been asked to perform as principal clarinet with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and, at the invitation of Simon Rattle, the Berlin Philharmonic

## English Horn and Oboe



### [Elizabeth Starr Masoudnia](#)

*Joanne T. Greenspun Chair*

Elizabeth Starr Masoudnia has been the English hornist of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1995. She has premiered several solo English horn pieces written expressly for her, including concertos by Behzad Ranjbaran and Nicholas Maw, and David Ludwig's *Piccola musica notturna* for English horn, harp, and string quintet. A native of Philadelphia, she graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music. She is on the faculty of Temple University and the Philadelphia International Music Festival, where she

teaches oboe and English horn and coaches chamber music.



## Librarian



**Nicole Jordan**  
*Principal Librarian*

Nicole Jordan was appointed principal librarian of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2020, the first African-American woman to join the Orchestra as a full-time member. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she began her musical journey at a young age, first learning the trumpet before switching to viola while attending the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in viola performance from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a Master of Music degree in music history from Temple University.



## **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

*23–24 Season*



The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra strives to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience, and to create joy, connection, and excitement through music in the Philadelphia region, across the country, and around the world. Through innovative programming, robust education initiatives, a commitment to its diverse communities, and the embrace of digital outreach, the ensemble is creating an expansive and inclusive future for classical music, and furthering the place of the arts in an open and democratic

society. In June 2021 the Orchestra and its home, the Kimmel Center, united to form The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc., reimagining the power of the arts to bring joy, create community, and effect change.

### ***Artistic Leadership***

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is now in his 12th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. He joins a remarkable list of music directors spanning the Orchestra's 123 seasons: Fritz Scheel, Carl Pohlig, Leopold Stokowski, Eugene Ormandy, Riccardo Muti, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and Christoph Eschenbach. Under this superb, forward-looking guidance, The Philadelphia Orchestra has represented an unwavering standard of excellence in the world of classical music—and continues to do so today.

Widely recognized for his artistry and commitment, Yannick has established himself as a musical leader of the highest caliber and one of the most thrilling and sought-after talents of his generation. His collaborative style, deeply rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm, paired with a fresh approach to orchestral programming, have been heralded by critics and audiences alike.

### ***Your Philadelphia Orchestra***

Your Philadelphia Orchestra takes great pride in its hometown, performing for the people of Philadelphia year-round, in Verizon Hall and around the community, in classrooms and hospitals, and over the airwaves and online. The Kimmel Center has been the ensemble's home since 2001. Previously it performed at the Academy of Music, a National Historic Landmark and the oldest continuously operating opera house in the nation.

Beyond concerts at the Kimmel Center, the Orchestra also performs for Philadelphia audiences during the summer months at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, as well as in venues across the region, including Penn's Landing, Longwood Gardens, and the Philadelphia Navy





Yard. Many of these performances are part of the ensemble's educational and community initiatives, creating greater access and engagement with classical music.

### ***Commitment to Our Communities***

The Philadelphia Orchestra continues the tradition of educational and community engagement for all age groups across the region—a tradition dating back to 1921 when Leopold Stokowski initiated concerts exclusively for children. With Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, a dedicated body of musicians, and one of the nation's richest arts ecosystems, the Orchestra launched its **HEAR** initiative in 2016. **HEAR** is a comprehensive offering of music, theater, and cultural expression programs that celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of the community. **HEAR** is a holistic approach to designing arts education programs that promotes **H**Health, champions the worth of arts **E**ducation, eliminates barriers of **A**ccess through exposure to art in all its forms, and provides much-needed arts education **R**esources. These programs support those experiencing trauma such as homelessness, thousands of public-school students, citizens of Philadelphia who will have opportunities to experience the Orchestra personally, and those not connected with the Orchestra or symphonic music, bridging all ages and backgrounds.

The Orchestra inspires new generations through programs for children and adults, including Sound All Around (for children ages 3–5), Family Concerts (for children ages 6–12), School Concerts (free for School District of Philadelphia elementary schools), APPLE (Appreciation Program for Philadelphia School District Leaders in Education, providing free tickets for employees of the Philadelphia School District), and Student Circle (a ticket program for students age 14 and older). The Orchestra also engages audiences more deeply in its performances through free PreConcert Conversations and Lecture/Luncheons with guest speakers.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's award-winning education and community initiatives engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members through programs such as PlayINs; side-by-sides; PopUP concerts; Our City, Your Orchestra Live; School Concerts; sensory-friendly concerts; open rehearsals; the School Partnership Program and School Ensemble Program; All City Orchestra Fellowships; and residency work in Philadelphia and abroad. The Orchestra's musicians, in their own dedicated roles as teachers, coaches, and mentors, serve a key role in growing young musician talent and a love of classical music, nurturing and celebrating the wealth of musicianship in the Philadelphia region.

The Orchestra's free online video series, Our City, Your Orchestra (OCYO), uncovers and amplifies the voices, stories, and causes championed by unique Philadelphia organizations and businesses. Through thoughtful storytelling and musical collaboration, OCYO turns the spotlight on local organizations that advocate for change, sites of historical significance, and businesses that represent and serve resilient communities. Joining OCYO in connecting with the community is HearTOGETHER, a free monthly podcast featuring artists and activists who discuss music, social justice, and the lived experiences that inform the drive to create a more equitable and inclusive future for the arts.



### ***An Ambassador at Home and Abroad***

The Philadelphia Orchestra believes deeply in the power of music to connect people. Through concerts, national and international tours, residencies, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador and one of our nation's greatest cultural exports. It performs annually at Carnegie Hall, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in New York, and the Bravo! Vail Music Festival.

The Orchestra also has a rich history of touring, having first performed outside Philadelphia in the earliest days of its founding. The Philadelphia Orchestra was the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China in 1973, launching a now-five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange through music. The Philadelphia Orchestra regularly performs in the world's greatest concert halls, including on its 2023 Tour of Europe.

### ***A Trailblazer in Innovation and Collaboration***

The Philadelphia Orchestra has long pushed the boundaries of convention in the classical music realm, presenting the world or American premieres of such important works as Mahler's Symphony No. 8 ("Symphony of a Thousand"), Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. The Philadelphia Orchestra also made movie history by performing the soundtrack to Walt Disney's legendary animated film *Fantasia*, with Stokowski.

The Orchestra maintains a strong commitment to collaborations with cultural and community organizations on a regional and national level and has partnered with the Metropolitan Opera, digital artist Refik Anadol, Brian Sanders' *JUNK*, Philadelphia Ballet, the University of Michigan, FringeArts, Philadanco, Opera Philadelphia, the Curtis Institute of Music, and Ridge Theater Company, among many others.

The Orchestra returned to recording in 2013 under Yannick's leadership with a CD on the Deutsche Grammophon label of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Leopold Stokowski transcriptions of works by Bach and Stravinsky. To date there have been an additional 12 releases, including Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and all four piano concertos with pianist Daniil Trifonov, Bernstein's *MASS*, Mahler's Symphony No. 8, and Florence Price's First and Third symphonies, which won a GRAMMY Award for Best Orchestral Performance. These continue the Orchestra's remarkable history in this area, having made its first recording in 1917 and amassing an enormous discography in the intervening years.

The Orchestra also makes live recordings available on popular digital music services such as Apple Music, Spotify, and Amazon, among others. Beginning in Yannick's inaugural season the Orchestra also returned to the radio airwaves, with weekly broadcasts on WRTI-FM. In 2017 the Orchestra launched a national radio series on SiriusXM, making it the only American orchestra to provide exclusive content to SiriusXM on a regular basis.

These initiatives continue a legacy that boasts an extraordinary record of media firsts, including being the first symphonic orchestra to make electrical recordings (in 1925), the first to perform its own commercially sponsored radio broadcast (in 1929, on NBC), the first to perform on the



soundtrack of a feature film (Paramount's *The Big Broadcast of 1937*), the first to appear on a national television broadcast (in 1948, on CBS), and the first major orchestra to give a live cybercast of a concert on the internet (in 1997).

For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

*September 2023*

*Photo by Pete Checchia.*



**RYAN FLEUR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc.

Ryan Fleur is executive director of the Grammy-winning Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Cultural Campus, which attracts more than 1 million annually to its nine venues along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts and is home to six multi-genre resident arts organizations including the Philadelphia Ballet, Opera Philadelphia, and Philadanco. Fleur led the 2021 pathbreaking merger of the two organizations, which ultimately created the largest performing arts organization in Pennsylvania and the third largest performing arts complex in the country. In addition to operating The Philadelphia Orchestra, the entity is the largest presenter of touring Broadway in the U.S. outside of New York City, and reaches more than 50,000 schoolchildren each year through dynamic, free education and community programming. Fleur was a key member of the leadership team who, during the Pandemic, worked to innovatively bring music to people around the world when they needed it most. He was also integral in building The Philadelphia Orchestra's robust program of international residencies, including numerous partnerships throughout Europe, the Middle East, and China. Previously Mr. Fleur was president and CEO of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and worked with such organizations as Boston Ballet and the New York Philharmonic. He is an accomplished pianist and received his B.S. from Boston University in economics and business.