



National Symphony Orchestra
The Kennedy Center

Gianandrea Noseda
Music Director

Press Release
November 26, 2018

BAROQUE MUSIC SPECIALIST NICHOLAS McGEGAN LEADS NSO IN ANNUAL PERFORMANCES OF HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

December 20–23 in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Guest conductor Nicholas McGegan, one of the world's leading specialists of baroque-era repertoire, leads the NSO in its annual December tradition of Handel's *Messiah*, in four performances—[Thursday, December 20, at 7 p.m.](#); [Friday and Saturday, December 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.](#); and [Sunday, December 23, at 1 p.m.](#)—in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Four distinguished vocalists make their NSO debuts in this performance: soprano Yulia Van Doren, mezzo-soprano Meg Bragle, tenor Miles Mykkanen, and baritone William Berger. The University of Maryland Concert Choir returns under the artistic leadership of its director, Edward Maclary.

McGegan, who has long been hailed as “an expert in 18th-century style” (*The New Yorker*), brings his deep knowledge and expertise of the period to the NSO podium for this season's *Messiah*. With debuts of rising talents as vocal soloists, these performances of this joyous and celebratory music are sure to please audiences of all ages during the festive holiday season.

PROGRAM DETAILS

[Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, December 21, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, December 22, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Sunday, December 23, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.](#)

National Symphony Orchestra

Nicholas McGegan, conductor

Yulia Van Doren, soprano

Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano

Miles Mykkanen, tenor

William Berger, baritone

University of Maryland Concert Choir
Edward Maclary, director

HANDEL *Messiah*

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

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 NICHOLAS MCGEGAN

ABOUT YULIA VAN DOREN

ABOUT MEG BRAGLE

ABOUT MILES MYKKANEN

ABOUT WILLIAM BERGER

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CONCERT CHOIR

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.

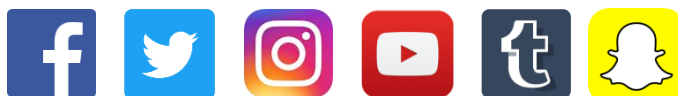
For more information about the NSO, visit nationalsymphony.org.

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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