



steven reineke, principal pops conductor

Press Release

THE
KENNEDY
CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 8, 2017

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Presents

Selma

**A FILM AND LIVE MUSIC EVENT WITH
THE NSO AND JASON MORAN**

***One-Night-Only Event Celebrates JFK Centennial and
One-Year Anniversary of the National Museum of African American
History and Culture
Post-Show Panel Discussion Features Congressman John Lewis, Ava
DuVernay, and Jason Moran***

(WASHINGTON)— The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and Jason Moran, Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, team up to present *Selma*, Ava DuVernay's 2014 Academy Award®-nominated film for Best Picture, which chronicles Martin Luther King Jr.'s movement to secure equal voting rights. *Selma* will be shown in its entirety while the NSO and Jason Moran perform his acclaimed score live. Guest conductor Ryan McAdams leads this one-night-only event in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Friday, September 22, at 8 p.m.

This poignant film depicts important moments in U.S. history—the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches and a uniquely American story that continues to resonate in contemporary culture.

“In a story as potent as *Selma*, it becomes important to guide the emotions,” said Jason Moran, who wrote and performed the score for the film. “Each character is a

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melody, and requires the attention of the composer. The music at times eases us from one space to the next, or ratchets up the alarming nature of a scene. An audience will depend on the sonic cues just as much as visual ones to help unpack their emotions. It is in the music of America that our histories are so deeply embedded. Jazz has always sewn the fabrics of unrest into sound, and *Selma* was a challenging chapter in America to accompany.”

A post-show panel discussion will include Congressman **John Lewis**, *Selma* director **Ava DuVernay**, film score composer **Jason Moran**, and *Selma* sound editor **Greg Hedgepath**, as well as conductor **Ryan McAdams**, as they explore the idea of comprehensive American storytelling through music and creative expression.

This performance in our nation’s capital, at the nation’s performing arts center by the National Symphony Orchestra is apropos. Screening *Selma* with a live soundtrack highlights the NSO’s and the Kennedy Center’s commitments to broadening the scope of performances they offer, to collaborating across genres in unique ways that can only be experienced at the Center, and to presenting a diverse lineup of offerings that appeal to a wide group of audiences.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets (\$24–\$89) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at kennedy-center.org, and via phone through Instant Charge, (202) 467-4700; toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

ABOUT THE NSO POPS

Show-stopping pops concerts have been a staple of the National Symphony Orchestra’s more than 80 years of performances. These concerts have ranged from performances on a barge on the Potomac River, to concerts on the Ellipse, and in National Parks around the greater Washington area. The 2000–2001 season saw the creation of the post of Principal Pops Conductor specifically for Broadway great Marvin Hamlisch, who held the position until the 2010–2011 season. The 2011–2012 season was the first with Steven Reineke as Principal Pops Conductor. NSO Pops performances take place at all the NSO’s principal performance venues: Wolf Trap, the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and in the NSO’s primary home, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with a subscription season featuring the Orchestra with guest artists from a variety of musical genres.

ABOUT JFKC

Last year, leading up to the centenary of John F. Kennedy's birth on May 29, and through 2017, the Kennedy Center, the living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, is re-imagined the very mission of the institution created in his name. Inspired by some of the key ideals he championed—Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude—the Center is featured special programming through the year that explored, challenged, and reflected the contemporary spirit of America. Guided by JFK's legacy of idealism, hope, and empowerment, the Kennedy Center will continue to serve as a creative catalyst and meeting place, inviting members of the public to engage directly with artists and ideas, and actively participate in the civic and cultural life of their country.

ABOUT JASON MORAN

Since his emergence on the music scene in the late 1990s, Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz **Jason Moran** has proven more than his brilliance as a performer. With a unique vision and innovative approach to the music, Moran was appointed Artistic Advisor for Jazz for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in November 2011 and was made Artistic Director for Jazz in May 2014.

Since his initial appointment, Moran has worked closely with the Center's staff to expand the breadth of its jazz programming. Emphasizing cross-genre collaboration, Moran has worked with the National Symphony Orchestra to present Wayne Shorter, Esperanza Spalding, and Nas in celebration of his 20th anniversary celebration of *Illmatic*. Curator of *Finding a Line: Skateboarding, Music, and Media* in 2015, Jason Moran and his band The Bandwagon brought together the improvisational nature of jazz and skateboarding in a ten-day festival.

Moran has also reshaped and refocused the Center's *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead* professional development program for young artists, bringing in new faculty and expanding the curriculum to include collaborations with other D.C. arts organizations. He also teaches at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and, beginning this fall, at Georgetown University.

Moran and his group The Bandwagon, with bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits, have challenged the status quo. A graduate of New York's Manhattan School of Music, Moran was awarded a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 2010. In 2016, Moran was awarded the Doris Duke Artist Award.

Over his 18 year career with Blue Note Records, Moran made nine recordings. Now owner of Yes Records, Moran has since released three albums with the label (*The Armory Concert*, *Thanksgiving at the Vanguard*, and *Bangs*).

FUNDING CREDITS:

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AARP is the presenting sponsor of the NSO Pops season.

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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 nationalsymphony.org kennedy-center.org**



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TICKETS & INFORMATION:

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