



**National Symphony Orchestra**  
The Kennedy Center

**Gianandrea Noseda**  
Music Director

Press Release  
October 24, 2018

**GIANANDREA NOSEDA AND NATIONAL SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA MARK CENTENNIAL OF  
WORLD WAR I ARMISTICE WITH PERFORMANCES OF  
BRITTEN'S WAR REQUIEM**

**November 29 and December 1, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall**

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Gianandrea Noseda leads the NSO, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, and the Children's Chorus of Washington in two performances of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*—[Thursday, November 29, at 7 p.m.](#) and [Saturday, December 1, at 8 p.m.](#)—in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Vocal soloists include soprano Karina Flores—in her U.S. debut—tenor Ian Bostridge, who makes his NSO debut, and baritone Matthias Goerne. These performances honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I.

The 90-minute *War Requiem* is a signature work for Noseda, who has recorded this piece with the London Symphony Orchestra where he is principal guest conductor, and conducted it numerous times around the world—most recently with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam. In *The New Yorker*, Alex Ross reviewed Noseda and the LSO's New York performance in 2011, raving that “Noseda marshalled the finest “War Requiem” that I have heard.”

Britten's towering work was written for the dedication of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in England, which was nearly destroyed during World War II. Noseda and the NSO perform the piece as the composer intended, with a Russian soprano, British tenor, and German baritone. Along with the texts, this specific casting by Britten demonstrates his response to war, with intentional emphasis on his beliefs of reconciliation and pacifism. The NSO has performed this monumental work twice previously, including in 1987, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich. The soprano in those performances was Rostropovich's wife, Galina Vishnevskaya, for whom Britten wrote the part.

Both Bostridge and Goerne—two of the greatest voices of their generation—have sung this work many times, often together; Bostridge has sung and recorded the work with Nosedà. Joining them for these NSO performances is Karina Flores, in her United States debut. A regular on the opera stages in Italy and across Europe, Flores is making her mark as a rising young star.

### **PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 1, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.**

National Symphony Orchestra

Gianandrea Nosedà, conductor

Karina Flores, soprano

Ian Bostridge, tenor

Matthias Goerne, baritone

The Choral Arts Society of Washington

Scott Tucker, Artistic Director

Children's Chorus of Washington

Margaret Nomura Clark, Artistic Director

BRITTEN

*War Requiem*

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

A free *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performance on December 1.

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The 2018–2019 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra's 88th, and Gianandrea Nosedà'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](http://nationalsymphony.org).

### **ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDÀ**

Gianandrea Nosedà 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, Nosedo 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 Nosedo, 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.

Nosedo 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, Nosedo 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 Nosedo 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.

Nosedo’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, Nosedo 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 KARINA FLORES**

### **ABOUT IAN BOSTRIDGE**

**ABOUT MATTHIAS GOERNE**

**ABOUT THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON**

**ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON**

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets (\$15–\$89) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at [kennedy-center.org](http://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 NSO Music Director Chair is generously endowed by **Vicki and Roger Sant**.

**For more information about the NSO, visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).**

**For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit [kennedy-center.org](http://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](http://kennedy-center.org/mytix)



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**TICKETS & INFORMATION**

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