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CRISTIAN MĂCELARU LEADS NSO IN FIRST SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS OF 2017–2018 SEASON WITH ORGAN SOLOIST CAMERON CARPENTER

Kennedy Center’s Leonard Bernstein At 100 Celebration Continues

September 28–30, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Guest conductor Cristian Măcelaru returns to the National Symphony Orchestra to lead a program that includes the work of three American composers, one of which features organist Cameron Carpenter as soloist. Two performances—Thursday, September 28 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, September 30 at 8 p.m.—at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall include John Adams’s Short Ride in a Fast Machine; Aaron Copland’s Symphony for Organ and Orchestra and Appalachian Spring Suite; as well as Leonard Bernstein’s Divertimento.

The international celebrations of Bernstein’s centennial begin at the Kennedy Center the week prior, with Bernstein on Broadway on September 22 and the NSO’s all-Bernstein gala on September 24, and continue with this program.

John Adams’s Short Ride in a Fast Machine opens the program, in honor of the composer’s 70th birthday. Composed in 1986, Short Ride in a Fast Machine is one of Adams’s most frequently performed works.

Two works by Aaron Copland follow: Symphony for Organ and Orchestra and Appalachian Spring Suite. The organ concerto, which features Cameron Carpenter as soloist, was composed in 1924, and reflects the French influence from Copland’s
period of study in Paris during the 1920s. The latter composition pays homage to his American roots, most notably through his usage of the American Shaker melody, *Simple Gifts*. Bernstein’s *Divertimento* closes the all-American program.

**ABOUT LEONARD BERNSTEIN AT 100**
Born on August 25, 1918, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Leonard Bernstein became a towering figure of 20th-century music and culture. Bernstein was world-renowned as the composer of *West Side Story*, *Candide*, and *On the Town*, among numerous stage and orchestral works; as the celebrated music director of the New York Philharmonic and other leading orchestras, with whom he created a trove of acclaimed recordings; as an educator whose televised Young People’s Concerts with the New York Philharmonic created more than one generation of music lovers; and as a lifelong humanitarian who spoke out whenever he witnessed injustice.

“Leonard Bernstein at 100” is a year of local, national, and worldwide events that pay tribute to this iconic artist whose influence and impact on arts and culture in the U.S. and around the world have transcended both genres and generations. Throughout the centennial celebration, which begins at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., performances of theater, classical, jazz, choral works, dance, and education events will explore and celebrate the many facets of Leonard Bernstein as musician, composer, educator, and humanitarian.

While truly a citizen artist to the world, Washington, D.C. was one of Leonard Bernstein’s creative homes. Bernstein frequented the Kennedy White House, regularly composed for and conducted Washington ensembles and at area venues, served as emcee for the fundraiser for the National Performing Arts Center (later named the Kennedy Center) and premiered lasting and notable works such as *Mass*—at the opening of the Center—and *West Side Story* here in the nation’s capital.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 7 p.m.**
**Saturday, September 30, 2017, at 8 p.m.**
National Symphony Orchestra
Cristian Măcelaru, conductor
Cameron Carpenter, organ

ADAMS  
*Short Ride in a Fast Machine*

COPLAND  
Symphony for Organ and Orchestra  
*Appalachian Spring Suite*

BERNSTEIN  
*Divertimento*

Tickets: $15–$89.

Free to all ticketholders, an *Afterwords* conversation with the artists takes place immediately following the September 28 performance. A *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performance on September 30.
ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The 2017–2018 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra’s 87th season, and Gianandrea Noseda’s first as 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.

For more information, visit nationalsymphony.org.

ABOUT CRISTIAN MĂCELARU

Newly appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Cristian Măcelaru has established himself as one of the fast-rising stars of the conducting world. With every concert he displays an exciting and highly regarded presence, thoughtful interpretations and energetic conviction on the podium. Măcelaru came to public attention in February 2012 when he conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a replacement for Pierre Boulez in performances met with critical acclaim. As conductor-in-Residence of the Philadelphia Orchestra, he made his Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut in April 2013 and continues to appear annually on subscription programs and other special concerts. In September 2016, he was announced as Music Director of Cabrillo Festival, America’s longest running festival dedicated to new music for orchestra, succeeding Marin Alsop. Măcelaru led his inaugural season as Cabrillo Festival Music Director in August 2017.

Winner of the 2014 Solti Conducting Award, Măcelaru also received the Sir Georg Solti Emerging Conductor Award in 2012. He has participated in the conducting programs of the Tanglewood Music Center and the Aspen Music Festival, studying under David Zinman, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Oliver Knussen, and Stefan Asbury. His main studies were with Larry Rachleff at Rice University, where he received master’s degrees in conducting and
violin performance. He completed undergraduate studies in violin performance at the University of Miami.

Măcelaru formerly held the position of Resident Conductor at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he was Music Director of the Campanile Orchestra, Assistant Conductor to Larry Rachieleff, and Conductor for the Opera Department. A proponent of music education, he has served as a conductor with the Houston Youth Symphony, where he also conceptualized and created a successful chamber music program. As Founder and Artistic Director of the Crisalis Music Project, Măcelaru spearheaded a program in which young musicians perform in a variety of settings, side-by-side with established artists. Their groundbreaking inaugural season produced and presented concerts featuring chamber ensembles, a chamber orchestra, a tango operetta, and collaborations with dancer Susana Collins, which resulted in a choreographed performance of Vivaldi/Piazzolla's Eight Seasons.

Cristian Măcelaru resides in Philadelphia with his wife Cheryl and children Beniamin and Maria.

ABOUT CAMERON CARPENTER
Cameron Carpenter is having a ball smashing the stereotypes of organists and organ music, and all the while generating international acclaim and controversy unprecedented in his field. Carpenter’s repertoire—from the complete works of J. S. Bach to film scores, to his original compositions and hundreds of transcriptions and arrangements—is probably the largest and most diverse of any organist. He is the first “concert organist” in history to prefer the digital organ to the pipe organ, and to champion it as the future of the instrument. In 2014, Cameron launched his International Touring Organ—a monumental cross-genre digital organ built by Marshall & Ogletree to his own design—in extensive tours in Europe and the USA. His Sony Music debut album If You Could Read My Mind entered Billboard’s Traditional Classical chart at No. 1 on its U.S. release. A former child prodigy, Carpenter trained at the American Boychoir School, the North Carolina School of the Arts, and has two degrees from The Juilliard School. He holds the 2012 Leonard Bernstein Award, is the first solo organist ever nominated for a Grammy Award® for a solo album, and has appeared with many of the great orchestras around the world; he has spoken and debated at think tanks and conferences including TED, IdeaCity, The Entertainment Gathering, and many more. For more information please visit cameroncarpenter.com

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 inquires, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

FUNDING CREDITS
David and Alice Rubenstein are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO and have made The Rubenstein Family Organ possible through their extraordinary generosity.

For more information about the NSO, visit 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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