



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 24, 2016

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director**

**NSO's Summer 2016 Appearances at Wolf Trap**

**Classical Programs Feature Guest Conductors Cristian Măcelaru,  
Lionel Bringuier and Stéphane Denève, with Pianist Yuja Wang  
and Violinist Chad Hoopes as Soloists**

**Film Score, Popular, and Celebratory Programs Range from  
“DreamWorks Animation in Concert” to Seth MacFarlane and  
the Great American Songbook to a Re-Imagination of  
Stravinsky’s *Firebird* with Larger-Than-Life Puppetry and  
South African Dance**

(WASHINGTON)—The NSO returns to the idyllic setting of the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts this summer for 10 performances, featuring debuts by conductor Lionel Bringuier and violinist Chad Hoopes, the world premieres of “DreamWorks Animation in Concert” and photochoreography for a salute to the centennial of the National Park Service, the area premiere of co-commissioned puppetry to accompany Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*, two full-length feature films with the scores performed live, and appearances by both NSO Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and NSO at Wolf Trap Festival Conductor Emil de Cou.

In addition, guest conductors Cristian Măcelaru, Stéphane Denève, and Grant Gershon return to the NSO, as does pianist Yuja Wang, Pink Martini, and Seth MacFarlane, in his Wolf Trap debut. Concerts take place between June 30 and August 6. A full schedule appears at the end of this release.

Thursday, June 30, at 8:30 p.m. Now more than 20 years old, **DreamWorks Animation** has produced some of the most popular animated films of the past two decades, including *Shrek*, *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda*, *How to Train your Dragon*, and more, with scores by some of Hollywood's most recognizable composers: Danny Elfman, Hans Zimmer, Alan Silvestri, Alexandre Desplat, and others. In the premiere of this one-night-only event, clips from DreamWorks Animation film favorites grace the big screen in HD while the National Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Justin Freer, performs excerpts from those soundtracks, and more, live.

Friday, July 1, at 8:15 p.m. NSO at Wolf Trap Festival Conductor **Emil de Cou** leads *America the Beautiful*, a special musical salute to the National Park Service's centennial this year. This program features the world premiere of photography by Nicholas Bardonnay, choreographed to the music of Antonín Dvořák. Bardonnay's photochoreography features images from around the United States's National Parks, including Canyonlands in Utah; Mesa Verde, Colorado; Death Valley, California; Denali, Alaska; as well as from Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon. Set to the Largo from Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," it seems only fitting to see and hear this tribute at another National Park—Wolf Trap, the only National Park dedicated to the performing arts. The program also features music by Gershwin, Grofé, Copland, and Sondheim, among others. The NSO is joined by U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, Wolf Trap Opera singers, and bass-baritone Alan Held, who recently sang the role of Wotan in the Washington National Opera's recent *Ring* cycle and is Artist in Residence at Wolf Trap Opera.

Friday, July 8, at 8:15 p.m.

**Guest conductor Lionel Bringuier** makes his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra, with piano sensation **Yuja Wang** as soloist in two works: Ravel's Concerto in G Major and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The program closes with Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Saturday, July 9, at 8:30 p.m.

Emil de Cou leads the National Symphony Orchestra in John Williams’s epic score live, as the complete *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is projected on huge screens. This year marks the 35th anniversary of Spielberg’s classic film.

Saturday, July 23, at 8:15 p.m. Janni Younge of the Handspring Puppet Company—of *War Horse* fame—designed all-new puppetry, based on South African lore, to accompany Stravinsky’s full ballet score of *The Firebird*, performed by the National Symphony Orchestra and led by guest conductor Cristian Măcelaru. Co-commissioned by Wolf Trap, this production receives its premiere by the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center earlier in July. Designed and directed by Younge, with movement devised by leading South African choreographer Jay Pather, this reimagined *Firebird* follows a journey towards courage, identity, and freedom through the metaphorical mediums of puppetry and dance. At the heart of the narrative is a young woman torn between passion and aggression, creativity and criticism, and temperance and excess as she strives to find balance of power and satisfaction of self. Opening the program are Prokofiev’s “Classical” Symphony and Ravel’s *Mother Goose Suite*.

Sunday, July 24, at 8:15 p.m. **Pink Martini**—a self-described “little orchestra,” with repertoire crossing genres of classical, Latin, jazz, and classic pop—returns to the NSO for an evening of cosmopolitan world music featuring vocalist Storm Large and special guest Ari Shapiro of NPR’s *All Things Considered*.

Friday, July 29, at 8:15 p.m. **Guest conductor Stéphane Denève** returns to the NSO to lead a program of classical favorites, including Debussy’s *La mer* and Ravel’s showpiece, *La valse*. Twenty-two year old **American violinist Chad Hoopes**—who made his Kennedy Center debut in recital this past season to rave reviews—makes his NSO debut in Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto.

Saturday, July 30, at 8:30 p.m. “To boldly go where no man has gone before” has been the mantra of the groundbreaking *Star Trek* franchise for 50 years. The characters, issues, and challenges portrayed in television and film have been eagerly embraced by generations. Now,

*Star Trek into Darkness* (2013)—the sequel to the 2009 film, *Star Trek*, which was performed last summer—comes to Wolf Trap and the National Symphony Orchestra performs Michael Giacchino’s soundtrack live to accompany the film. Featured this evening is a special pre-concert discussion—a Star Trek Trek Talk—about NASA and the influence of Star Trek on the NASA culture, with a special appearance by Leonard Nimoy’s son Adam, who just completed a new documentary about his father’s life entitled *For the Love of Spock*. Open to all ticketholders. The Trek Talk begins at 7:40 p.m.

Friday, August 5, at 8:15 p.m. The NSO joins forces with Wolf Trap Opera for its annual one-night-only collaboration. This summer features one of the most beloved operas, **Puccini’s *La bohème***. Grant Gershon conducts this timeless tale of love, youth, and tragic loss in the Latin Quarter of 19th-century Paris, which is fully staged and costumed and features full orchestra, chorus, and custom video projections.

Saturday, August 6 at 8:15 p.m. Perhaps best known for his role as creator, songwriter, and singer of *Family Guy* and *Ted*, **Seth MacFarlane** is also a Grammy<sup>®</sup> - and Academy-Award<sup>®</sup> - nominated singer and songwriter who returns to the NSO stage to make his Wolf Trap debut after his sold-out appearance at the Kennedy Center last year. Performing selections from the Great American Songbook, along with sprinklings of his comedic flair, this one-night-only show will entertain audiences of all ages.

## **NSO AT WOLF TRAP CALENDAR LISTINGS**

*All performances take place at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap.*

Friday, June 30, 2016, 8:30 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Justin Freer, conductor**

*DreamWorks Animation in Concert*

Tickets: \$24-\$45.

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Saturday, July 1, 2016, 8:15 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Emil de Cou, conductor**  
**Nicholas Bardonnay, multimedia artist**  
**Alan Held, bass-baritone**  
**U.S. Army Herald Trumpets**

Program celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial includes:  
Copland "Promise of Living" from *The Tender Land*  
Grofé "On the Trail" from *Grand Canyon Suite*  
Dvořák Largo from Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

Tickets: \$20-\$58.

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Friday, July 8, 2016, 8:15 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Lionel Bringuier, conductor**  
**Yuja Wang, piano**

Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major  
Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*  
Mussorgsky/  
orch. Ravel *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Tickets: \$20-\$58.

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Saturday, July 9, 2016, 8:30 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Emil de Cou, conductor**

*Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Tickets: \$30-\$58.

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Saturday, July 23, 2016, 8:15 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Cristian Măcelaru, conductor**  
**Janni Younge of Handspring Puppetry Company, designer and director**

Prokofiev "Classical" Symphony  
Ravel *Mother Goose Suite*

Stravinsky *The Firebird (complete)*  
*Featuring the world premiere of Wolf Trap co-commissioned puppetry*

Tickets: \$20-\$65.

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Sunday, July 24, 2016, 8:15 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Steven Reineke, conductor**  
**Pink Martini, featuring Storm Large and special guest Ari Shapiro**

Tickets: \$30-\$60.

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Friday, July 29, 2015, 8:15 p.m.  
**Stéphane Denève, conductor**  
**Chad Hoopes, violin (NSO debut)**

Tchaikovsky	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35
Debussy	<i>La mer</i>
Ravel	<i>La valse</i>

Tickets: \$20-\$58.

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Saturday, July 30, 2016, 8:30 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Emil de Cou, conductor**

*Star Trek into Darkness*

Tickets: \$30-\$58.

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Friday, August 5, 2016, 8:15 p.m.  
**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Grant Gershon, conductor**  
**Singers from Wolf Trap Opera**  
**D'Ana Lombard, soprano (Mimi)**  
**Yongzhao Yu, tenor (Rodolfo)**  
**Reginald Smith, Jr., baritone (Marcello)**  
**Summer Hassan, soprano (Musetta)**  
**Timothy Bruno, bass (Colline)**  
**Shea Owens, baritone (Schaunard)**  
**William Clay Thompson\*, bass (Benoit/Alcindoro)**  
**Matthew Hill\*, tenor (Parpignol)**

*\*Studio Artist*

Paul Curran, director  
Erhard Rom, scenic designer  
S. Katy Tucker, video & projections designer  
Court Watson, costume designer  
Mark Stanley, lighting designer

Puccini	<i>La bohème</i>
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Tickets: \$25-\$75.

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Saturday, August 6, 2016, 8:15 p.m.

**National Symphony Orchestra**

**Steven Reineke, conductor**

**Seth MacFarlane, vocals**

Seth MacFarlane and the Great American Songbook

Tickets: \$25-\$65.

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**National Symphony Orchestra**  
**Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director**

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The 2015-2016 season is the NSO's 85th, and its sixth led by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, also the Music Director of the Kennedy Center. Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has throughout its history been committed to artistic excellence and music education. In 1986, the National Symphony became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it has presented a concert season annually since the Center opened in 1971. The National Symphony Orchestra regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including performances for state occasions, presidential inaugurations and official holiday celebrations. Its regular appearances for Capitol Concerts and local broadcasts on WETA make the NSO one of the most visible orchestras in the country.

The Orchestra itself numbers 96 musicians, presenting a year-round season of approximately 150 concerts each year. These include classical subscription series, pops concerts, summer performances at Wolf Trap and on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, chamber music performances in the Terrace Theater and on the Millennium Stage, and an extensive educational program, with performances designed for ages three years and up, and audience engagement activities as well. Additionally the NSO's community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood (comprised of a week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other neighborhood venues) and NSO Sound Health, which has taken the NSO to the National Institutes of Health, Children's Inn at NIH, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Children's National Medical Center, and Inova Health System. Career development opportunities include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its Summer Music Institute.

For more information, please visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).

**ABOUT WOLF TRAP**

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, produces and presents a full range of performance and education programs in the Greater Washington area, as well as nationally. Wolf Trap features three performance venues: the outdoor Filene Center and

Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods, both located at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and The Barns at Wolf Trap, located down the road from the national park and adjacent to the Center for Education at Wolf Trap. The 7,028-seat Filene Center is operated in partnership with the National Park Service and annually showcases an extensive array of diverse artists, ranging from pop, country, folk, and blues to classical music, dance, and theatre, as well as multimedia presentations, from May through September. The Barns at Wolf Trap is operated by the Wolf Trap Foundation year round, and during the summer months is home to the Grammy-nominated Wolf Trap Opera, one of America’s outstanding resident ensemble programs for young opera singers. Wolf Trap’s education programs include the nationally acclaimed Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods, a diverse array of arts education classes, grants, and a nationally recognized internship program.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets are available online at Wolf Trap’s web site [WolfTrap.org](http://WolfTrap.org), by phone at (877) WOLFTRAP (965-3817), or in person at the Filene Center Box Office, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, VA.

### **FUNDING CREDIT**

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

**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).**

Discover the National Symphony Orchestra on social media:



**#NSOrch**

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