

Press Release

February 8, 2019

CONDUCTOR LAUREATE CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH RETURNS TO NSO PODIUM TO LEAD PROGRAM OF HAYDN AND BRUCKNER

Cellist Kian Soltani Makes his NSO Debut as Soloist March 7 and 9

(WASHINGTON)—National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Conductor Laureate Christoph Eschenbach returns to the Concert Hall for two concerts with the Orchestra on [Thursday and Saturday, March 7 and 9](#). Eschenbach is joined by rising young cellist Kian Soltani, who makes his NSO debut in these performances.

Soltani is the Principal Cellist of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, the ensemble of young Israeli and Middle-Eastern musicians founded by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said, based in Spain. He is quickly gaining renown as a soloist around the world, and caught the attention of Eschenbach, who has a history of supporting and collaborating with young talent.

Eschenbach, who led the NSO as music director for seven seasons, specializes in music by Germanic composers, particularly Bruckner. He conducts Haydn's Cello Concerto in D major and Bruckner's Second Symphony on these programs, a work he has performed around the world and recorded; these concerts mark the first time he leads the Second Symphony with the NSO.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.

National Symphony Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, conductor
Kian Soltani, cello

HAYDN Concerto in D major for Cello and Orchestra, H. VII:2

BRUCKNER Symphony No. 2 in C minor

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

ABOUT CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH

ABOUT KIAN SOLTANI

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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets (\$15–\$89) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at kennedy-center.org, and via phone through Instant Charge, (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

David M. Rubenstein is the Presenting Underwriter 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.

[When available, MyTix Student Rush tickets \(\\$10–20\) can be purchased online or at the box office with valid student I.D. beginning 2 weeks prior to a performance.](#)

For more information, visit kennedy-center.org/mytix



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