NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES ADDITION OF DISNEY’S THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS FILM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA, PART OF 2018–2019 POPS SEASON

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) announces the addition of Disney’s The Nutcracker and the Four Realms Film with Live Orchestra for its 2018–2019 season of pops programming. Three concerts—Friday and Saturday, November 23 and 24, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, November 25, at 2 p.m.—take place in the Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall. Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke leads the Orchestra. The NSO’s performance of Disney’s The Nutcracker and the Four Realms Film with Live Orchestra coincides with the film’s worldwide theatrical release.

All Clara (Mackenzie Foy) wants is a key—a one-of-a-kind key that will unlock a box that holds a priceless gift from her late mother. A golden thread, presented to her at godfather Drosselmeyer’s (Morgan Freeman) annual holiday party, leads her to the coveted key—which promptly disappears into a strange and mysterious parallel world. It’s there that Clara encounters a soldier named Phillip (Jayden Fowora-Knight), a gang of mice and the regents who preside over three Realms: Land of Snowflakes, Land of Flowers and Land of Sweets. Clara and Phillip must brave the ominous Fourth Realm, home to the tyrant Mother Ginger (Helen Mirren), to retrieve Clara’s key and hopefully return harmony to the unstable world. Starring Keira Knightley as the Sugar Plum Fairy and featuring a special performance by Misty Copeland, Disney’s new holiday feature

The previously announced 2018–2019 Pops season includes other full scores performed live to film. The NSO performs four full scores from four Star Wars films: A New Hope in September, The Empire Strikes Back in October, Return of the Jedi in January, all conducted by Steven Reineke; and The Force Awakens in February, conducted by Emil de Cou.

Other programs in the 2018–2019 Pops season are: Andrew Bird and Gabriel Kahane October 26 and 27, 2018; A Holiday Pops: Under the Mistletoe with Ashley Brown and The Washington Chorus, December 14 and 15, 2018; An Evening with Brandy Norwood, January 25 and 26, 2019; An Evening with Leslie Odom Jr., May 1–3, 2019; and 50 Years Over the Rainbow: A Judy Garland Celebration, June 28 and 29, 2019. All concerts are conducted by Steven Reineke.

Steven Reineke’s boundless enthusiasm and exceptional artistry have made him one of the nation’s most sought-after pops conductors, composers, and arrangers. The 2018–2019 season marks his eighth as Principal Pops Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. In that capacity he has broadened the scope of offerings with the NSO on the Pops series, having led performances of a range of genres and style such as Broadway favorites, jazz, Hip Hop, and film scores. In addition, he has created shows with the NSO for such notable performers as Kendrick Lamar, Common, Nas, and Seth MacFarlane. His work with the NSO has been featured in national broadcasts on PBS for Renée Fleming’s American Voices and most recently with Nas Live from the Kennedy Center: Classical Hip-Hop, as well as live-streamed performance on Tidal with Common, and the first live performance of an orchestra on NPR’s All Things Considered in February 2017.

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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 THE NSO POPS
Great performances featuring the highest levels of artistic talent have been a staple of the NSO’s 87 seasons. Popular offerings have ranged from performances on a barge on the Potomac River, to concerts on the Ellipse, and in National Parks around the greater Washington area. The 2011–2012 season was the first with Steven Reineke as Principal Pops Conductor. NSO popular programming—which ranges in genre from Broadway and American song to jazz and from film scores to Hip Hop to rock ‘n’ roll—take place at the NSO’s principal performance venues: the NSO’s primary home, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall, Wolf Trap, and the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, with a subscription season featuring a variety of musical genres.

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscriptions to all NSO 2018–2019 season series are available now via the Kennedy Center Subscription Office or website. Groups of 20 or more may contact Kennedy Center Group Sales at (202) 416-8400. Dates for sale of individual tickets will be announced later this year on www.kennedy-center.org.
2018–2019 SEASON SCHEDULE

All concerts take place in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at 7 p.m.
Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 7 p.m.
Friday, September 14, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Star Wars: A New Hope

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Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

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Friday, October 26, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 27, 2018, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Andrew Bird with guest Gabriel Kahane
Friday, November 23, 2018, 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 24, 2018, 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 25, 2018, 2 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

Disney’s *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* Film with Live Orchestra

Friday, December 14, 2018, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 15, 2018, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor
The Washington Chorus, Christopher Bell, artistic director

*A Holiday Pops!*
*Under the Mistletoe* with Ashley Brown

The NSO performs comforting classics and singalong carols in this annual tradition! This year features Ashley Brown—originator of the title role in *Mary Poppins* on Broadway—along with The Washington Chorus.

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 8 p.m.
Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

*Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*

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Friday, January 25, 2019, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

*An Evening with Brandy Norwood*

The multi-platinum, Grammy®-winning R&B/pop singer, songwriter, actress, and consummate entertainer performs favorites from her iconic career, following her acclaimed debut as Roxie Hart in the Tony®-winning revival of *Chicago* on Broadway and at the Kennedy Center.
Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 7 p.m.
Friday, February 22, 2019, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 23, 2019, at 2 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Emil de Cou, conductor

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*
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Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 8 p.m.
Friday, May 3, 2019, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

**An Evening with Leslie Odom Jr.**

This multi-faceted performer won the 2016 Tony Award® for Best Actor in a Musical for his role as Aaron Burr in *Hamilton*. His remarkable talents have also taken the spotlight with two solo jazz albums, on NBC’s hit series, *Smash*, and at the 2018 Super Bowl™ where he sang “America the Beautiful.”

Friday June 28, 2019, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 29, 2019, at 8 p.m.
National Symphony Orchestra
Steven Reineke, conductor

**50 Years Over the Rainbow: A Judy Garland Celebration**

Marking half a century since the entertainment world lost one of its greatest treasures, the NSO remembers the immortal music of Judy Garland, star of *The Wizard of Oz, Easter Parade, Meet Me in St. Louis, A Star Is Born*, and countless more.

Programs and artists subject to change.

**FUNDING CREDITS**

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

AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the NSO Pops Season.

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

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