



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra to Connect with Young Musicians and Community Members During 2019 Tour of China Residency Activities

***Activities to include side-by-side concerts, master classes, coaching sessions,
chamber performances, and a pop-up performance***

(Philadelphia, May 3, 2019)—Since becoming the first American orchestra to perform in China in 1973, The Philadelphia Orchestra has developed deep, impactful connections throughout the country. During the 2019 Tour of China, May 16-28, 2019, Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and musicians of the Orchestra continue this legacy of people-to-people exchange through music by participating in residency activities ranging from side-by-side concerts to master classes with students. These activities are an essential part of the Orchestra's commitment to cultural exchange and will provide opportunities for musicians to connect with the people of China in meaningful ways.

“The musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra and I are delighted to return to the concert halls of China, and to continue our tradition of pursuing deeper engagement outside of the hall, as well, in communities throughout our travels,” said Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. “This innovative and meaningful model of cultural exchange is a beautiful example of our special relationship with China and a powerful reminder of how music connects us all.”

Residency activities during the 2019 Tour of China include:

Friday, May 17: Open rehearsal at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (Beijing)

Students who participate in programs of the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation will attend the Orchestra's rehearsal at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Saturday, May 18: Side-by-side chamber concert at Minzu University of China (Beijing)

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will collaborate with students of Minzu University of China (MUC) for a rehearsal and side-by-side chamber concert. As part of this unique musical exchange, the students will teach the Orchestra members two Mongolian folk tunes. Several students will perform on the horsehead fiddle, a traditional Mongolian bowed stringed instrument. Following the rehearsal, they will perform side-by-side in a special concert at 1:00 PM. MUC has 23 colleges, all open to international students. Its programs in ethnology, Chinese ethnic minority arts, and Chinese ethnic minority languages and literature are highly ranked and well-regarded globally. MUC is one of the best-known institutions for teaching Chinese as a second language in China. It was one of the first universities in China to enroll international students and is the only university in China where all of the country's 56 ethnic groups are represented in its faculty and student body.

Monday, May 20: China: Then and Now presentation by Ambassador Nicholas Platt at Renmin University (Beijing)

Ambassador Nicholas Platt, who helped facilitate the Orchestra's historic 1973 tour of China, will discuss U.S.-China relations and the long-term relationship between The Philadelphia Orchestra and China. Jin Can Rong, Professor and Associate Dean of the School of International Studies, will also participate in the presentation.

Tuesday, May 21: Master classes at the Central Conservatory Preparatory School (Beijing)

Oboe and violin master classes will be led by Orchestra musicians for students of the Central Conservatory Preparatory School. The Central Conservatory Preparatory School is an international, full-time high school dedicated to building a top-end music education while providing a rigorous academic atmosphere for students. The school successfully prepares students for entry into world-renowned conservatories, comprehensive universities, and liberal arts colleges. This event is sponsored by Philadelphia's Temple University, the Orchestra's official education partner in China.

Tuesday, May 21: Brass quintet pop-up performance at the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People (Beijing)

A brass quintet will perform a pop-up concert at the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People at 5:30 PM. The newly built Center is the largest and most comprehensive center in China with five functioning sub centers: an experiencing center, arts center, early childhood education center, performing arts center, and international exchange center.

Tuesday, May 21: Side-by-side chamber concert with musicians of the National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra at the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People (Beijing)

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will rehearse and perform side-by-side with musicians of the National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra (NCPAO). Three string quartets consisting of two Philadelphia Orchestra musicians and two NCPAO musicians will perform Western and Chinese music during the 7:00 PM concert.

Friday, May 24: Master classes at the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music (Hangzhou)

Violin and trumpet master classes will be led by Orchestra musicians for students of the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. The Conservatory, a leading music education institution committed to artistic excellence, offers a wide range of music and arts teaching for talented students from China and beyond. The Conservatory strives to engage with the global community and build a strong bond with conservatories, arts organizations, institutions, and businesses across the world.

Friday, May 24: Chamber concert at the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music (Hangzhou)

A string quartet will perform a special chamber concert at 1:00 PM at Zhejiang Conservatory of Music.

Sunday, May 26: Chamber concert at Tank Shanghai (Shanghai)

A string quartet will perform a special chamber concert at Tank Shanghai, a multifunctional cultural hub opened in March 2019. The concert is free to the public at 2:15 PM. Tank Shanghai aims to foster connections among the public, contemporary art, urban life, and nature.

Monday, May 27: Coaching sessions at Shanghai University (Shanghai)

Violinists of the Orchestra will coach string quartets at Shanghai University. This event is sponsored by Temple University, the Orchestra's official education partner in China.

Monday, May 27: Coaching sessions at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (Shanghai)

Cellists of the Orchestra will coach string quartets at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. The Conservatory is China's first independent professional music college. It supports a high-level music research institute, a specialized music library with a large collection, a first-class museum of Asian instruments, and a unique music publishing house.

**Please note: All events are subject to change.*

Cultural exchange and residency activities on the 2019 Tour of China are supported by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Temple University, the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, and the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai. Overall support for the Orchestra's 2019 Tour of China is made possible by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

About The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2019 Tour of China

In a time of uncertainty in United States and China relations, The Philadelphia Orchestra will serve as a cultural bridge, fostering meaningful people-to-people exchange through music during its 2019 Tour of China, May 16-28, 2019. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin will lead the tour, bringing the “Philadelphia Sound” to Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Nanjing, and Shanghai, with Shanghai-born pianist Haochen Zhang as soloist. The 2019 visit will mark the Orchestra’s 12th tour of China—the most of any American orchestra—and will coincide with 40 years of official U.S.-China diplomatic relations. Since becoming the first American orchestra to perform in China in 1973, The Philadelphia Orchestra has developed deep, impactful connections throughout the country as a result of concerts and residencies that serve as a bridge for people-to-people exchange in culture and education. Click [here](#) for additional information.

The Philadelphia Orchestra’s 2019 Tour of China is made possible through the generous support of valued sponsors and partners. Morgan Lewis is the official legal partner in China. Temple University is the Orchestra’s official education partner in China. White & Williams, LLP is sponsoring the performance in Tianjin. United Airlines is the official airline of the Orchestra in China. The Philadelphia Convention & Visitor’s Bureau is returning for a sixth year as a supporting sponsor of the tour. Special event support is provided by Ronnie C. Chan and the China Heritage Fund with the permission of the Palace Museum, Beijing. Tour support is also provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and Team PA.

About [The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

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