

Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
November 21, 2017

**TALENT ADDED TO  
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S  
ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE OF  
*HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A SOULFUL CELEBRATION***

**Scheduled to Perform: BeBe Winans, CeCe Winans, Take 6,  
The Legendary Clark Sisters, Chanté Moore,  
Deitrick Haddon, Billy Porter, Kelly Price,  
Sheléa, Janice Chandler-Eteme, Nnenna Freelon,  
and the Steven Ford Singers**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 8 p.m.  
Tickets Available Now**

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Grammy® and Dove award-winning gospel album that reinterpreted Handel's famous oratorio with a special one-night-only performance of [Handel's \*Messiah: A Soulful Celebration\*](#). The December 20 concert is produced by **Mervyn Warren**—one of the executive producers of the 1992 album—and features an all-star roster of guest artists including BeBe Winans, CeCe Winans, Take 6, The Legendary Clark Sisters, Chanté Moore, Deitrick Haddon, Billy Porter, Kelly Price, Sheléa, Janice Chandler-Eteme, Nnenna Freelon, the Steven Ford Singers, and others to be announced.

With reimagined music from Handel’s original oratorio interspersed with new music inspired by spirituals, blues, ragtime and Hip Hop, this concert features nine selections from the original 1992 recording, as well as three new works composed by Mervyn Warren specifically for this occasion. This performance—on Wednesday, December 20 in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall—marks the first-ever live performance of this album.

### **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](http://nationalsymphony.org).

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets (\$29-\$149) 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 inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

## **FUNDING CREDITS**

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

AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the NSO Pops Season.

The Mark and Brenda Moore Family Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of *Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration*.

Major support is provided by Earl W. and Amanda Stafford.

**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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