FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR LEONARD SLATKIN RETURNS
TO LEAD NSO AND MEMBERS OF
WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA’S
DOMINGO-CAFritz YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

Kennedy Center’s Leonard Bernstein At 100
Celebration Continues

November 2-4, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Former music director Leonard Slatkin returns to the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) podium to lead a program that continues the Kennedy Center’s Leonard Bernstein at 100 celebration, featuring members of the Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. Two performances—Thursday, November 2, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 4, at 8 p.m.—at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall include Leonard Bernstein’s Slava! A Political Overture; Bernstein’s Songfest; and Igor Stravinsky’s Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring).

A DECLASSIFIED program on Friday, November 3, at 9 p.m., features The Rite of Spring, along with pre- and post-concert events.

Slava! A Political Overture opens the program, a piece Leonard Bernstein dedicated to and wrote for Mstislav Rostropovich to conduct on the occasion of his own first concerts as Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra in 1977.
Bernstein’s *Songfest* was commissioned by the NSO and Bernstein himself conducted the premiere and its recording, nearly 40 years ago to the date. The song cycle attaches music to the words of poets and writers including Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, and Edgar Allen Poe. Current and former members of the Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program—Raquel González and Leah Hawkins, sopranos; Daryl Freedman, mezzo-soprano; Frederick Ballentine, tenor; Christopher Kenney, baritone; and Hunter Enoch, bass-baritone—are soloists.

Slatkin closes the program with a piece that Bernstein loved to conduct. Stravinsky’s powerful and unpredictable *The Rite of Spring* not only sent the audience in the Parisian theater where it premiered into chaos and revolt, but it also changed the landscape of contemporary music and composition.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2017, at 8:00 p.m.**

National Symphony Orchestra  
Leonard Slatkin, conductor  
Members of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program:  
Raquel González, soprano I  
Leah Hawkins, soprano II  
Daryl Freedman, mezzo-soprano  
Frederick Ballentine, tenor  
Christopher Kenney, baritone  
Hunter Enoch, bass-baritone

**BERNSTEIN**  
Slava! A Political Overture  
Songfest

**STRAVINSKY**  
*Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)*

Tickets: $15–$89.

**Friday, November 3, 2017, at 9 p.m.**

National Symphony Orchestra  
Leonard Slatkin, conductor

Program to include:  
**STRAVINSKY**  
*Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)*

Tickets: $39.
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 LEONARD SLATKIN
Internationally acclaimed conductor Leonard Slatkin is Music Director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and the Orchestre National de Lyon (ONL). He also maintains a rigorous schedule of guest conducting throughout the world and is active as a composer, author, and educator.

Slatkin’s more than 100 recordings have garnered seven Grammy Awards® and 64 nominations. His recent Naxos recordings include works by Saint-Saëns, Ravel, and Berlioz (with the ONL) and music by Copland, Rachmaninov, Borzova, McTee, and John Williams (with the DSO). In addition, he has recorded the complete Beethoven and Tchaikovsky symphonies with the DSO (available online as digital downloads) and conducted the London Symphony Orchestra in music for a CD featuring violinist Anne Akiko Meyers.

A recipient of the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the United States government, Slatkin also holds the rank of Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor. Moreover, he has received Austria’s Decoration of Honor in Silver, the League of American Orchestras’ Gold Baton Award, and the 2013 ASCAP Deems Taylor Special Recognition Award for his book, Conducting Business. He holds honorary doctorates from many institutions, including The Juilliard School, Michigan State University, Indiana University, the University of Rochester, the University of Maryland-College Park,
George Washington University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Slatkin has held posts as Music Director of the New Orleans Symphony, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC, and he was Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London. He has served as Principal Guest Conductor of London’s Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Philharmonia Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Minnesota Orchestra in Minneapolis, where he founded their annual Sommerfest. Furthermore, he has held titled conducting positions with the Blossom Music Center, and both the Grant Park and Great Woods music festivals.

Founder and former director of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and National Conducting Institute in Washington, DC, Slatkin remains a passionate music educator. He has conducted and taught at such institutions as the Manhattan School of Music, The Juilliard School, the Aspen Music School, the Jacobs School at Indiana University, the National Orchestral Institute, the Music Academy of the West, and the New World Symphony.

Born in Los Angeles to a distinguished musical family, he is the son of violinist-conductor Felix Slatkin and cellist Eleanor Aller, founding members of the famed Hollywood String Quartet. He began his musical training on the violin and first studied conducting with his father, followed by Walter Susskind at Aspen and Jean Morel at Juilliard. He is the father of one son, Daniel, and makes his permanent home in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, with his wife, composer Cindy McTee.

**ABOUT THE DOMINGO-CAFRITZ YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM**

Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program is a leading resident-training program for artists on the verge of international careers. Founded in 2002 by Plácido Domingo, the program offers exceptionally promising young singers and coach/accompanists two years of intensive training, study, and career guidance with a team of world-renowned master teachers and coaches which includes Diana Soviero, William Stone, Alan Held, Kathleen Kelly, John Churchwell, Nick Olcott, and Jay Lesenger, among others.

Members of the program are featured prominently in performances at the Kennedy Center and throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. They are cast in principal and comprimario roles, given cover assignments, and perform an annual showcase with full orchestra in the Opera House. They are actively involved in WNO’s American Opera Initiative, where they have the opportunity to workshop and premiere newly composed operatic works. Young Artists also perform frequently in other landmark venues around D.C., including the Smithsonian Institution and various embassies, as well as with the National Symphony Orchestra.

The Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program is dedicated to cultivating successful careers in opera. Graduates of the program have gone on to perform at the world’s leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Bayreuth Festival, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Berlin State Opera, LA Opera, New York City Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Opéra de Monte-Carlo, The Glimmerglass Festival, and Santa Fe Opera, among others. Additionally, WNO actively seeks to provide former young artists with the opportunity to return to the company in principal and featured roles upon completion of the program.
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
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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

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