



National Symphony Orchestra
The Kennedy Center

Gianandrea Noseda
Music Director

Press Release
September 17, 2018

**JOHN STORGÅRDS LEADS NSO AND PIANIST EMANUEL AX
IN PROGRAM OF MUSIC BY TCHAIKOVSKY, SILVESTROV,
AND MOZART**

October 4-6, 2018, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

(WASHINGTON)—Emanuel Ax returns to the NSO stage as soloist in three NSO performances led by guest conductor John Storgårds—[Thursday, October 4, at 7 p.m.](#); [Friday, October 5, at 11:30 a.m.](#); and [Saturday, October 6, at 8 p.m.](#)—at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The program features Valentin Silvestrov’s *The Messenger*; Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 17; and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5.

The program opens with Ukrainian composer Valentin Silvestrov’s *The Messenger*, a score for strings, piano, solo violin, and synthesizer. Ax performs Mozart’s famous Piano Concerto No. 17, a work NSO Music Director Gianandrea Noseda loves for its “energetic opening of constantly shifting harmonies, delicate marches, and joyous piano arabesques.”

Storgårds closes the concert with Tchaikovsky’s monumental Symphony No. 5, the composer’s first score for which he did not write a detailed program. With its brooding melodies, shocking contrasts, and vivid orchestral coloring, the work’s popularity is well-earned. It’s also a rare example of a symphony in which the main theme appears in each of the four movements.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 5, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 6, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.

National Symphony Orchestra

John Storgårds, conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

V. SILVESTROV	<i>The Messenger</i>
MOZART	Piano Concerto No. 17
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 5

Tickets: \$15–\$89.

Free to all ticketholders, an *Afterwords* conversation with the artists takes place immediately following the October 4 performance. A *Forewords* preconcert talk takes place 75 minutes prior to the performance on October 6.

ABOUT JOHN STORGÅRDS

ABOUT EMANUEL AX

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.

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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TICKETS & INFORMATION

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