

Press Release

August 24, 2018

**GIANANDREA NOSEDA LEADS NATIONAL SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA AND VIOLINIST JOSHUA BELL IN
SEASON-OPENING GALA**

**Space-Themed Event Salutes NASA's Recent 60th Anniversary
and Upcoming 50th Anniversary of Moon Landing with
Performance of Commissioned Work by
Oscar[®]-winning composer Michael Giacchino**

**September 22 Concert to be Livestreamed on [medici.tv](#),
[NSO Facebook page](#), and Kennedy Center [Website](#)**

(WASHINGTON)— Gianandrea Noseda launches his second season as National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Music Director in its annual season-opening gala concert on Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in a program featuring famed violinist Joshua Bell.

The performance will be streamed live for free worldwide viewing on [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 for an additional 90 days following the livestream.

The NSO Season Opening Gala is co-chaired by Jennifer and David Fischer and Anita and Tim McBride. The Centene Charitable Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of the Gala.

The September 22 performance features selections from Holst's *The Planets* and Joshua Bell joining the NSO and Nosedá for the Carmen Fantasy by Pablo de Sarasate, Dvořák's *Song to the Moon* from *Rusalka*, and *Estrelita* by Manuel Ponce. Also featured is a performance of Michael Giacchino's *Voyage*, commissioned by the NSO as part of its celebration of NASA's 60th anniversary. Giacchino is an Academy®, Grammy®, and Emmy® Award-winning film composer best known for his scores to *The Incredibles 2*, the *Star Trek* series, *Jurassic World*, *Up*, and *Ratatouille*, among numerous others.

In addition to the NSO performance led by Nosedá, the black-tie gala evening includes a pre-concert reception, an outer space-themed post-concert dinner and dancing at a reception that salutes both tradition and innovation. The menu features a first course of poached Maine lobster and melon salad; an entrée of braised grass-fed beef short rib with shaved Brussels sprouts, a red curry cabernet reduction and a corn purée; and a crème fraîche and fig panna cotta with a linzer, brown butter financier for dessert. The evening also includes an immersive performance by the innovative Quixotic Entertainment, LLC.

Virginia's own Holly Chapple and the Maryland-based Ice Lab will collaborate to produce floral arrangements in a format never before seen at the Kennedy Center. Flowers will be frozen within ice blocks to combine contrasting elements of classic and contemporary, creating a look that is both futuristic and minimalistic. Other tables will be adorned with vases crafted of ice and filled with arrangements of hydrangeas, calla lilies, and orchids.

All proceeds from the evening support the Orchestra's many artistic, educational, and community engagement programs throughout the year.

Gala packages are still available, as are tickets to the concert only.

Gala: call 202/416-8102, or online at nationalsymphony.org/gala.

Concert only: online at kennedy-center.org, at the Kennedy Center box office, or by phone (202) 467-4700; toll-free at (800) 444-1324.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Saturday, September 22, 2018, at 7 p.m.

National Symphony Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
Joshua Bell, violin

Holst	“Mars” from <i>The Planets</i>
Debussy/ arr. Stokowski	<i>Clair de lune</i>
Sarasate	<i>Carmen Fantasy</i> Joshua Bell, violin
Holst	“Venus” from <i>The Planets</i>
Michael Giacchino	<i>Voyage</i>
Holst	“Mercury” from <i>The Planets</i>
Dvořák	“Song to the Moon” from <i>Rusalka</i> Joshua Bell, violin
Ponce	<i>Estrellita</i> Joshua Bell, violin
Holst	“Jupiter” from <i>The Planets</i>

Ticket packages for the gala evening, which include a pre-concert reception, NSO performance, and post-concert dinner and dancing, can be arranged by calling (202) 416-8102 or online at www.nationalsymphony.org/gala.

Tickets (\$65–\$175) for the concert only are available online at kennedy-center.org, at the Kennedy Center box office, or by calling 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.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The 2018–2019 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra’s 88th, and Gianandrea Noseda’s second as its music director. The Italian conductor serves as the Orchestra’s seventh music director, joining the NSO’s legacy of such distinguished leaders. 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 performs year-round. The NSO’s community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood, an annual week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other unexpected venues; Notes of Honor, which offers free performances for active, veteran, prior service, and retired members of the military and their families; 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 tuition-free Summer Music Institute. For more information, visit nationalsymphony.org.

[ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA](#)

[ABOUT JOSHUA BELL](#)

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets (\$65–\$175) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](#), or via phone (202) 467-4600; 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

The Centene Charitable Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of the NSO Season Opening Gala.

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

The NSO Music Director Chair is generously endowed by **Victoria and Roger Sant**.

Support for the NSO Space Programming series is provided by United Technologies Corporation.

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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TICKETS & INFORMATION

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