

Press Release  
December 27, 2018

**NSO MUSIC DIRECTOR GIANANDREA NOSEDA AND  
ARTISTIC ADVISOR BEN FOLDS JOIN FORCES FOR  
*DECLASSIFIED* PROGRAM**

**Friday, February 15, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall**

**Tickets on Sale to Members Today; to Non-Members Tomorrow**

(WASHINGTON)—NSO Music Director Gianandrea Noseda leads a *DECLASSIFIED* program inspired by love and passion in honor of Valentine’s Day, on Friday, February 15, at 9 p.m.. NSO Artistic Advisor Ben Folds joins Noseda and the Orchestra for this program that includes Wagner’s Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*, Berlioz’s “Scène d’amour” from *Roméo et Juliette*, the arias and duet from Act I of Puccini’s *La bohème*, and three songs (TBA) by Ben Folds. Folds himself will perform with the NSO, as will soprano Marlen Nahhas and tenor Joshua Blue from Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

*DECLASSIFIED* concerts defy traditional classical music presentation by offering great live symphonic music in a casual and relaxed setting. Audiences are invited to attend pre- and post-event gatherings, and the 90-minute, no-intermission concerts begin at 9 p.m.

Previous concerts in the *DECLASSIFIED* series have featured artist/composer/producer Blake Mills, along with [Latin Grammy®-nominated Cuban artist Danay Suarez](#); multi Grammy® and Tony®-nominated vocalist and composer [Sara Bareilles](#) with [Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and singer Caroline Shaw](#); [bandleader and composer Jon Batiste](#) with [singer/songwriter Kishi Bashi](#), and composer and pianist Joachim Horsley, as well as music by, and influenced by, J.S. Bach with Noseda. In November 2018, [Regina Spektor](#) and Caleb Teicher joined Folds and the NSO for the first of this season’s *DECLASSIFIED* offerings.

## **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](http://nationalsymphony.org).

## **ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA**

## **ABOUT BEN FOLDS**

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets (\$25–\$75) are available to Kennedy Center members at 10 a.m. on December 27, and to the general public at 10 a.m. on December 28 at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](http://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**

Ford Motor Company is the Presenting Sponsor of *DECLASSIFIED*.

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

*DECLASSIFIED* is presented as part of The Irene Pollin Audience Development and Community Engagement Initiatives.

Additional support for *DECLASSIFIED* is provided by Ann B. and Thomas L. Friedman, and Admiral Jay L. Johnson and Sydney McNiff Johnson.

**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](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix)



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