MUSIC DIRECTOR GIANANDREA NOSEDA RETURNS FOR FINAL NSO APPEARANCES THIS SEASON; VIOLINIST JAMES EHNES IS SOLOIST

May 17 at 7 p.m. and May 19 at 8 p.m.
DECLASSIFIED, May 18 at 9 p.m.

May 19 Concert to be Streamed Live on medici.tv

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Gianandrea Noseda returns to the NSO podium in May for his final appearances of the season to lead the Orchestra in three performances with violinist James Ehnes—on Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 19 at 8 p.m., as well as on Friday, May 18 at 9 p.m., in a DECLASSIFIED program—all in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

The May 19 concert—which concludes Noseda’s eight weeks of concerts in his first season as music director of the NSO—will be livestreamed for free, worldwide viewing at medici.tv and the NSO’s Facebook page, as well as at the Kennedy Center’s website. The performance will be available for free on-demand viewing on medici.tv for an additional 90 days following the livestream. This livestream is part of an ongoing partnership between the NSO and medici.tv, which continues next season.

All three programs include music by, and music influenced by, J. S. Bach. The May 17 and 19 concerts open with Berio’s completion of Bach’s unfinished Contrapunctus XIX, and include Berg’s Violin Concerto, featuring James Ehnes as soloist, and Brahms’s Symphony No. 4.
NSO Music Director Gianandrea Noseda notes, “The thread connecting each of these three works is Johann Sebastian Bach, though he did not live to see a single one performed. Berio’s Contrapunctus XIX, one of his last finished pieces, was a continuation of the unfinished contrapunctus from the end of Bach’s The Art of the Fugue. Berg’s Violin Concerto, a moving memorial to his friend’s young daughter, finishes with variations on Bach’s chorale “Ich habe genug” (“I have enough”). As for Brahms, the final movement of this Fourth Symphony employs the Baroque passacaglia form, specifically from one of Bach’s cantatas. Since I began our season together with a passacaglia, I believe this offers a fitting ending.”

The May 18 program, part of the NSO’s DECLASSIFIED series, features Noseda leading the NSO, with a guest appearance by Ehnes. DECLASSIFIED is a shorter, more casual concert without intermission, designed to defy stereotypes of the traditional concert format and appeal to a broad range of audiences. Pre- and post-concert gatherings are also scheduled for a more relaxed concert-going experience.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 7 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 19, 2018, at 8 p.m.**
National Symphony Orchestra  
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor  
James Ehnes, violin

J.S BACH/BERIO  
Contrapunctus XIX  
BERG  
Violin Concerto  
BRAHMS  
Symphony No. 4

A free AfterWords post-concert discussion with the artists, moderated by NSO Director of Artistic Planning Nigel Boon, takes place immediately following the May 17 performance.

**Friday, May 18, 2018, at 9 p.m.**
National Symphony Orchestra  
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor  
James Ehnes, violin

DECLASSIFIED
Featuring pre-and post concert events

J.S. BACH Toccata and Fugue BWV 565
J.S. BACH/Berio Contrapunctus XIX
J.S. BACH Chaconne–fifth movement from Partita No.2 BWV 1004
J.S. BACH/Respighi Prelude and Fugue in D major BWV 532
BERG Violin Concerto–Adagio section from second movement
MARCELLO/J.S. Bach Adagio from Oboe Concerto in D minor
BRAHMS Symphony No. 4, fourth movement

ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA

Gianandrea Noseda 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 and began his tenure in September 2017 with the season opening night gala.

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. He 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 leading eight weeks of concerts with the NSO, highlights of Noseda’s 2017–2018 season include appearances with the Israel Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Orchestre de Paris, a tour of the Far East with the London Symphony Orchestra, and 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.

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 discography includes more than 50 CDs. His Musica Italiana project 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 vocalists such as Rolando Villazon, Anna Netrebko, and Diana Damrau.
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 JAMES EHNES

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.

ABOUT MEDICI.TV
medici.tv is the global leader in classical music video streaming. For nearly 10 years, its exceptional selection of events streamed live and available on-demand has appealed to music lovers, professionals, and institutions throughout the world.

Heralded by The New York Times as “the closest thing to a classical Netflix,” medici.tv brings live classical music to passionate fans worldwide. Since its founding in 2008, it has captured the performances of leading classical artists, ensembles, and orchestras in great concert halls, festivals, and competitions the world over. As the largest online platform for classical music, it offers over 150 live performances throughout the year and the world’s largest VOD catalog of more than 2,000 videos of concerts, ballets, operas, documentaries, master classes, behind-the-scenes footage, and interviews, streamed in High Definition.
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For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit kennedy-center.org.

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