MUSIC DIRECTOR GIANANDREA NOSEDA RETURNS TO LEAD NSO IN MAJOR WORKS FOR ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS BY ADAMS AND VERDI IN MARCH

NSO Featured in John Adams’s The Gospel According to the Other Mary, Part of Kennedy Center’s DIRECT CURRENT Celebration of Contemporary Culture

Noseda to Work with Young Musicians from American Youth Philharmonic

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Gianandrea Noseda returns to Washington in March for three weeks of subscription concerts with the NSO at the Kennedy Center, featuring two major works for orchestra, chorus, and vocal soloists: John Adams’s The Gospel According to the Other Mary and Verdi’s Requiem.

The NSO concerts on March 8 and 10 mark the Orchestra’s first-ever performances of John Adams’s critically-acclaimed oratorio, The Gospel According to the Other Mary, which is performed in honor of the composer’s 70th birthday this year, and as part of DIRECT CURRENT, the Kennedy Center’s two-week focus on contemporary music and art. Vocal soloists include mezzo-soprano Kelley O’Connor; as well as mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, tenor Zach Borichevsky, and countertenors Daniel Bubeck, Brian Cummings, and Nathan Medley, all in their NSO debuts; and the University of Maryland Concert Choir, Edward Maclary, director. The Pulitzer

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Prize-nominated oratorio received its premiere in 2012, when Mumford, O’Connor, Bubeck, Cummings, and Medley originated their roles in the piece.

Noseda, who leads this work for the first time, remarked, “I am always intrigued by new music and learning a new work because the process revitalizes my artistic approach and keeps it very fresh. Leading an American orchestra has now given me the chance to program this important work by one of the great American composers of our time. The ultimate experience for me as a conductor and musician is working on a large scale piece like this which involves chorus, vocal soloists, and orchestral forces.”

The March 8 performance is followed by AfterWords, a post concert Q&A with the artists, free to all ticketholders. The March 10 performance is preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a special panel discussion, “The Ministry of Mary Magdalene,” which will investigate some of the themes underpinning the oratorio and the ways they resonate today. Featured participants are composer John Adams; Sister Helen Prejean, the influential death penalty abolitionist whose book *Dead Man Walking* inspired both the film and opera; Yolanda Pierce, Dean of the Howard University Divinity School; and Susan Timoney, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, Archdiocese of Washington. The panel is moderated by Sherry Davis Molock, Associate Professor of Psychology and the Director of Clinical Training at The George Washington University.

Noseda and the NSO’s **March 15, 17, and 18** program features acclaimed pianist Yefim Bronfman as soloist in Brahms’s Piano Concerto No. 2; and also features several works inspired by dances: Brahms’s Hungarian Dances Nos. 1, 17, 10, 20, and 21; Kodály’s Dances of Galánta; Dvořák’s Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, Nos. 2 and 3; and Strauss’s Salome’s Dance.

A work with personal significance for Noseda is Verdi’s *Requiem*, of which he leads the NSO in three performances, **March 22, 23, and 24**. The stellar cast of vocal soloists—three of whom come directly from the Washington National Opera’s
production of Verdi’s *Don Carlo*—join the NSO: soprano Leah Crocetto, mezzo-soprano Veronica Simeoni, tenor Russell Thomas, and bass-baritone Eric Owens. The Choral Arts Society of Washington (Scott Tucker, artistic director) and the Washington Chorus also participate. *The Guardian* (London) called Noseda’s 2016 performances of Verdi’s *Requiem* with the London Symphony Orchestra “electric from start to finish” and “Thrilling, all of it,” while the *New York Times* called it “vividly rendered.”

In addition to his subscription programs during this period, Noseda also will lead a side-by-side rehearsal for musicians of the American Youth Philharmonic (AYP) and the NSO on March 13, providing a unique opportunity for these talented young artists. AYP musicians will sit next to NSO musicians on the Concert Hall stage and rehearse a work that they have been preparing, learning from both Noseda on the podium, and their NSO section mentors, as well.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 8 p.m.**

National Symphony Orchestra  
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor  
Kelley O’Connor, mezzo-soprano  
Tamara Mumford, mezzo-soprano  
Zach Borichevsky, tenor  
Daniel Bubeck, countertenor  
Brian Cummings, countertenor  
Nathan Medley, countertenor  
University of Maryland Concert Choir, Edward Maclary, director

J. Adams  
*The Gospel According to the Other Mary*

AfterWords post concert discussion takes place after the March 8 performance.

ForeWords panel discussion takes place prior to the March 10 performance, at 6:30 p.m.

Panelists:  
John Adams, composer  
Dr. Sherry Davis Molock, Associate Professor and the Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology at The George Washington University in Washington, DC.  
Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce, Dean, Howard University School of Divinity  
Sister Helen Prejean, author, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*
Susan Timoney, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, Archdiocese of Washington

Part of DIRECT CURRENT

Tickets: $15-89.

Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 17, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 3 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2
BRAHMS Selected Hungarian Dances
KODÁLY Dances of Galánta
DVOŘÁK Selected Slavonic Dances
R. STRAUSS Salome's Dance

Tickets: $15-89.

Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 7 p.m.
Friday, March 23, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
Leah Crocetto, soprano
Veronica Simeoni, mezzo-soprano
Russell Thomas, tenor
Eric Owens, bass-baritone
The Choral Arts Society of Washington, Scott Tucker, artistic director
The Washington Chorus, Christopher Bell, artistic director

VERDI Requiem

Tickets: $15-89.

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 YEFIM BRONFMAN
ABOUT KELLEY O’CONNOR
ABOUT TAMARA MUMFORD
ABOUT ZACH BORICHEVSKY
ABOUT DANIEL BUBECK
ABOUT BRIAN CUMMINGS
ABOUT NATHAN MEDLEY
ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CONCERT CHOIR
ABOUT LEAH CROCETTO
ABOUT VERONICA SIMEONI
ABOUT RUSSELL THOMAS
ABOUT ERIC OWENS
ABOUT THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
ABOUT THE WASHINGTON CHORUS, CHRISTOPHER BELL

ABOUT DIRECT CURRENT
Modern masterpieces, cutting-edge composition, dance, drag, film, jazz, Hip Hop, video games, and electronica all converge in DIRECT CURRENT, the Kennedy Center’s two-week celebration of contemporary culture. From interdisciplinary creations in which artistic worlds collide to innovative responses to topical concerns, this immersive music-driven experience showcases some of the most potent, provocative, and original voices in American arts today.

In this inaugural season of DIRECT CURRENT, culture mavens and the culturally curious will witness, act, and interact as artistic risk-takers use their art to spark introspection, conversation, and action. This current of creativity spreads throughout the city, with events at The Phillips Collection, Dupont Underground, and the 9:30 Club as well as the Kennedy Center. With many free events, workshops, and talk-backs, DIRECT CURRENT invites you to plug in and electrify your mind.

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 Capital 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**

**David M. Rubenstein** is the Presenting Underwriter of the NSO.

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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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