Press Release

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NATHALIE STUTZMANN LEADS NSO AND VIOLIN SOLOIST ARABELLA STEINBACHER

October 5–7, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Guest conductor Nathalie Stutzmann returns to the National Symphony Orchestra podium to lead her first subscription programs, which include works by three 19th-century masters. Three performances—Thursday, October 6 at 7 p.m.; Friday, October 6 at 11:30 a.m.; and Saturday, October 7 at 8 p.m.—at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall include Édouard Lalo’s Overture to Le roi d’Ys; Johannes Brahms’s Violin Concerto; and Antonin Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7. Violinist Arabella Steinbacher is the featured soloist in Brahms’s Violin Concerto.

Stutzmann, a well-known contralto who has appeared with the NSO as soloist—including this past season in Mahler’s Second Symphony—makes her NSO subscription debut as a conductor in these performances. She previously led the Orchestra in performances of Handel’s Messiah in December 2015.

Stutzmann opens the program with a tribute to her native France, conducting Édouard Lalo’s Overture to Le roi d’Ys (The King of Ys). Acclaimed violinist Arabella Steinbacher joins the NSO as a soloist in Brahms’s Violin Concerto, a staple of the repertoire and favorite of audiences the world over.

Antonin Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7 closes the program. After a five-year hiatus from composing, the Czech composer returned to the symphonic form with a work that balanced classical tradition, while embracing the romantic energy of his own century. All three of these works on the program, composed within 10 years of one
another, paint a vivid picture of the varied styles of composition in the late 19th century.

PROGRAM DETAILS

**Thursday, October 5, 2017, at 7 p.m.**
**Friday, October 6, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.** (first Coffee Concert of the season)
**Saturday, October 7, 2017, at 8 p.m.**

National Symphony Orchestra
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Arabella Steinbacher, violin

LALO Overture to *Le roi d’Ys*
BRAHMS Violin Concerto in D Major
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7 in D minor

Tickets: $15–$89.

Free to all ticketholders, an *Afterwords* conversation with the artists takes place immediately following the October 5 performance. A *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performance on October 7.

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.

For more information, visit nationalsymphony.org.

ABOUT NATALIE STUTZMANN
Natalie Stutzmann is considered one of the most outstanding musical personalities of our time, with parallel careers as both Contralto and Conductor. Her charismatic musicianship, the unique combination of rigor and fantasy which characterizes her style have been recognized by her peers, audience and critics alike. In 2015 Nathalie Stutzmann was announced as Associate Artist of the Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra. Beginning at the start of the 2016–2017 season, the three-year collaboration is multi-dimensional, with a focus on conducting projects. Stutzmann is also Associate Artist of the Orchestre National de Bordeaux for the 2016-2017 season, and has just been announced as Principal Guest Conductor of RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, starting September 2017.

Recent highlights include conducting débuts with London Philharmonic Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra (Messiah), and Spanish National Orchestra, and return visits to the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Oviedo Filarmonia, RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic. She conducted Tannhäuser at Monte-Carlo Opera, following her 2014 success with L’elisir d’amore. Projects with Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra included performances of Mozart’s Mass in C minor and Schumann’s Piano Concerto with Khatia Buniatishvili. Stutzmann’s conducting career is also flourishing in Japan. In 2015 she made her highly successful debut with the New Japan Philharmonic at Suntory Hall, Tokyo.

Stutzmann studied conducting with the legendary Finnish teacher Jorma Panula and was mentored by Seiji Ozawa and Simon Rattle. She founded her own chamber orchestra, Orfeo 55, in 2009. The orchestra’s permanent home is at the Arsenal in Metz, France, where Stutzmann is Artist in Residence. She received the ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite’ honour from the French State and in Spring 2015 she was appointed an Officer of the prestigious “Arts et Lettres” in France.

Stutzmann has an exclusive contract with Warner Classics/Erato as both singer and conductor. Her most recent recording at the helm of Orfeo 55 Heroes from the Shadows, was released in 2014 to critical acclaim. Other recent releases include Prima Donna for DG, and Une Cantate Imaginaire, a highly-praised cornucopia of some of Bach’s vocal and orchestral music, both recorded with Orfeo.

ABOUT ARABELLA STEINBACHER
Internationally honored violinist Arabella Steinbacher is known as one of today’s leading violinists. She made her debut 2004 with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France under Sir Neville Marriner in Paris. Defined by a diverse repertoire, she plays not only all major classical and romantic violin concertos but also those of Bartók, Berg, Glazunov, Katchaturian, Milhaud, Prokofiev, Schnittke. Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Szymanowski, Hindemith, and Hartmann, to name a few.

In Germany, Steinbacher frequently plays with almost every leading orchestra, as well as such distinguished conductors as Christoph von Dohnányi, Riccardo Chailly, Herbert
Blomstedt, Christoph Eschenbach, Charles Dutoit, Marek Janowski, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Thomas Hengelbrock.

She appears regularly with the leading international orchestras of the world including New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., San Francisco Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Sao Paulo Symphony, Orchestra National de France, Orchestre de Paris, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and NHK Symphony Orchestra. Her debuts at the Salzburger Festspiele, at the Proms in London at Royal Albert Hall, and at New York’s Carnegie Hall have been praised by international press.

Arabella Steinbacher’s latest album, *Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky – Violin Concertos* with Orchestre Philharmonique de la Suisse Romande and Charles Dutoit was released by the label Pentatone Classics in June 2015. Since starting to record exclusively for Pentatone in 2009, she published a number of albums demonstrating her musical variety. Her numerous recording honors also include “Les Chocs du Mois” from *Le Monde de la Musique* and two German Record Critics Awards. In 2015, she was nominated for the prestigious Editors Choice Award from the *Gramophone* Magazine.

Beginning to study violin at the age of three, Steinbacher became the youngest violin student of Ana Chumachenko at the Munich Academy of Music, with whom she studied for nine years. Ivry Gitlis is a source of musical inspiration and guidance to her. She currently plays the ‘Booth’ Stradivari from 1716 generously loaned by the Nippon Music Foundation.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets ($15–$89) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](http://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.

The Blue Series is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation.

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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