Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 1, 2017

COMMON JOINS NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FOR SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY CONCERT

Wednesday, March 22, at 8 p.m.
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Grammy®, Oscar®, and Golden Globe®—winning Chicago rapper, actor, film producer, activist, and poet Common joins the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke for a one-night-only concert of music from his latest album, Black America Again, as well as some of his biggest hits. Black America Again is his most political album to date, a call to action inspired by the works of filmmaker Ava DuVernay, social critic Ta-Nehisi Coates, and the Black Lives Matter movement, among other 21st century cultural touchstones.

Common debuted in 1992 with the album Can I Borrow a Dollar? and has gone on to win three Grammy® awards. In 2015, he was awarded the Golden Globe® for Best Original Song and the Academy Award® for Best Original Song for his song “Glory” from the 2014 film Selma, in which he co-starred as Civil Rights Movement leader James Bevel.

Common’s appearance with the NSO reflects the Orchestra’s commitment to collaborating with artists from non-classical genres such as Hip Hop, including previously sold-out performances with Nas and Kendrick Lamar. This performance is also a part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy. Leading up to the centennial of John F. Kennedy’s birth (May 29, 2017), the Kennedy Center presents a year-long initiative of programming—currently nearly 50 events—inspired by five

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ideals commonly attributed to America’s 35th President: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. These timeless values continue to resonate with all Americans today.

Tickets ($29–$119) go on sale to Kennedy Center members today, February 1, at 10 a.m., and to the general public on Thursday, February 2, at 10 a.m. Call (202) 467-4600 or visit www.kennedy-center.org

FUNDING CREDITS

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

AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2016-2017 NSO Pops Season.

Additional support for NSO Pops: Common is provided by BET Networks.

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 keneddy-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 keneddy-center.org/mytix

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TICKETS & INFORMATION:
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