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® and Tony®-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, and via phone through Instant Charge, (202) 467-4700; toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquires, 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.

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit 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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