

Press Release

June 24, 2019

****JUST ADDED****

**National Symphony Orchestra and NASA to honor
50th anniversary of Apollo 11 with concert on July 20**

**Featured guest artists include Pharrell Williams,
Natasha Bedingfield, Adam Savage, a new commissioned piece
from Michael Giacchino, and never-before-seen video of
David Bowie**

**Kennedy Center Concert Hall
Tickets on Sale Now to Members; Tomorrow to General Public**

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), in collaboration with NASA and conducted by Emil de Cou, performs *Apollo 11: A 50th Anniversary Celebration—One Small Step, One Giant Leap*, a one-night-only tribute to the July 20, 1969 moon landing on Saturday, July 20, at 9 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

This special NSO concert is co-hosted by Adam Savage of *MythBusters*, and features performances and appearances by Pharrell Williams, Natasha Bedingfield, and author Charles Fishman; Neil Armstrong’s son Mark; the premiere of a new NSO-commissioned work by Oscar-winning composer Michael Giacchino; and a never-before-seen music video of David Bowie performing “Space Oddity” live at his 50th birthday concert at Madison Square Garden in 1997.

The concert also features specially curated visuals from NASA that are timed to music, along with special pre-taped performances and greetings from John Schlossberg, Brad Paisley, Elton John, Stephen Colbert, astronauts on the International Space Station, and others. Additional guest artists will be announced at a later date.

Tickets (\$29-\$149) 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.

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.

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.

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

nationalsymphony.org
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Rachelle Roe

(202) 416-8443

rbroe@kennedy-center.org

Iain Higgins

(202) 416-8442

imhiggins@kennedy-center.org

TICKETS & INFORMATION

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

www.kennedy-center.org