FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 4, 2017

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH LEADS NSO IN ITS  
FIRST-EVER PERFORMANCES OF MUSIC BY  
MIECZYSLAW WEINBERG WITH  
VIOLINIST GIDON KREMER  
PART OF “SALUTE TO SLAVA”

January 26-28, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Christoph Eschenbach leads the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and violinist Gidon Kremer in Polish composer Mieczyslaw Weinberg’s Violin Concerto, the first time the NSO has performed any of Weinberg’s music. Kremer is a dedicated advocate of Weinberg and other Eastern European and Baltic composers. The concert also marks the first time that Christoph Eschenbach has led Shostakovich’s Eighth Symphony, one of the works closely associated with the NSO and its fourth Music Director, Mstislav Rostropovich. Three performances—Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m., Friday, January 27 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m.—take place at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

These performances are the second of four weeks of programs during the 2016–2017 season that salute Slava, the NSO’s beloved former music director. Rostropovich would have been 90 years old in 2017, and the NSO honors his memory with programs by composers that he not only knew well and collaborated closely with, but whose music he and the Orchestra were particularly well known for performing. Dmitri Shostakovich was the one of the three great composers (the other two being Sergei Prokofiev and Benjamin Britten) with whom Slava formed intensely productive artistic and personal relationships. Mieczyslaw Weinberg was also a friend of both Rostropovich and Shostakovich, and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 8 was one of the signature pieces of Slava and the NSO both at the Kennedy Center and on tour, giving this whole program a strong connection to the former music director.
ForeWords, a new series of pre-concert talks, takes place before the Saturday, January 28, performance. Beginning at 6:45 p.m., guest speaker Deborah Lamberton of Classical WETA takes the audience on a tour behind the music. The pre-concert lecture lasts 30 minutes.

PROGRAM DETAILS

**Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Friday, January 27, 2017, at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday January 28, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.**  
National Symphony Orchestra  
Christoph Eschenbach, conductor  
Gidon Kremer, violin  
“Salute to Slava”

WEINBERG Violin Concerto  
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8

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. 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 CHRISTOPH ESCENBACH

Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director of both the National Symphony Orchestra and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, is in great demand by the finest orchestras and opera houses around the world.

Now in his seventh and final season with the NSO and Kennedy Center, he has, during his tenure thus far, taken the NSO on three international tours; through South and North America in 2012, to Europe and Oman in 2013, and to Europe 2016, earning great acclaim. He and the NSO have also performed together at Carnegie Hall. In 2016–2017, Eschenbach and the Orchestra will perform in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, at the invitation of Olga Rostropovich, as part of the 2017 Rostropovich Festival, celebrating what would have been former NSO music director Mstislav Rostropovich’s 90th birthday.

Highlights of Eschenbach’s other engagements this season include leading a new production of Benjamin Britten’s The Turn of the Screw at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, guest conducting at the Orchestre de Paris, National Spanish Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Nederland Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra National de France, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and the with the Vienna Philharmonic for the worldwide televised Summer Night Concert in Schönbrunn Palace.

In addition to his eight subscription weeks with the NSO, Eschenbach can be heard around the U.S. this season, leading concerts with the Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and on a 10-concert American tour with the historic German orchestra Bamberger Symphoniker of which Maestro Eschenbach is Honorary Conductor. He will also return to the Ravinia Festival this summer.

Mentored by George Szell and Herbert von Karajan, Christoph Eschenbach has enjoyed a career which has included music directorships of the Orchestre de Paris (2000–2010), Philadelphia Orchestra (2003–2008), Ravinia Festival (1994–2003), NDR Sinfonieorchester (1998–2004), and Houston Symphony (1988–1999). He has also served as artistic director of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival (1999–2002) and as chief conductor and artistic director of the Tonhalle Orchestra (1982–1986). His many honors include the 2015 Ernst von Siemens Music Prize, Légion d’Honneur; Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; Officer’s Cross with Star and Ribbon of the German Order of Merit; and the Commander’s Cross of the German Order of Merit for outstanding achievements. He also received the Leonard Bernstein Award from the Pacific Music Festival, where he was co-artistic director (1992–1998).

Eschenbach frequently mentors gifted young performers, and works regularly with the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra. In Washington, he offers rehearsal opportunities to the students of the NSO’s Youth Fellowship Program, side-by-side with the Orchestra.

ABOUT GIDON KREMER

Born in Riga, Latvia, Gidon Kremer began studying the violin at the age of four with his father and grandfather, who were both distinguished string players. At 16 he was awarded the first Prize of the Latvian Republic and two years later he began his studies with David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory. He went on to win prestigious awards including the 1967 Queen Elizabeth Competition and the first prize in both the Paganini and Tchaikovsky International Competitions.

This success launched Kremer’s distinguished career, in which he has established a world-
wide reputation as one of the most original and compelling artists of his generation. He has appeared on virtually every major concert stage with the most celebrated orchestras of Europe and America, and has collaborated with today’s foremost conductors, including Leonard Bernstein, Herbert von Karajan, Christoph Eschenbach, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Claudio Abbado, and Sir Neville Marriner, among others.

Kremer’s repertoire is unusually extensive, encompassing all of the standard classical and romantic violin works, as well as music by 20th-century masters such as Henze, Berg, and Stockhausen. He also championed the works of living Russian and Eastern European composers, performing many important new compositions and bringing their music to audiences in a way that respects tradition yet remains contemporary. It would be fair to say that no other soloist of his international stature has done as much for contemporary composers in the past 30 years.

Kremer has made more than 100 albums, including the 2002 Grammy Award®-winning Nonesuch recording After Mozart. In 1981, Kremer founded Lockenhaus, an intimate chamber music festival that continues to take place every summer in Austria. In 1997, he founded the Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra, with whom he tours and has recorded with, to foster outstanding young musicians from the three Baltic States. From 2002–2006, he was the artistic leader of a new festival in Basel, Switzerland, “les musiques”.

Gidon Kremer plays a “Nicola Amati,” dated from 1641.

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. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

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.

Lead support for A Salute to Slava is provided by The Vladimir Potanin Foundation

Additional support is provided by
Blavatnik Family Foundation
BP plc

A Salute to Slava Benefit Committee
Vice Chairs
ExxonMobil
Susan Carmel Lehrman
Victoria and Roger Sant
United Technologies Corporation
The Blue Series is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation.

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

#NSOrc

# # #

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

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