Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 3, 2017

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director

MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE GIANANDREA NOSEDA
RETURNS TO LEAD ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM IN
JANUARY 2017

Kennedy Center’s Season-long Celebration of JFK’s Centennial
Reflected in Program that Honors Two Iconic Presidents:
Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy

Emmy Award-winning Actress Phylicia Rashad
Narrates Lincoln Portrait

January 19 & 22, 2017

(WASHINGTON)—Gianandrea Noseda, the National Symphony Orchestra’s music
director designate during the 2016–2017 season, returns to lead the NSO in January
after his acclaimed appearances in November 2016. Two concerts—Thursday,
January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, January 22, 2017, at 3 p.m.—celebrate
America’s musical landscape, with works ranging from Copland’s Lincoln Portrait to
Gershwin’s beloved Rhapsody in Blue with pianist Jon Kimura Parker as soloist. The
program also includes music by Leonard Bernstein and John Williams which honors

Noseda curated this all-American program, which opens with Stravinsky’s
orchestration of the National Anthem, followed by a suite from John Williams’s score
to the film Lincoln. Copland’s Lincoln Portrait follows; narrated by Emmy Award®-
winning actress Phylicia Rashad.

To honor the legacy of President Kennedy, the Center is presenting a year-long
initiative of programming—currently more than 30 events—inspired by five ideals
commonly attributed to America’s 35th President: Courage, Freedom, Justice,
Service, and Gratitude. These timeless values continue to resonate with all
Americans today, and two works on this program pay tribute to President Kennedy and his enduring legacy: Leonard Bernstein’s *Fanfare for the Inauguration of John F. Kennedy* and a suite from John Williams’s score for the film *JFK*. Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*, with pianist Jon Kimura Parker, closes this program.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

*Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 7:00
Sunday, January 22, 2017, at 3:00*

National Symphony Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
Jon Kimura Parker, piano
Phyllicia Rashad, narrator

SMITH/ Orch. STRAVINSKY
WILLIAMS Music from the film *Lincoln*
COPLAND *Lincoln Portrait*
BERNSTEIN *Fanfare for the Inauguration of John F. Kennedy*
WILLIAMS Suite from the film *JFK*
GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*

Tickets: $15-$89

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The 2016–2017 season marks the NSO’s 86th, and its seventh and final led by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, also the Music Director of the Kennedy Center. In 2016, Italian conductor Gianandrea Noseda was named the Orchestra’s seventh music director, beginning with the 2017–2018 season; he serves as Music Director Designate for the 2016–2017 season. 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 performed a full season of subscription concerts 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 regularly televised holiday appearances for Capitol Concerts and local radio broadcasts on WETA make the NSO one of the most-heard orchestras in the country.

The Orchestra itself numbers 96 musicians who perform 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 which comprises 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 (NIH),
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, visit nationalsymphony.org.

ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA
Gianandrea Noseda, 52, is widely recognized as one of the leading conductors of his generation. He was named the National Symphony Orchestra’s seventh music director in January 2016, with his tenure beginning as Music Director Designate in the 2016-2017 season, and a four-year term as Music Director in Fall of 2017.

His appointment as Music Director of the Teatro Regio Torino in 2007 ushered in a transformative era for the company matched with international acclaim for productions, tours, recordings, and film projects. His initiatives have propelled the Teatro Regio Torino onto the global stage, where it has become one of Italy’s most important cultural ambassadors.

Noseda is also Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Orquestra de Cadaqués, and Artistic Director of the Stresa Festival located on the shores of Lago Maggiore and among the oldest musical festivals in Italy. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI from 2003 to 2006 and was the BBC Philharmonic’s Chief Conductor from 2002 to 2011. In 1997, he was appointed the first foreign Principal Guest Conductor of the Mariinsky Theatre, a position he held for a decade.

Noseda is a frequent guest of many of the most important orchestras and has had an enduring relationship with the Metropolitan Opera since 2002 where he is conducting a new production of Romeo et Juliette which premiered on New Year’s Eve. In 2015 made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic and at the Salzburg Festival. Last season he made his debut at the Royal Opera House in London and this season he makes his debut with two productions at the Zurich Opera. In December 2016 he conducted the Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm.

Noseda’s intense recording activity counts over 50 CDs, many of which have been celebrated by critics and received awards. His Musica Italiana project, which he initiated over ten years ago, has chronicled underappreciated Italian repertoire of the 20th century and brought to light many masterpieces. Conducting the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino he has also recorded opera albums with celebrated vocalists such as Ildebrando d’Arcangelo, Rolando Villazon, Anna Netrebko, and Diana Damrau.

A native of Milan, Gianandrea Noseda is Cavaliere Ufficiale al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, marking his contribution to the artistic life of Italy. In 2015, he was honored as Musical America’s Conductor of the Year, and was named the 2016 International Opera Awards Conductor of the Year.

ABOUT JON KIMURA PARKER
Known for his passionate artistry and engaging stage presence, pianist Jon Kimura Parker’s brilliant and versatile career has taken him from Carnegie Hall and Berlin’s Philharmonie to the Beijing Concert Hall and the Sydney Opera House. Conductors he has recently worked
with include Teddy Abrams, Pablo Heras-Casado, Claus Peter Flor, Hans Graf, Matthew Halls, Jeffrey Kahane, Peter Oundjian, Larry Rachleff, Bramwell Tovey, Xu Zhong, and Pinchas Zukerman. A true Canadian ambassador of music, Parker has given command performances for Queen Elizabeth II, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Prime Ministers of Canada and Japan. He is an Officer of The Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian honor.

A committed educator, Jon Kimura Parker is Professor of Piano at The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Mr. Parker is also Artistic Advisor of the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, where he has given world premieres of new works by Peter Schickele and Jake Heggie.

Jon Kimura Parker has recorded for Telarc and CBC, and on his own label. His new CD Fantasy features Fantasies of Schubert and Schumann, as well as the sensational Wizard of Oz Fantasy by William Hirtz, receiving this praise from Classical Candor: “The reading is riveting. Parker scores with another favorite recording of the year.”

“Jackie” Parker studied with Edward Parker, Keiko Parker, Lee Kum-Sing, Robin Wood, Marek Jablonski and Adele Marcus. He won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition. He lives in Houston with his wife, violinist Aloysia Friedmann and their daughter Sophie. For further information, please see www.jonkimuraparker.com.

ABOUT JFKC: A Centennial Celebration
In the year leading up to the centenary of John F. Kennedy’s birth on May 29, 2017, the Kennedy Center, the living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, is re-imagining 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 featuring special programming through the year that explores, challenges, and reflects the contemporary spirit of America. Guided by JFK’s legacy of idealism, hope, and empowerment, the Kennedy Center will 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.

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets ($15 - $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.

FUNDING CREDITS
David and Alice Rubenstein are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO.

The NSO Music Director Chair is generously endowed by Victoria and Roger Sant.

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.

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit 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

#NSOrch

MEDIA CONTACT:
Rachelle Roe
(202) 416-8443
rbroe@kennedy-center.org

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324
www.kennedy-center.org