

**CONDUCTOR LAUREATE CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH
RETURNS TO LEAD NSO IN PROGRAM WITH
VIOLIN SOLOLIST RAY CHEN**

October 11–13, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Conductor Laureate Christoph Eschenbach makes his return to the NSO alongside rising star violinist Ray Chen. Three performances—[Thursday, October 11 at 7 p.m.](#); [Friday, October 12 at 8 p.m.](#); and [Saturday, October 13 at 8 p.m.](#)—at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall include Felix Mendelssohn’s *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* as well as his Violin Concerto, and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral.”

Eschenbach opens the program with *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, the young Felix Mendelssohn’s musical response to two poems by Goethe.

Violinist Ray Chen returns to the NSO stage for one of the finest gems of the concerto repertoire: Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto. The familiar score continues to captivate audiences with its momentum, elegance, and power.

Closing the program is Beethoven’s reflection on nature and country life, his Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral.” This programmatic work evokes a stroll through the Austrian countryside, complete with birdcalls, a murmuring brook, lively dances, and a violent thunderstorm.

PROGRAM DETAILS

[Thursday, October 11, 2018, at 7 p.m.](#)

[Friday, October 12, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, October 13, 2018, at 8 p.m.](#)

National Symphony Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, conductor
Ray Chen, Violin

MENDELSSOHN
MENDELSSOHN
BEETHOVEN

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage
Violin Concerto
Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral”

The Thursday, October 11 performance will be immediately followed by a mini-recital on the Kennedy Center Concert Hall's Rubenstein Family Organ by organist Paul Leavitt, free with purchase of concert ticket.

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) 467-4700; 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 CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH

ABOUT RAY CHEN

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.

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



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