

Press Release

April 22, 2019

Acclaimed Conductor Edward Gardner Leads the National Symphony Orchestra in Sibelius’s Violin Concerto

Violinist Renaud Capuçon is the featured Soloist

May 9, 10, and 11

(WASHINGTON)—Guest conductor Edward Gardner leads the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) in a program that highlights the beauty of Sibelius’s Violin Concerto, the radical work of Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*, and the drama of Wagner’s Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*. The NSO enlists French violinist Renaud Capuçon as the featured soloist in Sibelius’s Violin Concerto, who makes his return to the Concert Hall stage for the first time since 2013. Capuçon has made a name for himself as a master of poise and technique, with a playing style marked by “coppery tone,” “understated tenderness,” and “charming daring” (*New York Times*).

Edward Gardner is the chief conductor of Norway’s Bergen Philharmonic and has led that orchestra on several international tours, including performances in Amsterdam, Munich, Edinburgh, and Berlin. Before he was the chief conductor, he was the music director of the English National Opera for ten years and continues to have an ongoing relationship with New York’s Metropolitan Opera. Gardner is frequently in demand as a guest conductor for both adult and youth orchestras, and founded the Hallé Youth Orchestra in 2002. Gardner has become a regular on the NSO podium in the last few years, and is already set to return in February 2020.

Prior to the Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 performances, a *ForeWords* experience will begin at 6:45 p.m.; immediately following the Thursday, May 9 performance is an *Afterwords* discussion, moderated by NSO Director of Artistic Planning Nigel Boon, featuring the artists on the program.

Three concerts—[Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m.](#); and [Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, at 8 p.m.](#)—take place in the Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall.

PROGRAM DETAILS

[Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m.](#)

[Friday, May 10, at 8 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, May 11, at 8 p.m.](#)

Concert Hall, Kennedy Center

National Symphony Orchestra
Edward Gardner, conductor
Renaud Capuçon, violin

WAGNER	Overture to <i>The Flying Dutchman</i>
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47

BERLIOZ	<i>Symphonie fantastique</i> , Op. 14a
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Tickets: \$15–\$89.

ABOUT EDWARD GARDNER

ABOUT RENAUD CAPUÇON

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.

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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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TICKETS & INFORMATION

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