



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 1, 2017

## **COMMON JOINS NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY CONCERT**

**Wednesday, March 22, at 8 p.m.  
Kennedy Center Concert Hall**

(WASHINGTON)—Grammy®, Oscar®, and Golden Globe®-winning Chicago rapper, actor, film producer, activist, and poet Common joins the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke for a one-night-only concert of music from his latest album, *Black America Again*, as well as some of his biggest hits. *Black America Again* is his most political album to date, a call to action inspired by the works of filmmaker Ava DuVernay, social critic Ta-Nehisi Coates, and the Black Lives Matter movement, among other 21st century cultural touchstones.

Common debuted in 1992 with the album *Can I Borrow a Dollar?* and has gone on to win three Grammy® awards. In 2015, he was awarded the Golden Globe® for Best Original Song and the Academy Award® for Best Original Song for his song “Glory” from the 2014 film *Selma*, in which he co-starred as Civil Rights Movement leader James Bevel.

Common’s appearance with the NSO reflects the Orchestra’s commitment to collaborating with artists from non-classical genres such as Hip Hop, including previously sold-out performances with Nas and Kendrick Lamar. This performance is also a part of *JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy*. Leading up to the centennial of John F. Kennedy's birth (May 29, 2017), the Kennedy Center presents a year-long initiative of programming—currently nearly 50 events—inspired by five

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ideals commonly attributed to America’s 35th President: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. These timeless values continue to resonate with all Americans today.

Tickets (\$29–\$119) go on sale to Kennedy Center members today, February 1, at 10 a.m., and to the general public on Thursday, February 2, at 10 a.m. Call (202) 467-4600 or visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

**David and Alice Rubenstein** are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO.

AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2016-2017 NSO Pops Season.

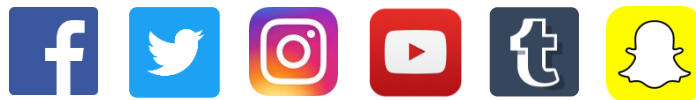
Additional support for NSO Pops: Common is provided by BET Networks.

Support for *JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy* is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley and The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

**For more information about the NSO, visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).**

**For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).**

Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center’s *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets. For more information, visit [kennedy-center.org/mytix](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix)



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### **TICKETS & INFORMATION:**

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324  
[www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)