

Press Release

May 1, 2018

**JON BATISTE, KISHI BASHI, AND
JOACHIM HORSLEY ARE FEATURED GUEST ARTISTS
IN NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
DECLASSIFIED CONCERT, JUNE 29**

Tickets Available Now

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds welcome bandleader and composer **Jon Batiste** and singer/songwriter **Kishi Bashi** as the featured guest artists for its **DECLASSIFIED: BEN FOLDS PRESENTS** concert on [Friday, June 29, 2018, at 9 p.m.](#) in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Joining Batiste and Kishi Bashi is composer and pianist **Joachim Horsley**. Jacomo Bairos conducts.

The evening includes pre-and post-concert events. Tickets (\$25–\$75) are on sale now.

In a unique event that can only be heard with the NSO and Ben Folds, the **DECLASSIFIED: BEN FOLDS PRESENTS** series defies the traditional classical music presentation by offering great live music in a casual and relaxed setting, with performances of symphonic music, as well as songs that are newly composed and/or arranged specifically for this event.

“I love the idea of showing that modern pop artists communicate the same way as their classical counterparts, and that the orchestra is just as much of a power ensemble as a laptop, a rock band, or a funk beat,” said Folds. “It’s all the same—great music is great music.”

Jon Batiste has served as the bandleader and musical director for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, alongside his band Stay Human, since September 2015. In addition to appearing nightly on national television, Batiste balances a demanding tour schedule; he often closes performances with his signature, impromptu ‘love riot’ street parades. Currently, he is working on new music for a solo album, to be released later this year.

Kaoru Ishibashi (Kishi Bashi) began his career as a renowned violinist, recording and touring internationally with such diverse artists as Regina Spektor, Sondre Lerche, and most recently, the Athens, Georgia-based indie rock band, of Montreal. Shortly after the debut of his full-length solo album *151a* in 2012, National Public Radio (NPR) Chief Bob Boilen listed Kishi Bashi as his favorite new artist. Since the release of *151a*, Kishi Bashi has generated an impressive online following on Spotify and YouTube, with millions of views and streams of his music. He is also the singer and founding member of the New York electronic rock outfit, Jupiter One.

Composer, arranger, pianist, and orchestrator Joachim Horsley has worked with such renowned artists Michael Bublé, and on projects such as John Legend’s “All of Me” tour, and orchestrating Ben Folds’s Piano Concerto. Working with composer *Anton Sanko*, Horsley orchestrated and conducted the score for the films *Ouija*, *The Possession*, and *Rabbit Hole* (starring *Nicole Kidman* and *Aaron Eckhart*), as well as the TV series *Great Migrations*, which aired on the National Geographic Channel and won a News and Documentary Emmy Award® for music and sound.

Throughout the performance, Folds serves as host, occasionally sitting in with the Orchestra and the featured guests, who each perform several songs.

The first DECLASSIFIED: BEN FOLDS PRESENTS concert that Folds curated took place in June 2017, and featured rock artist, producer, and composer Blake Mills, along with [up-and-coming Cuban rap artist Danay Suarez](#). The most recent DECLASSIFIED, in January 2018, featured [multi Grammy^{\(R\)} and Tony^{\(R\)}-nominated](#)

[vocalist and composer Sara Bareilles and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and singer Caroline Shaw.](#)

[ABOUT BEN FOLDS](#)

[ABOUT JON BATISTE](#)

[ABOUT KISHI BASHI](#)

[ABOUT JOACHIM HORSLEY](#)

[ABOUT JACOMO BAIROS](#)

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 Doráti, 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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets (\$25-\$75) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](https://www.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.

For more information about the NSO, visit [nationalsymphony.org](https://www.nationalsymphony.org).

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit [kennedy-center.org](https://www.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](https://www.kennedy-center.org/mytix)



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