



National Symphony Orchestra
The Kennedy Center

Gianandrea Noseda
Music Director

Press Release
October 31, 2018

**GIANANDREA NOSEDA AND NSO GIVE WORLD PREMIERE OF
ART OF WAR, A NEW COMMISSIONED WORK BY KENNEDY
CENTER COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE MASON BATES**

Mahler's First Symphony Also Featured

December 6, 8, & 9 in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Gianandrea Noseda leads the NSO in two contrasting symphonic works—the world premiere of a new work for orchestra by Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates and Mahler's First Symphony. Three performances—[Thursday, December 6, at 7 p.m.](#); [Saturday, December 8, at 8 p.m.](#); and [Sunday, December 9, at 3 p.m.](#)— in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall feature Bates's *Art of War*, which was commissioned by the NSO through a grant from the John and June Hechinger Commissioning Fund for New Orchestral Works, alongside Mahler's first, and most popular, foray into the symphonic form.

In his new work, *Art of War*, Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates combines his unique compositional sensibilities and the seamless integration of electronic sounds into the fabric of orchestral scoring. With sounds captured at the United States Treasury's Bureau of Engraving & Printing and at Camp Pendleton, a U.S. Marine Corps training base near San Diego, the 30-minute work for orchestra is in three movements, and explores the drama of human conflict from the perspectives of soldiers, weaponry, and human loss.

The inclusion of *Art of War* on this program highlights Noseda's seemingly limitless range of musical interests and curiosity, and marks the first time Noseda has ever conducted music by Bates.

Noseda has paired Bates's brand-new work with a staple of the symphonic repertoire, Mahler's First Symphony. With its own depictions of the Austrian countryside and Viennese life—from cuckoo calls to folk dances, a distant military funeral, and triumphant brass—Mahler's music represents his own world, in much the same way as Bates's does his, just over a century later.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.

National Symphony Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda, conductor

BATES *Art of War* (World premiere, NSO commission)

MAHLER Symphony No. 1

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

Free to all ticketholders, an *Afterwords* conversation with the artists takes place immediately following the December 6 performance. A free *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performances on December 8 and 9.

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 GIANANDREA NOSEDA

Gianandrea Noseda is one of the world's most sought-after conductors, equally recognized for his artistry in both the concert hall and opera house. He was named the National Symphony Orchestra's seventh music director in January 2016 and began his four-year term with the 2017–2018 season. In September 2018, at the start of his second season with the NSO, his contract was extended for four more years, through the 2024–2025 season. He leads 12 weeks of subscription concerts with the Orchestra this season, as well as their first appearance together at Carnegie Hall in New York in May 2019.

In addition to his position with the NSO, Noseda also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Orquestra de Cadaqués, and Artistic Director of the Stresa Festival in Italy. In July 2018, the Zurich Opera House

appointed him the next General Music Director beginning in the 2021–2022 season where the centerpiece of his tenure will be a new *Ring Cycle* directed by Andreas Homoki, the opera house’s artistic director.

Nurturing the next generation of artists is important to Nosedá, as evidenced by his ongoing work in masterclasses and tours with youth orchestras, including the European Union Youth Orchestra, and with his recent appointment as music director of the newly-created Tsinandali Festival and Pan-Caucasian Youth Orchestra in the village of Tsinandali, Georgia, which begins in 2019.

Nosedá has conducted the most important orchestras and at leading opera houses and festivals including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, La Scala, Munich Philharmonic, Met Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre National de France, Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Opera House, Salzburg Festival, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, and Zurich Opera House. From 2007 until 2018, Nosedá served as Music Director of Italy’s Teatro Regio Torino where he ushered in a transformative era for the company matched with international acclaim for its productions, tours, recordings, and film projects.

Gianandrea Nosedá also has a cherished relationship with the Metropolitan Opera dating back to 2002. He returns this season to lead performances of a new production of *Adriana Lecouvreur* featuring Anna Netrebko, which receives its premiere at the New Year’s Eve Gala on December 31, 2018. In recent years, he has conducted Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*, which received its premiere at the New Year’s Eve Gala in 2016, and a critically acclaimed new production of *Les pêcheurs de perles* which premiered at the New Year’s Eve Gala in 2015. His widely praised interpretation of Prince Igor from the 2013–2014 season is available on DVD from Deutsche Grammophon.

The institutions where he has had significant roles include the BBC Philharmonic which he led from 2002–2011; the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where the Victor de Sabata Chair was created for him as principal guest conductor from 2010–2014; and the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, which appointed him its first-ever foreign principal guest conductor in 1997, a position he held for a decade. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 1999 to 2003 and Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI from 2003 to 2006.

Nosedá’s intense recording activity counts more than 60 CDs, many of which have been celebrated by critics and received awards. His *Musica Italiana* project, which he initiated more than ten years ago, has chronicled under-appreciated Italian repertoire of the 20th century and brought to light many masterpieces. Conducting the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino, he has also recorded opera albums with celebrated vocalists such as Ildebrando d’Arcangelo, Rolando Villazón, Anna Netrebko, and Diana Damrau.

A native of Milan, Nosedá is Commendatore al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, marking his contribution to the artistic life of Italy. In 2015, he was honored as Musical America’s Conductor of the Year, and was named the 2016 International Opera Awards Conductor of the Year. In December 2016 he was privileged to conduct the Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm.

ABOUT MASON BATES

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

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The Blue Series is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation.

Art of War was commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, D.C., Gianandrea Noseda, Music Director, through a grant from the John and June Hechinger Commissioning Fund for New Orchestral Works.

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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