

Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and  
Washington Performing Arts announce**

## **Line-up of Four American Orchestras Selected for Second Annual *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras* During 2017-2018 Season**

**Festival Continues Inaugural Season's Mission to Provide National  
Platform for Celebrating Creativity and Building Community**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington Performing Arts today announced the four orchestras selected to participate in the second annual *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras*, taking place at the Kennedy Center and other locations around D.C. from April 9 – 15, 2018.

*SHIFT* is a weeklong spotlight on North American orchestras of all sizes that celebrates the vitality, identity, and extraordinary artistry of orchestras and chamber orchestras by creating an immersive festival experience in the nation's capital.

Chosen from a pool of applicants from across the country, the selected orchestras— each of which will offer a Kennedy Center Concert Hall performance and city-wide residency—are **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**, and **National Symphony Orchestra**. Collectively, the participating orchestras will spotlight repertoire that has been influenced and inspired by literature, history, geography, varied cultures, and nature and will encompass

collaborations with vocalists and choirs, dancers, star solo instrumentalists, and six living composers.

“The imaginative programs that these four orchestras will perform during *SHIFT* reflect not only their institutions' commitment to collaboration, but also pay homage to the creative roots of their home communities,” said Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter. “We congratulate these ensembles for their dedication to broad community engagement in their own cities, which is such important work. We look forward to seeing how they will inspire and interact with our D.C. audiences both inside and outside our concert hall.”

“Each orchestra is bringing truly outstanding, exemplary programming to *SHIFT*, matched only by the creativity of the community-facing events they've proposed for their D.C. residencies,” commented Jenny Bilfield, Washington Performing Arts President and CEO. “Each program demands technical virtuosity, and expansive creative imagination on the part of the performers and collaborators. I believe that audiences will be invigorated by the great music making that they'll experience, and reassured by how essential these orchestras' contributions are in their home communities.”

These four orchestras join an illustrious group of four American orchestras scheduled to participate in the inaugural *SHIFT* being presented by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington Performing Arts from March 27 – April 2, 2017: Boulder Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and The Knights. For more information on the inaugural festival visit:

[www.washingtonperformingarts.org/media/shiftrfp.aspx](http://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/media/shiftrfp.aspx)

Two premier presenting organizations, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington Performing Arts, are collaborating to present the festival, each providing expertise and profile. The festival is composed of mini-residencies, with each orchestra presenting education, symposia, and community events in venues around Washington, D.C., along with full-orchestra performances in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. These main stage concerts will be ticketed at \$25, alongside ticketed and free events throughout the city.

The festival's title, *SHIFT*, recognizes the dynamic, evolving work of orchestras in the 21st century and expresses a commitment to shifting pre-conceived notions about orchestras. Both the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts believe that American orchestras offer a breadth of innovative and creative ideas that create powerful connections with audiences in their local communities, both on stage and off. Accordingly, *SHIFT* provides a platform for orchestras to share a sampling of their best

work—to be creative, interesting, and provocative, and to present work that embodies each orchestra's identity, heritage, standards, and artistic vision.

*SHIFT* is an invitation to audiences to experience a swath of creativity in back-to-back events. Orchestras will be encouraged, where possible, to interact with each other through symposia on topics of interest suggested by the participating orchestras.

The festival's presence in Washington also provides an opportunity for orchestras to interact with their respective elected representatives in order to educate members of Congress about the value of the arts and orchestras in particular. The League of American Orchestras will partner with *SHIFT* to facilitate engagements on Capitol Hill and conversations about the impact and value that arts and orchestras can provide to their communities.

Generous support of *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras* is provided through a matching grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Abramson Family Foundation, Betsy and Robert Feinberg, Morton and Norma Lee Fungler, and Daniel R. Lewis.

### **2018 *SHIFT* Concert Calendar**

April 10, 2018, at 8 p.m., Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra**

**Miguel Harth-Bedoya, conductor**

**Augustin Hadelich, violin**

**Texas Ballet Theater**

**Kitty McNamee, choreographer**



JIMMY LÓPEZ

*Bel Canto: A Symphonic Canvas* (Fort Worth Symphony Commission; East Coast premiere)

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

*Serenade* (After Plato's "Symposium")  
Augustin Hadelich, violin

ANNA CLYNE

*RIFT* (A Symphonic Ballet)  
Texas Ballet Theater  
Kitty McNamee, choreographer

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's primary program includes two works inspired by literary connections and a combination of works conceptually inspired throughout by the Orchestra's "artistic DNA." The program reflects the basis of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's (FWSO)'s artistic vision: a commitment to performing the greatest symphonic music with world-class artists. On a deeper level, the program also reflects the Orchestra's commitment to developing audiences' familiarity with emerging artists and

living composers through meaningful collaborations in subsequent return engagements. Recently premiered at Chicago Lyric Opera, *Bel Canto* is based on Ann Patchett's 2001 novel of the same name. Bernstein's *Serenade* features the FWSO's Artistic Partner for the 2017-2018 season, violinist Augustin Hadelich. The inclusion of the Bernstein *Serenade* represents in part the Orchestra's celebration of the Bernstein Centennial in 2018. Anna Clyne's *RIFT*, a new three-movement symphonic ballet score, will be choreographed for six dancers by Kitty McNamee, Artistic Director of the Hysterica Dance Company, and performed by dancers from the Texas Ballet Theater.

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April 11, 2018, at 8 p.m., Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**Albany Symphony**

"The River Flows Through Us"

**David Allen Miller, conductor**

**Joyce Yang, piano**

**Carol Jantsch, tuba**



JOAN TOWER

*Still/Rapids*

Joyce Yang, piano

MICHAEL DAUGHERTY

*Reflections on the Mississippi,*

Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra

Carol Jantsch, tuba

DOROTHY CHANG

*The Grand Erie Canal*

with local D.C. public school choruses

MICHAEL TORKE

*The Manhattan Bridges*

Joyce Yang, piano

The program explores the history of upstate New York through the lens of bodies of water that surround and connect communities. Three of the featured works were commissioned and premiered by the Albany Symphony: Michael Torke's major new work for piano and orchestra, *Three Manhattan Bridges*, an homage to Torke's adopted city, its diversity and multicultural richness; Joan Tower's *Still/Rapids*, a reworking of her earlier meditation on water, *Rapids*, into a full piano concerto (Tower turns 80 in 2018); and Dorothy Chang's delightful mini-oratorio for children's chorus and orchestra, *The Grand Erie Canal*. Chang's homage to the building of the Erie Canal, for fifth-grade chorus and orchestra, grew out of an extensive arts-in-education school program she created as part of an Albany Symphony residency.

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April 13, 2018, at 8 p.m., Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**

**Krzysztof Urbanski, conductor**

**Alisa Weilerstein, cello**

**Vocal soloists to be announced**

**Indianapolis Symphonic Choir**

**Indianapolis Children's Choir**



WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI

*Credo*

This collaborative program includes three preeminent musical organizations from Indianapolis: the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO), the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. The program featuring expansive works by two towering musical figures, is led by ISO Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski, and was created to reflect the ISO's mission of engaging performers of all ages, as well as to introduce classic and contemporary Polish works to the Orchestra and its audiences, particularly these works, which were commissioned by U.S. organizations. *Credo* was commissioned and premiered by the Oregon Bach Festival in 1998, and has received only one other performance in the United States by a major symphony orchestra.

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April 14, 2018, 8 p.m., Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**National Symphony Orchestra**

**Gianandrea Noseda, conductor**



Gianandrea Noseda leads the NSO as part of his inaugural season as its music director, with a program to be announced at a later date.

### **Residency Activities**

As part of its involvement in *SHIFT*, each participating orchestra will offer a residency program across two and a half days during its appearance in Washington, D.C.

- **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's** activities link to both Fort Worth's geographic location (a chamber orchestra performance of a bilingual English and Spanish version of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*) and to conductor Harth-Bedoya's Peruvian roots: the *Caminos del Inka (Inca Trail)* program is dedicated to discovering and sharing the important musical legacy of the Americas through commissions of new music, performance, collaboration, and education. A mixed chamber ensemble will share the rich tradition of South American music

performing a vast repertoire spanning traditional, classical, and contemporary music from South America, particularly that from the Andean region.

- **Albany Symphony**'s 16-member new music ensemble, Dogs of Desire, will collaborate with singer Theo Bleckmann and the six composers of the composer collective, Sleeping Giant, on a full-evening "lieder-abend." The Albany Symphony will also bring its "Songwriter Idol" program to D.C. middle schools, spearheaded by composer Clarice Assad, which uses improvisation, body percussion, and songwriting in collaboration with orchestra members, who play, create, and perform alongside the students.
- **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**'s activities include highlighting its program "Second Chance Strings," which allows adults with no musical background to experience the thrill of their first performance within an hour of picking up an instrument. Second Chance Strings is led by teachers and members of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, a program of the ISO dedicated to transforming the lives of Indianapolis youth and their adult family members through music making. The residency will also include the ISO's Ensemble-in-Residence Time for Three, the self-proclaimed "classically-trained garage band."
- **National Symphony Orchestra**'s engagement activities will be announced at a later date.

#### **About The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

[The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#) is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the leadership of Chairman David M. Rubenstein and President Deborah F. Rutter, the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract audiences and visitors totaling 3 million people annually; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 40 million more.

Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center presents the greatest performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works.

Each year, millions of people nationwide take part in innovative, inclusive, and effective education programs initiated by the Center, including school- and community-based residencies and consultancies; age-appropriate performances and events for young people; career development for young actors, dancers, singers, and instrumentalists; and professional learning opportunities for teachers, teaching artists, and school administrators. These programs have become models for communities across the country. The Center's Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child program works with selected local school districts and seeks to provide a comprehensive arts education to children K-8. The Center also has been at the forefront of making the performing arts accessible to persons with disabilities, highlighted by the work accomplished with its affiliate, VSA.

As part of the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts for Everyone outreach program, the Center stages more than 400 free performances of music, dance, and theater by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every evening at 6 p.m. on the Millennium Stage. The Rubenstein Arts Access Program expands the Center's efforts to make the arts accessible to children, young adults, and to people who have little or limited ability to attend and enjoy the performing arts, enabling audiences to engage in more ways, at more times, and in more places than ever before.

### **About Washington Performing Arts**

Since 1965, [Washington Performing Arts](#) has had a foundational role in the arts in our nation's capital, creating profound opportunities that connect community and artists, in both education and performance. Through live events in nine venues that span the D.C. metropolitan area, the careers of emerging artists are launched and nurtured, and established artists return to develop closer relationships with Washington Performing Arts audiences and creative partners.

As one of the leading presenters in the nation, Washington Performing Arts embraces a broad spectrum of the performing arts, including classical music, jazz, gospel, contemporary dance and music, international music and art forms, and new work. Dynamic education programs in the public schools and beyond are hallmarks of Washington Performing Arts, as are the Embassy Adoption Program and two resident gospel choirs.

Washington Performing Arts has been honored for its work at the intersection of arts presenting and education. The organization has received Mayor's Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education (2015) and Excellence in Service to the Arts (2012) and was honored by President Barack Obama with a 2012 National Medal of Arts (becoming only the fourth D.C.-based arts group and the first arts presenter of its kind to be so honored).

### **Funding Credits**

Generous support of *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras* is provided through a matching grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Abramson Family Foundation, Betsy and Robert Feinberg, Morton and Norma Lee FUNGER, and Daniel R. Lewis.

### **SHIFT Collaborators**

*SHIFT* is presented in cooperation with the League of American Orchestras.

### **Social Media**

Use #SHIFTmusic for social media related to *SHIFT*.

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