

CONDUCTOR JAMES GAFFIGAN RETURNS TO NSO PODIUM FOR PROGRAM OF RUSSIAN MASTERWORKS WITH PIANIST SIMON TRPČESKI

November 1–3, 2018, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—American conductor James Gaffigan and pianist Simon Trpčeski join forces for two performances with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO)—[Thursday, November 1 at 7 p.m.](#) and [Saturday, November 3 at 8 p.m.](#)—in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The all-Russian program includes Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 3; Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 2; and Khachaturian’s Suite of five movements from the play *Masquerade*’s incidental music.

Gaffigan—a native New Yorker and rising American conductor—has made his mark on the New York music scene recently, making his Metropolitan Opera debut this fall conducting its current run of *La bohème*, and leading the New York Philharmonic in its annual series of outdoor Concerts in the Parks this past summer. Macedonian pianist Simon Trpčeski can be heard around the U.S. and Europe this fall, with orchestral and solo appearances with the major orchestras of London, as well as in Atlanta and Norway.

Prokofiev’s thrilling Third Symphony opens the program. Including material from his opera *The Fiery Angel*—which had not yet been completed when Prokofiev wrote the symphony—No. 3 features dramatic climaxes, rich melodies, and vivid orchestral color. Charismatic pianist Simon Trpčeski is the soloist in Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 2, which was written as a 19th birthday present for the composer’s son, Maxim, who subsequently premiered it upon his graduation from Moscow Conservatory. Gaffigan closes the program with Khachaturian’s Suite

from *Masquerade*, a five-movement set of excerpts from the incidental music for the play of the same name.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Thursday, November 1, 2018, at 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 3, 2018, at 8 p.m.

National Symphony Orchestra

James Gaffigan, conductor

Simon Trpčeski, piano

PROKOFIEV

Symphony No. 3

SHOSTAKOVICH

Piano Concerto No. 2

KHACHATURIAN

Masquerade—Suite

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

Free to all ticketholders, an *Afterwords* conversation with the artists takes place immediately following the November 1 performance. A free *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performance on November 3.

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.

ABOUT JAMES GAFFIGAN

ABOUT SIMON TRPČESKI

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.

FUNDING CREDITS

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

The Blue Series is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation.

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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