

**NSO CELEBRATES THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
MOON LANDING WITH FUN-FILLED FAMILY  
CONCERT: *LET'S GO TO THE MOON***

**Sunday, February 24, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Kennedy Center  
Concert Hall**

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) hosts a space themed family concert to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing in 1969. Emil de Cou, principal Pops conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and musical advisor to NASA, conducts the NSO. De Cou joined the NSO last season for NASA's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, leading the Orchestra in a similar celebration of space centered compositions and visuals. For the family programs, he is joined by acclaimed jazz pianist Anthony Walker as soloist. The program, featuring interstellar favorites, includes Strauss's Fanfare from *Also sprach Zarathustra* (the theme from *2001: A Space Odyssey*), Michael Giacchino's *Voyage* (an NSO commission) and *Star Trek* Suite, Debussy's *Clair de Lune*, the First Movement from Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Mary Lou Williams's *Zodiac* Suite featuring Anthony Walker, Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates's *Gemini in the Solar Wind*, and the Finale from Saint-Saëns's Organ Symphony. Concerts take place at [2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.](#)

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets (\$15–\$18) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](http://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 inquires, 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](http://nationalsymphony.org).

Popular offerings have ranged from performances on a barge on the Potomac River, to concerts on the Ellipse, and in National Parks around the greater Washington area. The 2011–2012 season was the first with Steven Reineke as Principal Pops Conductor. NSO popular programming—which ranges in genre from Broadway and American song to jazz and from film scores to Hip Hop to rock 'n' roll—takes place at the NSO's principal performance venues: the NSO's primary home, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall, Wolf Trap, and the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, with a subscription season featuring a variety of musical genres.

#### **FUNDING CREDITS:**

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

Bank of America is the Presenting Sponsor of Performances for Young Audiences.

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

Additional support for the NSO Family Concerts is provided by A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation; Macy's; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Anne and Chris Reyes; an endowment from the Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation; the U.S. Department of Education; and the Volunteer Council of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Funding for Access and Accommodation Programs at the Kennedy Center is provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

Major support for educational programs at the Kennedy Center is provided by **David M. Rubenstein** through the Rubenstein Arts Access Program.

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)**

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



**#NSOPops**

**@NSOrch**

**@NSOTweets**

# # #

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Rachelle Roe

(202) 416-8443

[rbroe@kennedy-center.org](mailto:rbroe@kennedy-center.org)

**TICKETS & INFORMATION**

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324

[www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)