

Press Release

May 10, 2018

**FIVE NSO MUSICIANS, WITH COMBINED TENURE
OF 183 YEARS, RETIRE THIS SEASON**

Maestro Noseda Honors Them at May 17 Performance

(WASHINGTON)—Five National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) musicians, with a combined tenure of 183 years, will retire from the Orchestra at the conclusion of the current season.

Violist William Foster, who joined the NSO 50 years ago and spent 26 years as its Assistant Principal Viola, was appointed to the section in 1968 and has performed under the leadership of six (Mitchell, Dorati, Rostropovich, Slatkin, Eschenbach, and Noseda) of the Orchestra's seven music directors.

Joining Foster in retirement this season are violinist Holly Hamilton, who joined the NSO in 1978 (40 years); violinist Peter Haase, who joined the Orchestra in 1984 (34 years); and Assistant Principal Second Violin Pam Hentges, a member of the NSO since 1997 (21 years). In addition, Assistant Principal Timpani and Percussion Charles Wilkinson retired this past fall, after performing in the NSO since 1979 (38 years).

Music Director Gianandrea Noseda will honor these five musicians at the NSO subscription concert on Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

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.

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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