FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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Photos Available By Request

GIANANDREA NOSEDA LED NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN HIS FIRST CONCERT AS MUSIC DIRECTOR  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Annual Opening Night Gala Featured Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Tony®-Winning Vocalist Cynthia Erivo in All-Bernstein Program

Concert Available on Demand at medici.tv

(WASHINGTON)—Gianandrea Noseda made his highly anticipated first appearance as the seventh music director of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) on Sunday, September 24, at the NSO’s annual season-opening gala concert.

The festive benefit, the NSO’s largest fundraiser of the year, raised nearly $2 million in support of the Orchestra’s many artistic, educational, and community engagement programs throughout the year. The NSO welcomed a capacity concert audience, as well as 925 guests for the pre- and post-concert events at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Co-chairs of the Gala were Earl W. and Amanda Stafford, with His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy and Mrs. Armando Varricchio as the event’s Honorary Diplomatic Chairs. The Centene Charitable Foundation was the Presenting Sponsor.
The elegant evening began at 5 p.m. with arrivals at the Kennedy Center Hall of States followed by a pre-concert reception on the River Plaza. Gala guests proceeded to the Concert Hall for the all-Bernstein program as the Kennedy Center kicks off the nationwide Leonard Bernstein at 100 celebration, featuring world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Tony Award®-winning vocalist Cynthia Erivo.

Maestro Noseda opened the program with the Overture to Bernstein’s satirical operetta, Candide; “Three Meditations” from Mass—which was performed for the Opening of the Kennedy Center in 1971—with Yo-Yo Ma as soloist followed. After brief remarks, Tony Award®-winning vocalist Cynthia Erivo performed “Ain’t Got No Tears Left,” “Lonely Town,” “Take Care Of This House,” “Somewhere,” and “A Little Bit In Love.” The orchestral showpiece, Symphonic Dances from West Side Story, concluded the performance, which was streamed live for free worldwide viewing on medici.tv and the NSO’s Facebook page, as well as at the Kennedy Center’s website. The performance will be available for free on-demand viewing on medici.tv for an additional 90 days.

National Symphony Orchestra Season Opening Gala event design was inspired by summer nights on Italy’s Venetian canals. Guests were transported into Maestro Noseda’s native Italy with a mixture of blue hues, mixed metals, aerial performances, and over 400 individually strung Edison bulbs suspended over guests as they dined. While guests dined, the gravity defying Quixotic, out of Kansas City, entertained guests with aerial performances and video mapping projections.

The Italian Carnevale-themed post-concert dinner and reception featured an Italian menu inspired by Emmy Award®-winning television host, bestselling author, and Eataly co-creator Lidia Bastianich, designed and prepared by Restaurant Associates Executive Chef Joseph Gurner and Pastry Chef Kendra Stephens. The meal began with an antipasti course of four bites: Rosemary Focaccia with Whipped Sheep’s Milk Ricotta, Lemon and Black Pepper; Prosciutto di Parma, Compressed Melon, Basil, and Aged Balsamic; Panzanella Salad with Late Summer Tomatoes, Sourdough, Shallots, and Basil; and Marinated Sweet Pepper with Aged Provolone
and Oregano. The main course was 100 Layer Lasagna, with Butternut Squash, Kale Pesto, Béchamel, and San Marzano Tomatoes; closing the meal was a variety of engaging and interactive Italian coffee, dessert, and wine tasting stations.

VIPs in attendance included Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein; Kennedy Center president Deborah F. Rutter; Kennedy Center Board members Adrienne Arsht and Elaine Wynn; NSO music director Gianandrea Noseda and his wife Lucia; NSO Executive Director Gary Ginstling and his wife Marta Lederer; NSO Board Chair Jeanne Weaver Ruesch; Kennedy Center Artistic Advisors at Large Yo-Yo Ma (cello) and Renée Fleming (soprano); Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta; Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats; House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway; Emmy Award®—winning television host, bestselling author, and Eataly co-creator Lidia Bastianich; the Ambassadors of Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, and Jordan; Alan Greenspan and Andrea Mitchell; Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney; Virginia Congresswoman Barbara Comstock; Kennedy Center Board Treasurer and Centene Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Michael Neidorff and his wife Noémi; and event chairs Earl and Amanda Stafford.

A portion of the concert was recorded by Classical WETA, the NSO’s long-time radio partner, for broadcast in a special airing of NSO Showcase on Wednesday, September 27, at 11 a.m. This broadcast marks the start of the tenth consecutive season of NSO Showcase, the monthly WETA-produced series that features previously recorded NSO concert performances. The series airs locally on the first Wednesday of every month at 9 p.m. at 90.9 FM, and is streamed online at [Classical WETA](http://www.classicalweta.org) for listeners around the globe.
ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA
Gianandrea Noseda, 53, 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 a four-year term beginning in the fall of 2017 for the 2017–2018 season. Noseda joins a distinguished list of conductors who have led the NSO since its founding in 1931: Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Antal Dorati, Howard Mitchell, and Hans Kindler.

Noseda has served as Music Director of the Teatro Regio Torino since 2007, ushering in a transformative era for the company matched with international acclaim for its productions, tours, recordings, and film projects. His visionary leadership and ambitious global touring initiatives over the last decade have brought the opera house firmly into the realm of the leading international companies on the global stage, where it has become one of Italy’s most important cultural ambassadors. Noseda took the Teatro Regio Torino on two major residencies recently: at the Edinburgh Festival in August 2017 which focused on Verdi with the Messa di Requiem and performances of two fully staged operas and at the Royal Opera House of Muscat, Oman with a production of Aida; the critically acclaimed Edinburgh residency was the longest by a visiting opera company in the Festival’s 70 year history.

Noseda also serves as 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 in Italy.

In addition to eight weeks with the NSO, highlights of Noseda’s 2017–2018 season include appearances with the Israel Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Orchestre de Paris, and a tour of the Far East with the London Symphony Orchestra, in addition to concerts in London. In May 2018, he leads the Met Orchestra at Carnegie Hall for the first time.

Noseda is a frequent guest with the leading opera houses and orchestras in the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, La Scala, Munich Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Opera House, Wiener Symphoniker and Zurich Opera. He made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in 2015 and at the Salzburg Festival in 2015 leading the Vienna Philharmonic with performances of Il trovatore.

Noseda also continues to work with institutions where he previously held posts, including the BBC Philharmonic, which he led from 2002–2011; the Pittsburgh Symphony, where the Victor de Sabata Chair was created for him as principal guest conductor; and the Mariinsky Theatre, which appointed him its first-ever foreign principal guest conductor in 1997, a position he held for a decade. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 1999–2003 and the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI from 2003 to 2006.

Gianandrea Noseda has a cherished relationship with the Metropolitan Opera dating back to 2002. In the 2016–2017 season he conducted a new production of Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette, which received its premiere at the New Year’s Eve Gala; he also led a critically acclaimed new production of Les pêcheurs de perles which premiered at the New Year’s Eve Gala in 2015. His widely praised 2013–2014 season interpretation of Prince Igor, for which he and director Dmitri Tcherniakov fashioned a new version, is available on DVD from Deutsche Grammophon.
Noseda’s intense recording activity counts more than 50 CDs, many of which have been celebrated by critics and received awards. His Musica Italiana project, which he initiated more than 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 Rolando Villazon, Anna Netrebko, and Diana Damrau.

Noseda is dedicated to the next generation of artists with his masterclasses and work with and touring of youth orchestras, including the European Union Youth Orchestra.

A native of Milan, 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. In December 2016 he was privileged to conduct the Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm.

ABOUT YO-YO MA

ABOUT CYNTHIA ERIVO

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The 2017–2018 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra’s 87th season, and Gianandrea Noseda’s first as its music director. The Italian conductor serves as the Orchestra’s seventh music director, joining the NSO’s legacy of such distinguished leaders as Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Antal Dorati, Howard Mitchell, and Hans Kindler. Its artistic leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds.

Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has always 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 96-member NSO regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including official holiday celebrations through its regularly televised appearances for Capitol Concerts, and local radio broadcasts on Classical WETA 90.9FM, making the NSO one of the most-heard orchestras in the country.

The Orchestra performs approximately 150 concerts each year, including classical and popular concerts at the Kennedy Center, at Wolf Trap in the summer, and on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol; chamber music performances in the Terrace Theater, on the Millennium Stage, and at theaters around D.C. It has a distinguished history of touring, and an extensive education program, with a range of offerings for families and children ages three and up.

Additionally, the NSO’s community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood, which comprises a week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other neighborhood venues, and Sound Health, a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its
affiliated organizations. Career development opportunities for young musicians include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its acclaimed Summer Music Institute.

**FUNDING CREDITS**

The Centene Charitable Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of the NSO Season Opening Gala.

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

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

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).

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](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix)

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