



National Symphony Orchestra
The Kennedy Center

Gianandrea Noseda
Music Director

Press Release

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NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES CLASSICAL PROGRAMMING FOR 2019–2020 SEASON

Season Features Three Co-Commissions and Six Other NSO First Performances by Living Composers, 19 NSO Debuts, a Three-Week Beethoven Symphony Cycle—also to be Recorded—in Celebration of Beethoven’s 250th Birthday in 2020, and Distinguished Guest Artists, Plus Season Opening Gala on September 28

Gianandrea Noseda and NSO perform Opera in Concert in Washington and at New York’s Lincoln Center for First Time Together in November 2019; Tour to Asia Planned for Spring 2020

A Project Created Especially for Youth and Families Celebrating the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), led by Music Director Gianandrea Noseda and Executive Director Gary Ginstling, announces classical programming for 2019–2020, the Orchestra’s 89th season, and its third under the artistic leadership of Gianandrea Noseda.

Highlights of the 2019–2020 season include:

- Act II of Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde*, led by Noseda in Washington and at Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall featuring Stephen Gould as Tristan and Christine Goerke as Isolde

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- A celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday—*Beethoven at 250*—with the rare opportunity to experience the complete cycle of nine symphonies performed in the span of three weeks, all conducted by Gianandrea Nosedà
- An 18-day tour to Japan and China in the Spring of 2020 with Nosedà
- A continued commitment to American music with NSO premieres of co-commissioned works by Mason Bates, Kevin Puts, and Steven Mackey
- 16 works performed by the NSO for the first time, including eight by living composers (see page 14 for a list)
- 19 NSO debuts: conductors Gemma New and Louis Langrée; pianist Olga Kern; cellist Nicolas Altstaedt; trumpeter Lucienne Renaudin Vary; sopranos Andriana Chuchman and Miah Persson; mezzo-sopranos Anna-Maria Chiuri, Ekaterina Gubanova, and Daniela Mack; tenors Neal Cooper, Stephen Gould, Issachah Savage, and Alek Shrader; baritones Hunter Enoch and Elliot Madore; bass-baritone Hanno Müller-Brachmann; and basses Günther Groissböck and Sidney Outlaw
- Continuing series of concerts at D.C.’s hottest new venue, The Anthem, at The Wharf
- Guest appearances by high-profile soloists including pianists Yefim Bronfman, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Lise de la Salle, and Yuja Wang; violinists Arabella Steinbacher, Akiko Suwanai, and Christian Tetzlaff; soprano Renée Fleming; and baritone Rod Gilfry
- Returning conductors—including two previous music directors, Christoph Eschenbach and Leonard Slatkin—Sir Andrew Davis, Edward Gardner, Gustavo Gimeno, Manfred Honeck, Marek Janowski, David Robertson, and Krzysztof Urbanski
- A specially crafted program for youth and families that celebrates the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, showcasing women composers, conductors, and soloists
- NSO *In Your Neighborhood* returns for its ninth annual series of free of performances by the NSO in community settings
- Kennedy Center Chamber Players—comprising NSO musicians—perform a series of three Sunday afternoon concerts in the Terrace Theater

The NSO's 2019–2020 season features Nosedá and the Orchestra's first appearance together at New York's Lincoln Center and on an international tour (Asia), first performances of 16 works in the orchestral catalogue, and the Orchestra and Nosedá's first Beethoven Symphony Cycle together, as well as a diverse range of repertoire and a fresh perspective on programming —as has become a defining characteristic of Nosedá's programs over the course of his first two years as NSO music director.

“Beethoven changed the world,” said NSO Music Director Gianandrea Nosedá. “There are many great artists, of course, but few actually changed the world—Da Vinci, Dante, and of course, Beethoven. It's an honor for me and the talented musicians of the NSO to present these monumental nine symphonies over three weeks next season. After what will be three years together, the time seems right to take on these works—the Mt. Everest of the symphonic repertoire—together and share them with our audiences in a focused, festival-type setting.”

“The 2019–2020 season promises to be one of celebration and discovery, as Gianandrea and the NSO embark on their third year together,” said NSO Executive Director Gary Ginstling. “From the complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies celebrating the 250th anniversary of his birth, to Act II of *Tristan and Isolde* with an extraordinary cast, to other new discoveries and classic gems, the season is built on their terrific accomplishments of the past two seasons. Equally important in these uncertain times is an orchestra's connection to its community, which is why the NSO is committed to projects like *In Your Neighborhood*, our new lower-priced concert series at The Anthem, and a new project for students and families that commemorates the centennial of women achieving the right to vote.”

Under the leadership of Gianandrea Nosedá, the NSO continues to demonstrate its commitment to artistic excellence, accessibility, and community, while reaching the widest possible audience. In addition to the NSO's subscription series and wide variety of offerings at the Kennedy Center, its series at The Anthem, which begins in spring 2019, continues next season with performances at this unique club venue at The Wharf.

The NSO also plans a number of new and continuing broadcast and media projects in 2019–2020. All nine Beethoven symphonies will be recorded as part of the *Beethoven at 250* festival in June

2020. In addition, the monthly NSO Showcase airing on Classical WETA 90.9 FM in the greater Washington, D.C. area continues in 2019–2020. With these initiatives, and an ongoing partnership with medici.tv for worldwide live-streaming, as well as with PBS, which broadcasts concerts on Memorial and Independence Days from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, the NSO remains one of the most-heard orchestras today.

The 2019–2020 season begins with Nosedá leading the Orchestra’s annual season-opening gala, which brings a jazzy twist to the NSO, with virtuoso pianist Yuja Wang and French trumpeter Lucienne Renaudin Vary, in her NSO debut. Repertoire includes music by classical composers who incorporated jazz influences in their work: Bernstein, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, and Gershwin. (*September 28*)

An important project this season will be a specially crafted program specifically for youth and families that celebrates the centennial of women’s suffrage. The project aims to showcase role models and demonstrate the many ways women participate in the world of orchestral music by featuring female soloists, conductor Michelle Merrill, and composers, including works by Florence Price, Joan Tower, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Jessie Montgomery. This special program will be performed on the NSO Family Concert series, as well as on its Young People’s Concerts, which reach 25,000 schoolchildren throughout the D.C. metro area, including all Fairfax County fourth graders, DCPS fifth graders through a partnership with DC Collaborative, and fourth graders from Prince George’s County.

CONCERTS WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR GIANANDREA NOSEDA

Gianandrea Nosedá, whose contract as NSO Music Director was recently extended through the 2024–2025 season, will lead 12 weeks of concerts in 2019–2020.

- The first week of subscription concerts showcases repertoire from both the sacred and the profane: Orff’s *Carmina Burana*—with soprano Amy Owens and baritone Elliot Madore, The Choral Arts Society of Washington, and Children’s Chorus of Washington—paired with Poulenc’s *Litanies à la Vierge Noire*. Opening the program is Jennifer Higdon’s *blue cathedral*, which was commissioned in 1999 by

The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia to celebrate its 75th anniversary.
(October 3, 4, and 5, 2019)

- Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef is the soloist with Nosedá and the Orchestra in a potpourri program inspired by dances—waltz, polka, tango, and ballet—featuring music by Strauss, Piazzolla, Stravinsky, Shchedrin, Duke Ellington, and Florence Price. (November 7 and 9, 2019)
- Well-known for his work in the great opera houses of the world, Nosedá brings his first operatic project to the NSO in 2019–2020 with Act II of Wagner’s revolutionary *Tristan and Isolde* which includes a stellar cast of internationally acclaimed artists. Nosedá and the Orchestra perform Act II at the Kennedy Center, as well as in their first appearance together at New York’s Lincoln Center, in David Geffen Hall. Soprano Christine Goerke and tenor Stephen Gould sing the title roles in a cast that also includes the NSO debuts of soprano Ekaterina Gubanova as Brangaene, bass Günther Groissböck as King Mark, tenor Neal Cooper as Melot, and baritone Hunter Enoch, a former member of WNO’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, as Kurwenal. (November 13 and 15 in Washington; November 17 in New York, 2019)
- Soprano Renée Fleming returns to the NSO stage with baritone Rod Gilfry, under Nosedá’s direction, for a performance of a co-commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Kevin Puts, who has expanded his previously written *Letters from Georgia* for Fleming in order to add a role for Gilfry. The new work, *Brightness of Light*, sets the letters between iconic American artist Georgia O’Keeffe and her husband, the photographer and curator Alfred Stieglitz. Strauss’s tone poem *Also sprach Zarathustra* is featured on the program’s second half, while his *Dreaming by the Fireside* (Symphonic Interlude from *Intermezzo No. 2*) opens the program. In a night off for the singers, the NSO performs Mozart’s Symphony No. 38, K. 504, “Prague” as the middle work on November 22, also paired with the two works by Strauss. (November 21, 22, and 23, 2019)
- Nosedá returns to the NSO podium in 2020 with two staples of Austro-German tradition, both of which were inspired by elements of folk traditions in their composer’s respective countries—Schubert’s “Unfinished” Symphony (No. 8) and Mahler’s Symphony No. 5. (February 20, 21, and 22, 2020)
- Japanese violinist Akiko Suwanai joins Nosedá and the NSO for three subscription concerts in Washington, in advance of the Orchestra’s tour to Asia in March 2020, which also features her in several concerts. The program includes Samuel Barber’s

First Essay, Tchaikovsky's beloved Violin Concerto, music from Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* arranged by Igor Stravinsky, and Stravinsky's own Symphony in Three Movements. The February 28 program features the Violin Concerto paired with Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, "From the New World." Details about the tour to Asia will be announced at a later date. (February 27, 28, and 29, 2020)

- Nosedá and NSO principal musicians—Nicholas Stovall, oboe; Sue Heineman, bassoon; Marissa Regni, second violin; and David Hardy, cello—share the spotlight in Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante, paired on the program with Mahler's Fourth Symphony. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)
- Nosedá ends the 2019–2020 season with a festival celebrating Ludwig van Beethoven in the year of his 250th birthday. Performing his complete symphonies over three weeks, the NSO will also record the cycle for future release. Five distinct programs pair the symphonies with an overture or opening work from the same compositional period: Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3 with *Creatures of Prometheus*; Symphonies 2 and 5 with *Leonore No. 3*; Symphonies 4 and 7 with *Egmont*; and Symphonies 8 and 6 with *Coriolan*. The Ninth—featuring soprano Camilla Tilling, mezzo-soprano Anna-Maria Chiuri, tenor Issachah Savage, and bass-baritone Hanno Müller-Brachmann—is paired with the *The Consecration of the House*, and is immediately preceded by a short choral elegy, *Elegischer Gesang*, performed by The Washington Chorus. Each program is performed twice, while Symphony No. 9 will be performed three times. (May 28, 29, 30, June 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14, 2020)

NSO CO-COMMISSIONS AND FIRST PERFORMANCES

- **Kevin Puts, *Brightness of Light*** (November 21 and 23, 2019)
Pulitzer Prize winner Kevin Puts's *Brightness of Light* updates his previous work, *Letters to Georgia* for orchestra and soprano (written for Renée Fleming and premiered in 2016), adding a part for baritone, which will be sung by Rod Gilfry in the NSO performances led by Gianandrea Nosedá. *Brightness of Light* receives its world premiere by the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood this summer.
- **Mason Bates, *Yet Another Set of Variations (on a Theme of Paganini)*** (December 5 and 7, 2019)
When Leonard Slatkin was music director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, he commissioned this work—a set of variations, each from a different living American composer—on the famous Paganini Caprice No. 24. It included variations by four successive composers-in-residence with the St. Louis Symphony during Slatkin's years there: Joseph Schwantner, Joan Tower, Claude

Baker, and Donald Erb, as well as William Bolcom and Slatkin himself. He premiered the work in St. Louis as part of his farewell concert in 1996. In honor of Slatkin's 75th birthday season, five orchestras, including the NSO, have each commissioned an additional variation to create a new, expanded version of the work. Mason Bates has written the NSO-commissioned variation; others include Guillaume Connesson, John Corigliano, Rob Matthes, and Cindy McTee.

- **Steven Mackey, *Mnemosyne's Pool*** (*May 14 and 16, 2020*)
Mnemosyne's Pool was co-commissioned by the NSO through its Hechinger Commissioning Fund for American Music. The large-scale orchestral work—five movements, 38 minutes in length—draws inspiration from the legend of Mnemosyne, the Greek Goddess of Memory, and those souls who dared to drink from her pool in Hades, which bestowed eternal life in the Elysian Fields. The work received its world premiere in 2015 by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. David Robertson, who leads the NSO performances, has conducted the work with his previous orchestras, the Sydney and St. Louis symphonies.
- A total of 16 works that the NSO has never before played appear on the 2019–2020 season, half of those by living composers: Grazyna Bacewicz, Mason Bates, Salina Fisher, Jennifer Higdon, Rodion Shchedrin, and Julia Wolfe, as well as Mackey and Puts.

ARTIST DEBUTS

- Since making his New York recital debut in 2016 to critical acclaim, German French **cellist Nicolas Altstaedt** has become a fixture on the international scene, performing with the world's great orchestras and serving as Artist in Residence at the NDR Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg during the 2018–2019 season. He makes his NSO debut in Dvořák's Cello Concerto under the baton of guest conductor Edward Gardner. (*February 6 and 9, 2020*)
- **Soprano Andriana Chuchman, mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack, tenor Alek Shrader,** and **bass Sidney Outlaw** make their respective NSO debuts in Handel's *Messiah* orchestrated and led by Sir Andrew Davis. Chuchman appeared in Washington National Opera's recent production of *The Daughter of the Regiment*; Mack sang the role of Bradamante in Washington National Opera's 2017 production of Handel's *Alcina*, and Shrader was last heard by D.C. audiences at the Kennedy Center in the titular role in Washington National Opera's 2018 production of *Candide*. Outlaw appears on a recent recording release of *Messiah* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (on the Naxos label). (*December 19–22, 2019*)

- **Mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova, tenors Neal Cooper and Stephen Gould, baritone Hunter Enoch, and bass Günther Groissböck**, make their NSO debuts in Act II of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, led by NSO Music Director Gianandrea Noseda. **Gubanova**, a regular at the Met in New York, sings Brangaene, a role she has sung in the great opera houses of the world, from Russia to France, and Japan to Germany. **Gould**, known especially for his Wagner, sings Tristan, one of the most daunting roles in all of opera. **Groissböck** is King Mark, a role he sang in 2018 at the Dutch National Opera to critical acclaim. **Cooper** sings the role of Melot, the same role in which he made his Met debut. **Enoch** is a recent member of WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. (*November 13 and 15 in Washington; November 17 in New York, 2019*)
- **Olga Kern** was the gold medal winner of the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and first woman winner in more than 30 years. The Russian American has since become one of her generation's most distinguished artists, performing as soloist, in recital, and in chamber music settings, as well as on numerous recordings. Her NSO debut takes place with former NSO Music Director Leonard Slatkin, in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1. (*December 5 and 7, 2019*)
- **Conductor Louis Langrée**, music director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, as well as Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, makes his NSO debut with pianist Stephen Hough in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. The program opens with Julia Wolfe's *Fountain of Youth*, her new 20-minute piece written for the New World Symphony; Brahms's beloved Second Symphony is also featured. (*April 16 and 18, 2020*)
- Canadian **baritone Elliot Madore** makes his NSO debut in Orff's dramatic oratorio, *Carmina Burana*, under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda. (*October 3, 4, and 5, 2019*)
- **Gemma New**, a New Zealand native recently named Principal Guest Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, makes her NSO debut in 2019–2020. Her program opens with a work inspired by the majesty of the natural world, *Rainphase*, from fellow New Zealander, composer Salina Fisher. Virtuoso pianist Yefim Bronfman is the soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and Holst's *The Planets* completes the program, with the Women of the University of Maryland Concert Choir. (*January 16, 18 and 19, 2020*)
- **Soprano Camilla Tilling, mezzo-soprano Anna-Maria Chiuri, tenor Issachah Savage, and bass-baritone Hanno Müller-Brachmann** make their NSO debuts as the 2019–2020 season concludes with Beethoven's Ninth

Symphony. All four vocalists enjoy an international career on both the concert stage and at the world's opera houses. (*June 12, 13, and 14, 2020*)

CONDUCTOR LAUREATE CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH

Conductor Laureate Christoph Eschenbach returns to Washington twice in 2019–2020, his third season as the NSO's Conductor Laureate.

In January, Eschenbach and the NSO are joined by violinist Christian Tetzlaff for Dvořák's Violin Concerto, on a program that also includes Dvořák's rousing *Carnival Overture* and Schumann's Symphony No. 2. (*January 24 and 25, 2020*)

In April, he returns to lead an all-French program featuring music by Debussy, Bizet, and Ravel, as well as Poulenc, with local favorite virtuoso organist Cameron Carpenter as soloist in his Organ Concerto. (*April 23, 24, and 25, 2020*)

RETURNING GUEST CONDUCTORS

- **Sir Andrew Davis**, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chief Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, last appeared with the NSO more than three decades ago, in 1984. This season, he leads his own orchestration—one that's larger than usually heard—of Handel's *Messiah* for the NSO's annual performances of the classic oratorio, with The Washington Chorus. Four distinguished singers make their NSO debuts as soloists: soprano Andriana Chuchman, mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack, tenor Alek Shrader, and bass Sidney Outlaw. (*December 19–22, 2019*)
- **Edward Gardner**, a returning favorite of audiences and musicians alike, currently serves as chief conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic in Norway. He also led English National Opera for 10 years, and has equally busy opera and symphonic schedules. His program includes the NSO debut of Nicolas Altstaedt in Dvořák's Cello Concerto, which is bookended by works of Nordic composers Edvard Grieg (*Lyric Suite*) and Carl Nielsen (Symphony No. 4, "The Inextinguishable"). (*February 6 and 9, 2020*)
- **Manfred Honeck**, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, returns to the NSO with a program that opens with *Resurrexit*, a work that was commissioned by the

PSO for Honeck's 60th birthday in 2018 from Kennedy Center Composer in Residence Mason Bates. Honeck himself led the world premiere. Nikolai Lugansky is the featured soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491; Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 rounds out the program. (*January 30, 31, and February 1, 2020*)

- Recently named music director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, **Gustavo Gimeno** also serves as music director of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. He leads the NSO in Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* and Shostakovich's Suite from *Hamlet* and First Symphony. Russian piano sensation Denis Kozhukhin returns to the NSO with Grieg's Piano Concerto after his acclaimed debut with the Orchestra in the 2018–2019 season. (*April 2, 3, and 4, 2020*)
- **Marek Janowski** is one of the great masters of the German repertoire, particularly Bruckner, Mahler, Strauss, and Wagner. Fittingly, he leads the NSO in Bruckner's Symphony No. 7. Violinist Arabella Steinbacher returns to the NSO stage for Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4. (*October 10, 11, and 12, 2019*)
- **David Robertson**, a conductor known for his dedication to contemporary works, and who led the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as music director for 13 years, leads the NSO in a program of music that evokes memory and mythology. Sibelius's mystical *The Swan of Tuonela* and his Symphony No. 1 bookend this program, which also features the NSO premiere of the co-commissioned *Mnemosyne's Pool* by American composer Steven Mackey. (*May 14 and 16, 2020*)
- Former NSO Music Director **Leonard Slatkin** celebrates his 75th birthday season with a newly-expanded co-commissioned work, *Yet Another Set of Variations (on a Theme by Paganini)*. The original work, which featured a series of six 30-to-90-second variations on Paganini's famous Caprice No. 24, each by a different composer, was originally assembled by Slatkin and premiered by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1996. For the new, expanded version and Slatkin's birthday, five additional composers—including Mason Bates for the NSO's contribution—were each commissioned by an orchestra to write a variation, and the new, 11-variation work will open the NSO program. Gold medal winner of the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Olga Kern makes her NSO debut with Slatkin on the podium in Rachmaninoff's First Piano Concerto, and Copland's Symphony No. 3—a signature piece for Slatkin—closes the program. (*December 5 and 7, 2019*)
- **Krzysztof Urbanski**, one of his generation's most exciting young conductors, is music director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and principal guest conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra in Hamburg, Germany. The Polish conductor returns to the NSO this season to lead a program that marks the centennial of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Poland. It opens with an overture by

Polish composer Grazyna Bacewicz. Pianist Lise de la Salle joins the NSO for Chopin's Second Piano Concerto and the program closes with Tchaikovsky's rousing Symphony No. 4. (*October 31, November 1, and 2, 2019*)

THE KENNEDY CENTER CHAMBER PLAYERS

This three-concert series on Sunday afternoons in the Terrace Theater offers audiences the opportunity to enjoy chamber music performed by NSO musicians. In 2019–2020, Beethoven is the focus, celebrating *Beethoven at 250*.

- *November 3, 2019*

Ricardo Cyncynates, violin; David Hardy, cello; Lambert Orkis, piano

Beethoven's Violin Sonata No.5 in F major, Op.24, "Spring" and Cello Sonata No.1 in F major, Op.5, No. 1. Also included: Jaffe's Cello Sonata.

- *February 23, 2020*

Ying Fu and Jing Qiao, violins; Daniel Foster and Tsuna Sakamoto, violas; David Hardy and James Lee, cellos

Beethoven's String Quintet in C major, Op. 29 and "Kreutzer" Sonata, arranged for String Quintet

- *May 17, 2020*

Heather LeDoux Green, violin; Daniel Foster, viola; David Hardy, cello; Nicholas Stovall, Oboe; Lin Ma, clarinet; Sue Heineman, bassoon; Abel Pereira, horn; Lambert Orkis, piano

Beethoven's Quintet for Piano and Winds in E-flat major, Op.16; Piano Trio in G major. Op. 1, No. 2. Also included: Mozart: Trio for clarinet, viola, and piano in E-flat major, K. 498, "Kegelstatt"

NSO FAMILY CONCERTS

Three one-hour Sunday afternoon concerts—each performed twice—are designed for young audiences, ages 5 and up, and take place in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

- ***Halloween Spooktacular*** (October 20, 2019, at 2 and 4 p.m.)
The NSO’s annual Halloween tradition continues, with the NSO in costumes performing ghoulish music, both old and new. Trick-or-treating takes place in the Haunted Hall Musical Instrument “Petting Zoo” before each performance.
- ***Girl Power!*** (February 16, 2020, at 2 and 4 p.m.)
Celebrating the 100th anniversary of women’s voting rights, the NSO presents a showcase of female composers—including Gabriela Lena Frank, Jessie Montgomery, Florence Price, and Joan Tower, and others—and performers, conducted by Michelle Merrill. A Musical Instrument “Petting Zoo” precedes each performance.
- ***New Music and Collaboration to Be Announced*** (April 19, 2020, at 2 and 4 p.m.)
A favorite children’s book is turned into a delightful symphonic story. Details to be announced later this spring.

NSO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The NSO maintains a robust community engagement program year-round, highlighted each season by *In Your Neighborhood*, which takes the Orchestra and small ensembles into dozens of schools and community venues in a particular neighborhood for a concentrated period of activity. In the 2019–2020 season, the program enters its ninth year. The January 2019 events were recently completed, attracting nearly 6,000 people to a variety of 30 free events in more than 25 venues, including schools, churches, restaurants, libraries, clubs, museums, and other community locations. Collaborations involved 26 partner organizations in the communities of U Street, Columbia Heights, and Shaw.

SPECIAL CONCERTS

The NSO presents international piano sensation Lang Lang in a special, one-night-only performance of Bach’s Goldberg Variations in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. (May 23, 2020)

OTHER NSO SERIES AND PROGRAMS

NSO Pops, *DECLASSIFIED*, The Anthem series, and programming at The REACH will be announced at a later date.

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions for the NSO's 2019–2020 season are available for renewal or purchase beginning February 4 at the Kennedy Center Subscriptions Office, online at [kennedy-center.org/subscribe](https://www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe), and via phone (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.

Available series include options for concerts on Thursday evenings, Saturday evenings, Friday evenings, Coffee Concerts on Friday mornings, and Sunday afternoons. New this season is a 12-concert “Compose-Your-Own” package which offers a 25% discount off of single ticket prices, the most significant savings offered by the NSO.

Also new this year as a benefit to all subscribers is the ability to exchange tickets into most other Kennedy Center performances, including opera, chamber music, ballet, dance, popular music, and others.

In addition, two series of three Sunday afternoon Family Concerts (at 2 and 4 p.m.) and three Sunday afternoon The Kennedy Center Chamber Players concerts at 2 p.m. are also available as subscriptions.

Patrons can mix and match seven concerts from any series to create a custom series. Many concerts feature *ForeWords* pre-concert discussions, *AfterWords* post-concert Q&A's with the artists, or post-concert Organ Postludes; all are free to ticket holders.

In addition, subscribers may purchase non-subscription performances as add-ons, including the season-opening NSO gala on September 28, Handel's *Messiah* (December 19–22), Lang Lang in recital on May 23, 2020, and the Beethoven Cycle, May 28–June 14, 2020.

**FIRST PERFORMANCES BY THE
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
2019–2020 Season**

Bacewicz	Overture	October 2019
Bates	<i>Resurrexit</i>	January 2020
Beethoven	<i>Elegischer Gesang</i>	June 2020
Fisher	<i>Rainphase</i>	January 2020
Handel/Davis	<i>Messiah</i>	December 2019
Higdon	<i>blue cathedral</i>	October 2019
Mackey	<i>Mnemosyne's Pool</i> (NSO co-commission)	May 2020
Piazzolla/Desnatyikov	<i>Cuatro Estaciones Portenas</i>	November 2019
Poulenc	<i>Litanies à la Vierge Noire</i>	October 2019
Price/Still	<i>Dances in the Canebrakes</i>	November 2019
Puts	<i>Brightness of Light</i> (NSO commission)	November 2019
Shchedrin	Two Tangos by Albéniz	November 2019
Shostakovich	Jazz Suite No. 2	September 2019
R. Strauss	Symphonic Interlude No. 2	November 2019
Various/Bates	<i>Yet Another Set of Variations (on a Theme of Paganini) (expanded)</i>	December 2019
Wolfe	<i>Fountain of Youth</i>	April 2020

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
DEBUTS
2019–2020 Season**

Conductors

Louis Langrée	April 2020
Gemma New	January 2020

Singers

Anna-Maria Chiuri, mezzo-soprano	June 2020
Andriana Chuchman, soprano	December 2019
Neal Cooper, tenor	November 2019
Hunter Enoch, baritone	November 2019
Stephen Gould, tenor	November 2019
Günther Groissböck, bass	November 2019
Ekaterina Gubanova, mezzo-soprano	November 2019
Daniela Mack, mezzo-soprano	December 2019
Elliot Madore, baritone	October 2019
Hanno Müller-Brachmann, bass-baritone	June 2020
Sidney Outlaw, bass	December 2019
Camilla Tilling, soprano	June 2020
Issachah Savage, tenor	June 2020
Alek Shrader, tenor	December 2019

Instrumentalists

Nicolas Altstaedt, cello	February 2020
Olga Kern, piano	December 2019
Lucienne Renaudin Vary, trumpet	September 2019

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
RETURNING ARTISTS
2019–2020 Season**

Conductors

Sir Andrew Davis	December 2019
Christoph Eschenbach	January 2020
Edward Gardner	February 2020
Gustavo Gimeno	April 2020
Manfred Honeck	January 2020
Gianandrea Noseda	September, October, November, 2019; February, March, May, June 2020
David Robertson	May 2020
Leonard Slatkin	December 2019
Krzysztof Urbanski	October 2019

Singers

Renée Fleming, soprano	November 2019
Rod Gilfry, baritone	November 2019
Christine Goerke, soprano	November 2019
Amy Owens, soprano	October 2019
Children's Chorus of Washington	October 2019
The Choral Arts Society of Washington	October 2019
The Washington Chorus	December 2019, June 2020
Women of the UMD Concert Choir	January 2020

Instrumentalists

Nurit Bar-Josef, violin*	November 2019
Yefim Bronfman, piano	January 2020
Cameron Carpenter, organ	April 2020
David Hardy, cello*	May 2020
Sue Heineman, bassoon*	May 2020
Stephen Hough, piano	April 2020
Denis Kozhukhin, piano	April 2020
Nikolai Lugansky, piano	January 2020
Marissa Regni, violin*	May 2020
Lisa de la Salle, piano	October 2019
Nicholas Stovall, oboe*	May 2020
Akiko Suwanai, violin	February/March 2020
Christian Tetzlaff, violin	January 2020
Yuja Wang, piano	September 2019

*NSO Principal

FUNDING CREDITS

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For more information about the NSO, visit nationalsymphony.org.

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