FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2017

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND
PRINCIPAL POPS CONDUCTOR STEVEN REINEKE
ANNOUNCE
2017–2018 SEASON POPS PROGRAMMING

Highlights Include:

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ in Concert and Selma
(films with live score)

West Side Story in Concert

Performances by Melissa Etheridge, Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds,
Audra McDonald, Megan Hilty, and more

(WASHINGTON)—The 2017–2018 NSO Pops season continues to expand the
definition of “Pops” by offering a diverse mix of programming in genres ranging from
rock ‘n’ roll and jazz to Broadway favorites and from contemporary popular music such
as Hip Hop and R&B to live film scores and familiar classics. All concerts take place in
the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

The season begins with a retrospective of music by Elvis Presley and other Golden Age
rock ‘n’ rollers, featuring crooner Frankie Moreno in Blue Suede Tunes. The
unforgettable dance styles of the 1950s and ‘60s are showcased by sibling duo Lacey
and Benji Schwimmer of Dancing with the Stars and So You Think You Can Dance,
alongside the King’s greatest hits, and favorites by Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little

~ more ~
Richard, Ray Charles, The Beatles, and more. NSO Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke conducts. (September 15 & 16)

Pianist and Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran with his trio, the Bandwagon, join the NSO to perform Moran’s full score to the 2014 Academy Award®-nominated film, Selma. Ryan McAdams conducts this live film event, complete with a big screen and children’s chorus. (September 22)

Brazilian troubadour Seu Jorge joins the NSO for The Life Aquatic: A Tribute to David Bowie. Jorge celebrates Bowie’s catalog through the lens of his [Jorge’s] role in Wes Anderson’s 2004 film The Life Aquatic with classic Brazilian samba. (September 29)

Returning favorites Pink Martini bring their eclectic mix of genres and styles back to the Concert Hall with repertoire spanning from jazz to classical to retro pop. The self-described “little orchestra” returns to D.C. for an elegant evening of multilingual music, which traces its many influences through a boundary-breaking collection of cultures, eras, and styles. Emil de Cou conducts. (October 26, 27, and 28)

Like the books by J. K. Rowling, the Harry Potter™ film series is a once-in-a-lifetime cultural phenomenon that continues to delight millions of fans around the world. This concert features the NSO performing every note from John Williams’s unforgettable score to Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ while the film is shown in high-definition on a giant screen. Steven Reineke conducts. (November 24, 25, and 26)

A Holiday Pops! features Tony Award® nominee and Kennedy Center favorite Megan Hilty in a heartwarming performance of holiday classics as she joins Steven Reineke, the NSO, and The Washington Chorus. From classics to carols, this annual event is fun for everyone at this festive time of year. In addition to three performances on the Pops series, a free concert—Home for the Holidays!—will be performed exclusively for
military members, veterans, and their families. (December 7 for military; December 8 and 9, for the public)

Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds has an enviable catalogue of 16 No. 1 Billboard hits and 11 Grammy Awards®, as well as a distinctively smooth voice. He performs such R&B hits as “When Can I See You,” “It’s No Crime,” and “Whip Appeal” with the full symphonic and sophisticated sounds of the NSO. (January 19 and 20, 2018)

The international celebration of Leonard Bernstein at 100 includes West Side Story in Concert, led by Steven Reineke. Soloists for this timeless tale of love and loss will be announced in the coming months. (February 14, 16, and 17, 2018)

Violinist Kevin Sylvester (“Kev Marcus”) and violist Wilner Baptiste (“Wil B”)—also known as Black Violin—have built a musical style all their own that combines both Hip Hop and classical music. Black Violin joins the NSO and Steven Reineke in a showcase of their dynamic performance style, combining infectious beats and lyrical melodies with classical instrumentation in a unique genre-blending way that defies expectations and shatters stereotypes. (April 4, 2018)

The sights and sounds of deep space have inspired music, art, and fiction for decades. Here, the NSO and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—in honor of its 60th anniversary in 2018—present Space, the Next Frontier. A celebration of science facts and fiction, this concert is complete with projections from the Hubble Space Telescope, the International Space Station, the Curiosity rover on Mars, and famous films and television programs celebrating space exploration. Emil de Cou leads the Orchestra in selections from Star Trek, Star Wars, 2001: A Space Odyssey, and more. (June 1 and 2, 2018)

Beloved singer and actress Audra McDonald joins the NSO for a special performance of her favorite music. The Juilliard-trained soprano is the winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards® (Carousel, Master Class, Ragtime, A Raisin in the Sun, The
Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess, Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill*, two Grammy Awards®, and an Emmy Award®. This season she brings her iconic voice back to the NSO stage. Andy Einhorn conducts. (June 19, 2018)

Grammy®-winning singer/songwriter Melissa Etheridge teams up with the NSO and Steven Reineke to bring her raw, expressive voice and powerhouse guitar prowess to the Concert Hall for a sampling of songs from her groundbreaking career. Such hits as “Come to My Window” and “I’m the Only One” represent this rock ‘n’ roll pioneer’s truthful songwriting and bluesy influences. (June 22 and 23, 2018)

Grammy Award®-winning singer and songwriter Gregory Porter brings his signature mix of jazz, soul, and gospel to the NSO stage for a unique evening of modern yet timeless music. This concert is also part of the Jazz and Renée Fleming VOICES series. (June 27, 2018)

Steven Reineke’s boundless enthusiasm and exceptional artistry have made him one of the nation’s most sought-after pops conductors, composers, and arrangers. The 2017–2018 season will be his seventh as Principal Pops Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. In that capacity he has led performances of Broadway favorites, jazz, Hip Hop, film scores, and shows featuring such notable performers as Common, Nas, Patti LaBelle, Kendrick Lamar, Megan Hilty, Trey Anastasio, and Seth MacFarlane. In addition, he led the NSO in its live appearance on NPR’s *All Things Considered* in February 2017—the first time an orchestra has performed the music for the show live—and has also led the NSO in broadcasts of PBS’s *American Voices* series.

Tickets to all NSO popular shows are available now via the Kennedy Center Subscription Office or website to buyers who purchase six or more concerts. Dates for sale of individual tickets will be announced at a later date on www.kennedy-center.org.

Complete program, date, and artist listings follow.
2017–2018 SEASON SCHEDULE

All concerts take place in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

Friday, September 15, 2017, at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, September 16, 2017, at 8 p.m.  
National Symphony Orchestra  
Steven Reineke, conductor  
Lacey and Benji Schwimmer, dancers  

Blue Suede Tunes with Frankie Moreno

Friday, September 22, 2017, at 8 p.m. (also on the Jazz series)  
National Symphony Orchestra  
Ryan McAdams, conductor  
Jason Moran, piano  
The Bandwagon  

Selma (film with live score)  
Part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy

Friday, September 29, 2017, at 8 p.m.  
National Symphony Orchestra  
Jacomino Bairos, conductor  
Seu Jorge  

The Life Aquatic—A Tribute to David Bowie
Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 7 p.m.
Friday, October 27, 2017, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 28, 2017, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Emil de Cou, conductor

Pink Martini

Friday, November 24, 2017, at 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 25, 2017, at 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 26, 2017, at 2 p.m. (This concert is also on the Family series)
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™ in Concert (film with live score)

Friday, December 8, 2017, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor
The Washington Chorus

A Holiday Pops! with Megan Hilty

Friday, January 19, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 8 p.m.

Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Friday, February 16, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 17, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

West Side Story in Concert

Part of the Kennedy Center’s Leonard Bernstein at 100 celebration
Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Black Violin

Friday, June 1, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Emil de Cou, conductor

Space, the Next Frontier

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Andy Einhorn, conductor

Audra McDonald

Friday, June 22, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 23, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Melissa Etheridge

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Jacomo Bairos, conductor

An Evening of Jazz with Gregory Porter

This concert is also on the Renée Fleming VOICES and Jazz series

Programs and artists subject to change.
ABOUT THE NSO POPS
Great performances featuring the highest levels of artistic talent have been a staple of the NSO's 86 seasons. Popular offerings have ranged from performances on a barge on the Potomac River, to concerts on the Ellipse, and in National Parks around the greater Washington area. The 2011–2012 season was the first with Steven Reineke as Principal Pops Conductor. NSO popular programming—which range in genre from Broadway and American song to jazz and from film scores to Hip Hop to rock ‘n’ roll—take place at the NSO’s principal performance venues: the NSO’s primary home, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall, Wolf Trap, and the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, in with a subscription season featuring a variety of musical genres.

TICKET INFORMATION
To receive subscription information by mail, call the Subscription Office at (202) 416-8500. Subscriptions may be purchased in advance of general on-sale dates. Groups of 20 or more may contact Kennedy Center Group Sales at (202) 416-8400. Dates for sales of individual tickets will be announced at a later date on www.kennedy-center.org.

FUNDING CREDITS

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

AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the NSO Pops Season.

Generous support for Notes of Honor: NSO Salutes the Military is provided by PenFed Credit Union.

Renée Fleming VOICES is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of the Charles E. Smith Family Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Buffy and William Cafritz Family Foundation.

Support for Jazz at the Kennedy Center is generously provided by Elizabeth and Michael Kojanian.

Support for JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Chevron, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and Target.

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