



2019–20 (120TH SEASON) Chronological Calendar

(as of August 26, 2019)

SOUND ALL AROUND

September 14 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Saturday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

September 16 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Monday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom
(Saturday performances are sensory-friendly)

Charlotte Blake Alston Host

Hugh Sung Piano

Sound All Around, a concert series endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children's Concerts, introduces young audience members to the joy of music through fun, engaging programs designed for 3–5 year olds. Each performance focuses on a different family of instruments, giving young music lovers an informal opportunity to listen to stories with live music performed by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra and get an up-close look at instruments. Concerts are 45 minutes and are hosted by award-winning storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston.

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT AND GALA

September 18 at 7:00 PM—Wednesday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Adela Zaharia Soprano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Audra McDonald Soprano

Strauss

Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Verdi

"È strano! ... Ah, fors'è lui ... Sempre libera," from *La traviata*

Oliveros

"Tuning Meditation," from *Four Meditations for Orchestra*—FIRST

PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Gershwin, Sondheim

Selections

Rodgers and Hammerstein

Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actor. The winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy Award, she was named one of *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2015 and received a 2015 National Medal of Arts. She joins Yannick and the Orchestra, performing beloved selections by Gershwin, Sondheim, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and more, for a truly unforgettable evening.

Join us to celebrate Yannick's eighth season as music director and the lush sounds of *Your* Philadelphia Orchestra. Opening Night Co-Chairs Richelle Rabenou, Peter Shaw, and Assistant Principal Cello Yumi Kendall, and the Opening Night Gala Committee look forward to welcoming you to this celebratory evening with Philadelphia's cultural leaders and arts patrons.

For gala information and tickets, please call 215.893.3124 or visit www.philorch.org/openingnight.

For concert-only tickets, call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org.

YANNICK AND HÉLÈNE OPEN THE SEASON

September 19 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

September 20 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

September 21 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

September 22 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Hélène Grimaud Piano

Coleman

Umoja, for orchestra—WORLD PREMIERE—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA COMMISSION

Bartók

Piano Concerto No. 3

Dvořák

Symphony No. 9 (“From the New World”)

Umoja, a world premiere commission by American composer Valerie Coleman, launches our 2019–20 season. Ms. Coleman’s spirited music draws from Afro-Cuban, jazz, and classical genres. *Umoja*—meaning unity in Swahili—is alive with all these influences. Bartók’s gorgeous Third Concerto, performed by Yannick’s good friend Hélène Grimaud, is as vibrant today as the day The Philadelphia Orchestra and Eugene Ormandy gave the world premiere at the Academy of Music in 1946. This program, inspired by music of American roots, concludes with Dvořák’s wondrous “New World” Symphony.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

SCHEHERAZADE.2

September 26 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

September 27 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

September 28 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

John Adams Conductor

Leila Josefowicz Violin

Ravel

Alborada del gracioso

Stravinsky

Song of the Nightingale

Adams

Scheherazade.2, Dramatic Symphony for Violin and Orchestra—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Composer, conductor, teacher, writer, thinker—John Adams is an American musical icon. His work—exciting and beautiful—unflinchingly confronts, defines, and embraces contemporary culture. He wrote *Scheherazade.2* for the stellar violinist Leila Josefowicz, inspired by an art exhibit about *The Tales of the Arabian Nights* and Rimsky-Korsakov’s original. Josefowicz’s solo violin plays the role of a modern Scheherazade. Adams’s musical exploration of the present-day struggle of women in a patriarchal society reverses the roles, putting the woman in a position of strength. These lyrical musical threads are further evoked in Ravel’s *Alborada del gracioso* and Stravinsky’s *Song of the Nightingale*—signature works by superb composers, and each a showcase for The Philadelphia Orchestra.

FREE COLLEGE NIGHT CONCERT

October 3 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Kensho Watanabe Conductor

Every year a free concert just for college students kicks off The Philadelphia Orchestra's eZseatU program, where thousands of students fill Verizon Hall to experience the famous Philadelphia Sound. A post-concert party in the Kimmel Center lobby with free food and more live music completes this festive night!

RACHMANINOFF'S PIANO CONCERTO No. 2

October 4 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

October 5 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Haochen Zhang Piano

Rachmaninoff	Piano Concerto No. 2
Strauss	<i>An Alpine Symphony</i>

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 marked the composer's triumphant recovery from the disastrous premiere of his First Symphony. While some elements are familiar thanks to movie soundtracks and pop songs, the Concerto as a whole is a testament to Rachmaninoff's brilliance as a composer and pianist. Haochen Zhang is a worthy interpreter of this masterwork: Not yet 30, he's renowned for dazzling technique and thoughtful interpretation. Strauss's *Alpine Symphony* was inspired by a trek up a mountain, from pre-dawn darkness to deepening nightfall. The extra-large orchestra is heavy on woodwinds, brass, and percussion, the better for Strauss to evoke waterfalls, grazing cattle, and even yodels. An extraordinary work by a master of the tone poem.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

These concerts are part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

ALL MOZART WITH YANNICK

October 10 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
October 13 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Juliette Kang Violin
Choong-Jin Chang Viola

Mozart	Symphony No. 35 (“Haffner”)
Mozart	Sinfonia concertante, for violin, viola, and orchestra
Mozart	Symphony No. 40

Yannick leads an all-Mozart program displaying the seemingly infinite range of his musical gifts. The “Haffner” Symphony, named for the commissioning Salzburg family, began as a serenade, but Mozart tweaked and enhanced it into its present form, now recognized as a true breakthrough in his musical style. The Symphony No. 40, perhaps his most famous symphony, is also hailed as a turning point in composition. In the Sinfonia concertante, a hybrid of symphony and concerto, Mozart beguiles with rich, brilliant music for both orchestra and soloists—First Associate Concertmaster Juliette Kang and Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

CELEBRATION THROUGH MUSIC: A CHINA STORY

October 12 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Tan Dun Conductor

The program will include music by Tan Dun and John Adams, as well as works celebrating Chinese musical culture.

CARNEGIE HALL

October 15 at 8:00 PM—Tuesday evening—Carnegie Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Hélène Grimaud Piano

Coleman	<i>Umoja</i> , for orchestra—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA COMMISSION
Bartók	Piano Concerto No. 3
Strauss	<i>An Alpine Symphony</i>

Valerie Coleman’s spirited music draws from Afro-Cuban, jazz, and classical genres. *Umoja*—meaning unity in Swahili—is alive with all these influences. Bartók’s gorgeous Third Concerto, performed by Yannick’s good friend Hélène Grimaud, is as vibrant today as the day The Philadelphia Orchestra and Eugene Ormandy gave the world premiere at the Academy of Music in 1946. Strauss’s *Alpine Symphony* was inspired by a trek up a mountain, from pre-dawn darkness to deepening nightfall. The extra-large orchestra is heavy on woodwinds, brass, and percussion, the better for Strauss to evoke waterfalls, grazing cattle, and even yodels. An extraordinary work by a master of the tone poem.

August 2019—All programs and artists subject to change.

YANNICK AND MAHLER

October 17 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
October 18 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
October 19 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Louis Lortie Piano

Schubert/orch. Liszt *Wanderer Fantasy*, for piano and orchestra
Mahler Symphony No. 5

Mahler summons a large orchestra to explore the full range of human emotions in his Fifth Symphony, a work that Yannick returns to with the Philadelphians for the first time in nine years. Schubert himself struggled to play the *Wanderer Fantasy*. More than just a technical challenge, the piece is an ingenious set of variations on the composer's song "Der Wanderer," transformed by Liszt into a rarely heard piano concerto. The four movements are played without a break, building intensity until the mesmerizing finale. Louis Lortie brings his "faultless pianistic sheen and mastery" (*Gramophone*) to this pinnacle of Schubert's art.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

SOUND ALL AROUND

October 19 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Saturday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom
October 21 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Monday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom
(Saturday performances are sensory-friendly)

Charlotte Blake Alston Host
Hugh Sung Piano

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BRUCH AND BRAHMS

October 24 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
October 25 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
October 26 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Nathalie Stutzmann Conductor
David Kim Violin

Mendelssohn	<i>Hebrides Overture</i>
Bruch	Violin Concerto No. 1
Brahms	Symphony No. 2

Max Bruch may have struggled to write it, but Concertmaster David Kim calls this violin concerto “the perfect combination of beautiful melodies and themes, virtuosic yet accessible.” Brahms’s Second Symphony, possibly his most popular, is said to be his personal favorite as well. Its pastoral aura surely accounts for some of its appeal; but Brahms being Brahms, there is tension and drama as well, building to an extraordinary, triumphant finale. Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann returns to demonstrate her superb chemistry with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
FAMILY CONCERT

October 26 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Aram Demirjian Conductor

Put on your best Halloween costume and the Orchestra will put on theirs! We’ve got plenty of musical treats to fill up your goodie bag. The Philadelphia Orchestra explores the spooky and the silly in this orchestral adventure, an annual audience favorite!

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

October 31 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Peter Richard Conte Organ

The Phantom of the Opera (silent film with organ accompaniment)

The 1925 version of *The Phantom of the Opera* is technically a silent movie ... but not when the mighty Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ is unleashed! Verizon Hall’s magnificent instrument creates the perfect soundtrack for this Hollywood classic, a tale of doomed love in the spooky confines of the Paris Opera House. Known for his performances on the legendary Wanamaker Organ, Peter Richard Conte is master of the keyboard for this special Halloween presentation.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

This concert is part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

SOUND ALL AROUND

November 16 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Saturday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

November 18 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Monday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

(Saturday performances are sensory-friendly)

Charlotte Blake Alston Host

Hugh Sung Piano

Sound All Around, a concert series endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children's Concerts, introduces young audience members to the joy of music through fun, engaging programs designed for 3–5 year olds. Each performance focuses on a different family of instruments, giving young music lovers an informal opportunity to listen to stories with live music performed by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra and get an up-close look at instruments. Concerts are 45 minutes and are hosted by award-winning storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston.

THE FIREBIRD

November 21 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

November 22 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

November 23 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Stéphane Denève Conductor

Kelley O'Connor Mezzo-soprano

Auerbach

Lieberson

Stravinsky

Icarus for Orchestra—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Neruda Songs—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

The Firebird (complete ballet)

With these concerts our esteemed colleague Stéphane Denève begins his sixth and final season as our principal guest conductor. Soviet-born American composer Lera Auerbach says she was drawn to the myth of Icarus because of “his wish to reach the unreachable, the intensity of the ecstatic brevity of his flight, and the inevitability of his fall.” Her adventurous musical palette exploits the full sonic range of the orchestra: shimmering, soaring, and ultimately dying away. Stravinsky describes a different myth about feathered flight in his *Firebird*. He mined everything from Russian folk music to his classical forebears (especially his teacher, Rimsky-Korsakov) to tell this story of a prince, an evil king, and, of course, a magical firebird. Peter Lieberson set five love poems by Pablo Neruda to music in this touching work written for his wife, mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, who gave the world premiere.

L'ORCHESTRE MÉTROPOLITAIN DE MONTRÉAL

November 24 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

L'Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor and Piano

Joyce DiDonato Mezzo-soprano

Mozart	“Ch'io mi scordi di te? ... Non temer, amato bene”
Mozart	“Parto, ma tu ben mio,” from <i>La clemenza di Tito</i>
Bruckner	Symphony No. 4 (“Romantic”)

Yannick has been artistic director and principal conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain in his hometown of Montreal since 2000. Hear him conduct the ensemble for the first time in Philadelphia, leading a masterpiece by his beloved Bruckner. The radiant Joyce DiDonato joins for two ethereal arias by Mozart.

BEETHOVENNOW: THE VIOLIN CONCERTO

November 29 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

November 30 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Susanna Mälkki Conductor

Gil Shaham Violin

Jolas	<i>A Little Summer Suite</i> —FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES
Beethoven	Violin Concerto
Prokofiev	Symphony No. 5

Beethoven's only violin concerto is “an amazing trip,” says Gil Shaham, from the opening drumbeats, through some of “the most sublime, most beautiful violin passages ever,” to the “perfect fiddling” of the final dance. Susanna Mälkki, renowned interpreter of new music, leads Betsy Jolas's *A Little Summer Suite*, written in 2015 on the eve of the composer's 90th birthday. The deceptively simple opening of Prokofiev's rhapsodic Fifth Symphony gives way to a rich and complex display of his expansive talents, conceived, in the composer's words, as “a symphony of the greatness of the human spirit.”

ORGAN AND BRASS CHRISTMAS

December 1 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Brass Section

Erina Yashima Conductor

Peter Richard Conte Organ

Hark the herald trumpets (and horns, trombones, and tuba) sing! The unmatched sound and musicality of The Philadelphia Orchestra's legendary brass section usher in the holiday season on a high note. And the glory of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ adds another heavenly voice to this collection of treasured Christmas music, with master organist Peter Richard Conte at the keyboard for this festive presentation.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

This concert is part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

August 2019—All programs and artists subject to change.

BACH'S MASS IN B MINOR

December 5 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

December 6 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

December 7 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Carolyn Sampson Soprano

Karen Cargill Mezzo-soprano

Jonas Hacker Tenor

Benjamin Appl Baritone—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Westminster Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller Director

Bach

Mass in B minor

This work of towering musicality and deep spirituality is a fitting summation of J.S. Bach's epochal career; he finished it the year before he died. It's "above and beyond every piece of music that's been created for liturgical purposes," says Yannick Nézet-Séguin. A setting of the complete Latin Mass, it demands superlatives, at the same time rendering them inadequate. Yannick's mastery of vocal music, the Westminster Symphonic Choir, distinguished vocal soloists, and the inimitable Philadelphia Orchestra will bring the Mass to life as a peak musical and spiritual experience for every listener.

This concert is part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

WYNTON MARSALIS'S BLUES SYMPHONY

December 12 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

December 13 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

December 14 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Cristian Măcelaru Conductor

Leonidas Kavakos Violin

Shostakovich

Violin Concerto No. 1

Marsalis

Blues Symphony—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Pulitzer Prize-winner Wynton Marsalis switches from jazz band to symphony orchestra for his *Blues Symphony*. "Blues is affirmation with absolute elegance," says Marsalis, and he uses the classic 12-bar musical form as the basis for this work, which celebrates all types of American and African-American music, from spirituals to ragtime, from marches to bluegrass. This Philadelphia premiere is conducted by our long-time friend Cristian Măcelaru. Shostakovich's emotional First Violin Concerto reveals the pure power and technical prowess of orchestra and soloist. Leonidas Kavakos, "a marvel of exactitude" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), describes the dialogues between the two as "absolutely breathtaking."

CHRISTMAS KIDS' SPECTACULAR
FAMILY CONCERT

December 14 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Aram Demirjian Conductor

It's the start of the holiday season! Join us for a festive celebration of all your favorite Christmas sounds and sing-alongs. Listen closely for those jingle bells, too—you never know who might pay a special visit to Verizon Hall.

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR—CHRISTMAS IN VIENNA

December 15 at 7:30 PM—Sunday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir has been delighting music lovers across the globe for six centuries with their purity of tone, distinctive charm, and popular repertoire. Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted young musicians with voices of unforgettable beauty in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs, and, of course, holiday favorites.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

THE GLORIOUS SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

December 19 at 7:00 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
December 20 at 7:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
December 21 at 7:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Bramwell Tovey Conductor and Piano

The Glorious Sound of Christmas has been a Philadelphia Orchestra tradition since the Philadelphians and Eugene Ormandy released the now-iconic recording in 1962. Make these concerts part of your holiday tradition with these jubilant and family-friendly concerts.

MESSIAH

December 22 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Jane Glover Conductor

Susanna Phillips Soprano

Paula Murrihy Mezzo-soprano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Jonas Hacker Tenor

Henry Waddington Bass-baritone—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Philadelphia Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller Director

Handel

Messiah

Shortly after sending Handel his libretto for a new oratorio, Charles Jennens wrote to a friend, hoping that the composer “will lay out his whole genius and skill upon it.” In 24 days of feverish writing, Handel did just that, creating his immortal *Messiah*. Pioneering conductor and Handel expert Jane Glover brings her decades of experience with opera and Baroque music back to the Kimmel Center for our holiday presentation of this masterwork, with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir joining the Orchestra for a revelatory performance.

This concert is part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

NEW YEAR’S EVE

December 31 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Bramwell Tovey Conductor

The popular Bramwell Tovey returns, bringing his inimitable flair and irrepressible joy to our New Year’s Eve concert. Bring on the bubbly and ring in 2020 with the Fabulous Philadelphians.

DISNEY'S FANTASIA—LIVE IN CONCERT

January 3 at 7:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
January 4 at 7:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
January 5 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Aram Demirjian Conductor

Bach/orch. Stokowski Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Orchestra only)

Tchaikovsky Excerpts from Suite No. 1 from *The Nutcracker*

Beethoven Excerpts from Symphony No. 5

Stravinsky Excerpts from Suite from *The Firebird*

Ponchielli "Dance of the Hours," from *La Gioconda*

Debussy/orch. Stokowski "Clair de lune," from *Suite bergamasque* (Orchestra only)

Beethoven Excerpts from Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Fantasia is a pinnacle of cinematic art, and a landmark in The Philadelphia Orchestra's incredible tradition of innovation. This groundbreaking 1940 collaboration between the visionary genius Walt Disney and the Orchestra's commanding maestro Leopold Stokowski has never lost its capacity to move, delight, and astonish audiences all over the world. There is simply nothing like a live performance of this classic by your Philadelphia Orchestra.

Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts ©. All rights reserved.

BEETHOVENNOW: BRONFMAN PLAYS CONCERTO NO. 4

January 23 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Academy of Music

January 24 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Academy of Music

January 26 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Academy of Music

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Yefim Bronfman Piano

Fung

Beethoven

Rachmaninoff

Dust Devils—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Piano Concerto No. 4

Symphony No. 3

The Orchestra returns to the Academy of Music for its first subscription concerts since moving to Verizon Hall in 2001. It's a fitting venue for Rachmaninoff's nostalgic, romantic Symphony No. 3, premiered by the composer's cherished Philadelphians in 1936 on that very same stage, with Leopold Stokowski conducting. The gentle, lone piano chords that open the Fourth Concerto were a radical construct when Beethoven premiered the wide-ranging and emotional work in 1808. Yefim Bronfman says he's always been drawn to its tenderness.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC 163RD ANNIVERSARY CONCERT AND BALL

January 25 at 7:00 PM—Saturday evening—Academy of Music

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Join The Philadelphia Orchestra in celebrating the 163rd birthday of the Academy of Music—the Orchestra’s original home and the place where the famous Philadelphia Sound was created. How amazing, says Yannick, that after all these years, “the Grand Old Lady of Locust Street is not a museum, but a muse,” still inspiring the most beautiful music. The annual Anniversary Concert and Ball is the premier musical and social event on Philadelphia’s calendar, a star-studded gala featuring an array of the world’s best artists, performing beneath the Academy’s glittering chandelier. Recent guest artists have included Sting, Steve Martin, Al Pacino, Hugh Jackman, and Helen Mirren.

Save the date and join the invitation list by calling the Academy of Music Restoration Fund Office at 215.893.1978 or visiting theacademyball.org.

Proceeds from the Anniversary Concert and Ball benefit the ongoing preservation and restoration of the Academy of Music, an important National Historic Landmark Building, and The Philadelphia Orchestra.

BEETHOVENNOW: TRIFONOV PLAYS CONCERTOS NO. 1 AND 5

January 30 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

January 31 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 1 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 2 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Daniil Trifonov Piano

Boulanger	<i>Of a Sad Evening</i> —FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES
Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 1 (Thursday and Friday)
Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 5 (“Emperor”) (Saturday and Sunday)
Farrenc	Symphony No. 2—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Daniil Trifonov, the Orchestra’s Grammy-winning recording partner, returns for four performances. Amplifying the programs are two underappreciated works by formidable women composers: Lili Boulanger, the first woman to win, in 1913, the prestigious Prix de Rome composition prize, and Louise Farrenc, whose Symphony No. 2 dialogues with Beethoven, and leaves us asking why her works are not a more integral part of the canon today.

BEETHOVENNOW: AX PLAYS CONCERTOS NO. 2 AND 3

February 6 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 7 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 8 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Karina Canellakis Conductor—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Emanuel Ax Piano

Di Castri

Beethoven

Beethoven

Lutosławski

Lineage—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Piano Concerto No. 2 (Thursday and Saturday)

Piano Concerto No. 3 (Friday)

Concerto for Orchestra

Beethoven composed “the most positive music ever written,” with every work containing “every emotion known to man,” says Emanuel Ax, who completes our piano concerto cycle. Beethoven made his public debut with his Second Concerto, a dramatic, humorous, ebullient work that announced the young artist’s arrival. The muscular Third embodies Beethoven’s “proud Prospero-like assertion of his beloved C-minor powers.” (*Gramophone*) Rising star and Curtis Institute of Music graduate Karina Canellakis makes her Philadelphia Orchestra debut, also leading Canadian composer Zosha Di Castri’s 2015 tribute to her grandmother and Lutosławski’s fascinating showpiece for orchestra.

SOUND ALL AROUND

February 8 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Saturday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

February 10 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Monday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom
(Saturday performances are sensory-friendly)

Charlotte Blake Alston Host

Hugh Sung Piano

Sound All Around, a concert series endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children’s Concerts, introduces young audience members to the joy of music through fun, engaging programs designed for 3–5 year olds. Each performance focuses on a different family of instruments, giving young music lovers an informal opportunity to listen to stories with live music performed by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra and get an up-close look at instruments. Concerts are 45 minutes and are hosted by award-winning storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston.

SORCERERS, SPELLS, AND MAGIC

February 13 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 14 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 15 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Stéphane Denève Conductor

Westminster Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller Director

Philadelphia Boys Choir

Jeffrey R. Smith Artistic Director

Mozart	Overture to <i>The Magic Flute</i>
Dukas	<i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>
Williams	Selections from <i>Harry Potter</i>
Ravel	<i>L'Enfant et les sortilèges</i>

The Philadelphia Orchestra celebrates Valentine's weekend with spellbinding music, beginning with Mozart's bewitching *The Magic Flute*. Magic takes a darker turn in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Dukas's symphonic poem immortalized by Mickey Mouse battling demonic brooms in *Fantasia*. Stéphane Denève is a passionate exponent of John Williams's endlessly creative music for the cinema, represented here by his spookily charming *Harry Potter* scores. Youth and magic reappear in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* (The Child and the Magic Spells), a one-act fairy tale opera with libretto by renowned French author Colette, and featuring talent from the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Enchanting!

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

February 20 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 21 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 22 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Herbert Blomstedt Conductor

Lise de la Salle Piano

Mendelssohn	Piano Concerto No. 2
Berlioz	<i>Symphonie fantastique</i>

Mendelssohn wrote his Second Piano Concerto right after he got married and there's plenty of joy expressed, especially in the final movement, which the composer himself described as "piano fireworks." He was the soloist at the premiere in 1837. The young French pianist Lise de la Salle ("For much of the concert, the audience had to remember to breathe..." – *The Washington Post*) is a riveting choice to interpret this concerto. Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* is a tour de force of compositional color, a breakthrough that set the stage for his most assured writing. While said to depict the opium-inspired visions of a lovesick young artist, the music needs no libretto to communicate its passion. Who better to lead this celebration of youthful intensity than the ageless Herbert Blomstedt!

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

RESPIGHI'S PINES OF ROME

February 27 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 28 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

February 29 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

TBD Conductor

Paul Jacobs Organ

Elgar	<i>In the South</i>
Daugherty	<i>Once Upon a Castle</i> , for organ and orchestra—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES
Elgar	Introduction and Allegro
Respighi	Pines of Rome

Two journeys to Italy bookend this program. Respighi's *Pines of Rome* is a sweeping pictorial of the Italian landscape. Edward Elgar's scintillating tone poem *In the South* commemorates a family holiday; the richly textured music conveys the Italian Riviera in all its warmth. Elgar's Introduction and Allegro is a showcase for strings. Inspired by the theater organ in William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon (fictionalized as Xanadu in *Citizen Kane*), Michael Daugherty's lush *Once Upon a Castle* brings out what the composer calls the "Technicolor" nature of the instrument. Keyboard virtuoso Paul Jacobs returns to the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ.

These concerts are part of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.

PORGY AND BESS

March 5 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 6 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 7 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Marin Alsop Conductor

Angel Blue Bess—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Lester Lynch Porgy—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT

Kevin Short Crown, Jake—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT

Morgan State University Choir

Eric Conway, Director

Gershwin Highlights from *Porgy and Bess*

This American classic is the story of a man trying to rescue a woman from her distressing life. To help create his masterpiece, George Gershwin immersed himself in African-American life and culture on Charleston's Catfish Row, honoring the area's folk traditions with timeless melodies. Pioneering conductor Marin Alsop leads our performances of this tale of oppression, struggle, hope, and love. The cast includes soprano Angel Blue (hailed by Plácido Domingo as "the next Leontyne Price") and celebrated baritone Lester Lynch.

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
FAMILY CONCERT

March 7 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Lina Gonzalez-Granados Conductor—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Dancers from the Rock School for Dance Education

Bojan Spassoff Director

Saint-Saëns

Carnival of the Animals

Lions and tigers and ... pianists? Oh, my! Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* is a musical journey through the animal kingdom that's fun for all ages. Verizon Hall will be magically turned into a zoo through your child's imagination as animals are conjured up by the musicians of the Orchestra.

BEETHOVENNOW: SYMPHONIES 5 & 6

March 12 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 13 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Carnegie Hall

March 14 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 15 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Habibi

Work in Dialogue with Beethoven—WORLD PREMIERE—PHILADELPHIA
ORCHESTRA COMMISSION (Verizon Hall Only)

Beethoven

Symphony No. 5

Beethoven

Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

The indelible four-note opening of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony lays the foundation for a truly fateful symphonic journey. Written in 1804, and on the program when The Philadelphia Orchestra gave its first concert in 1900, it's an epic tour de force that resonates in 2020. Following its rousing conclusion come the verdant valleys and sweet smells of the woods and the Austrian countryside, an exposition of Beethoven's love of nature. Composed and premiered at the same time, the "Pastoral" offers a striking contrast to the assertive Fifth.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

BEETHOVENNOW: SYMPHONIES 2 & 3

March 19 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 20 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Carnegie Hall

March 21 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 22 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Hunt Work in Dialogue with Beethoven—WORLD PREMIERE—PHILADELPHIA
ORCHESTRA COMMISSION (Verizon Hall Only)

Beethoven Symphony No. 2

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”)

Beethoven was just beginning to go deaf when he wrote his Second Symphony and though he was losing his hearing, he was finding his voice. He could have composed a manifestation of despair, but instead gave the world one of his most ebullient and life-affirming works. The Third Symphony was groundbreaking, a turning point in the composer’s oeuvre and a watershed in musical history. A vast ode to heroism, revolution, and freedom, the “Eroica” is considered by many to be the greatest not just of Beethoven’s symphonies, but of all time.

SOUND ALL AROUND

March 21 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Saturday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

March 23 at 10:00 AM and 11:15 AM—Monday morning—Academy of Music Ballroom

(Saturday performances are sensory-friendly)

Charlotte Blake Alston Host

Hugh Sung Piano

Sound All Around, a concert series endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children’s Concerts, introduces young audience members to the joy of music through fun, engaging programs designed for 3–5 year olds. Each performance focuses on a different family of instruments, giving young music lovers an informal opportunity to listen to stories with live music performed by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra and get an up-close look at instruments. Concerts are 45 minutes and are hosted by award-winning storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston.

BEETHOVENNOW: SYMPHONIES 8, 4, & 7

March 26 at 8:00 PM—Thursday evening—Carnegie Hall

March 27 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 28 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 29 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Simon	Work in Dialogue with Beethoven—WORLD PREMIERE—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA COMMISSION (Verizon Hall Only)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 8
Beethoven	Symphony No. 4
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7

Buoyant and humorous, the Eighth Symphony belies none of the composer's worsening health issues or what had to be the devastating end of a love affair, detailed in a famous letter written around the same time to his "Immortal Beloved." Perhaps the least known, the Fourth was widely admired: Schumann compared it to "a slender Greek maiden" between the two "Norse giants" of the Third and Fifth; Berlioz insisted it was the work of an angel. And Tchaikovsky described the triumphant Seventh as "full of unrestrained joy, full of bliss and pleasure of life." The exhilarating and familiar second movement is said to have been so inspiring at the premiere, an encore was demanded instantly.

BEETHOVENNOW: SYMPHONIES 1 & 9

April 2 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

April 3 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Carnegie Hall

April 4 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

April 5 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Angel Blue Soprano

Mihoko Fujimura Mezzo-soprano

Rolando Villazón Tenor

Quinn Kelsey Baritone—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Westminster Symphonic Choir and Community Voices

Joe Miller Director

Frank	Work in Dialogue with Beethoven—WORLD PREMIERE—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA COMMISSION (Verizon Hall Only)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 1
Beethoven	Symphony No. 9 ("Choral")

Beethoven was just 25 when he wrote his First Symphony. Delightful and high-spirited, floating on strains of Mozart and Haydn, it's a fascinating glimpse of the greatness and genius to come—all on full, glorious display in the climactic Ninth. Written just a few short years before his death, Beethoven's profound ode to brotherhood, salvation, and pure joy reminds us why we are here as an orchestra, says Yannick, and why we constantly try to make our world better by playing music.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

April 15 at 8:00 PM—Wednesday evening—John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Stéphane Denève Conductor
Kelley O'Connor Mezzo-soprano

Clyne	<i>This Midnight Hour</i> —FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE
Lieberson	<i>Neruda Songs</i>
Prokofiev	Excerpts from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>

THIBAUDET AND LISZT

April 17 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
April 18 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Stéphane Denève Conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet Piano

Clyne	<i>This Midnight Hour</i>
Liszt	Piano Concerto No. 2
Strauss	<i>Ein Heldenleben</i>

Stéphane Denève's final subscription concerts as the Orchestra's principal guest conductor culminate with Strauss's epic *Ein Heldenleben*—literally, A Hero's Life—an extravagant, all-encompassing, semi-autobiographical tone poem that quotes from his own prodigious masterpieces. Anna Clyne's imaginative *This Midnight Hour*, highlighting the power of the lower strings, evokes the journey of a mysterious woman "stripped bare, running mad through the night." Liszt's heady Second Piano Concerto is gorgeous and technically challenging. Jean-Yves Thibaudet brings to it his intense power and quintessential flair.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

April 23 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

April 24 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

April 25 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Fabio Luisi Conductor

Jeffrey Khaner Flute

Sørensen

Nielsen

Tchaikovsky

Evening Land—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Flute Concerto

Symphony No. 5

Italian conductor Fabio Luisi returns to conduct a program that opens with Bent Sørensen's *Evening Land*. The piece was inspired by an image of the evening light that Sørensen recalled from his childhood in Denmark. Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner is especially pleased to be performing the Nielsen Concerto. "I love the back and forth in the orchestration; it's a lot of fun to play and listen to!" Famous for its ingenious use of a "fate" theme, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony progresses from a somber beginning to an uplifting, triumphant march in the final movement. It's Tchaikovsky at his soulful best!

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

TCHAIKOVSKY AND SHOSTAKOVICH

April 30 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 1 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 2 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Tugan Sokhiev Conductor

Lukas Geniušas Piano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Firsova

Tchaikovsky

Shostakovich

The Garden of Dreams: Hommage to Shostakovich—FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

Piano Concerto No. 2

Symphony No. 5

Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto may be overshadowed by his more famous First, but it's the piece that earned Lukas Geniušas top honors at the Tchaikovsky Competition. Balanchine, too, recognized its consummate beauty, choosing it as the score for his tribute to classical Russian ballet. The government decided what was art when Shostakovich wrote his vehement and complicated Fifth Symphony under an oppressive Soviet regime (and threat of the Gulag). Elena Firsova—blacklisted and exiled from the Soviet Union in the latter part of the 20th century—pays tribute to her compatriot with *The Garden of Dreams*. Tugan Sokhiev, music director of the Bolshoi Theatre, leads this incisive program.

These concerts will be LiveNote® enabled.

BEETHOVENNOW: SOLO PIANO RECITAL WITH EVGENY KISSIN

May 14 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Evgeny Kissin Piano

Beethoven	Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 (“Pathétique”)
Beethoven	Fifteen Variations and a Fugue on an Original Theme in E-flat major, Op. 35 (“Eroica”)
Beethoven	Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2
Beethoven	Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53 (“Waldstein”)

In a season presenting all nine of Beethoven’s symphonies, and all five of his piano concertos, we can’t ignore his solo piano pieces, some of the most unforgettable music ever written. From the “Pathétique” with its echoes of Mozart to the “Eroica” Variations, using thematic material from his Third Symphony, to the innovative D-minor and the heroic and technically challenging “Waldstein,” this brief survey underscores yet again Beethoven’s monumental musical genius. The internationally acclaimed virtuoso Evgeny Kissin performs these masterpieces.

Please note: The Philadelphia Orchestra does not perform on this concert.

A co-presentation by the Kimmel Center and The Philadelphia Orchestra

ELEKTRA

May 15 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 17 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 19 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Christine Goerke Soprano (Elektra)—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Amber Wagner Soprano (Chrysothemis)—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Michaela Martens Mezzo-soprano (Klytämnestra)—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Mikhail Petrenko Bass (Orest)

Jay Hunter Morris Tenor (Aegisth)—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Philadelphia Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller Director

Jonathan Loy Stage Director—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Strauss *Elektra*

The reviews were rapturous for Yannick’s “blazing and urgent, yet richly nuanced account of Strauss’s still-shocking score” (*The New York Times*) when he led *Elektra* at the Metropolitan Opera in 2018. He reprises the triumph with these symphonically staged performances starring The Philadelphia Orchestra and a cast of vocal powerhouses. Christine Goerke sings the title role, a tormented daughter obsessed with avenging the death of her father, Agamemnon. Mikhail Petrenko portrays the brother she hopes will kill the murderous culprits: their mother and her lover. This is a hair-raising, harrowing 100 minutes of electrifying music, heard in full, vivid detail with the Orchestra on stage.

BEETHOVENNOW: SYMPHONIES 5 & 6

May 16 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Beethoven Symphony No. 5
Beethoven Symphony No. 6 (“Pastoral”)

Yannick reprises a highlight of our season’s Beethoven celebration for a special, one-night-only performance of two masterpieces. The indelible four-note opening of the Fifth Symphony lays the foundation for a truly fateful symphonic journey. Written in 1804, and on the program when The Philadelphia Orchestra gave its first concert in 1900, it’s an epic tour de force that resonates in 2020. Following its rousing conclusion come the verdant valleys and sweet smells of the woods and the Austrian countryside, an exposition of Beethoven’s love of nature. Composed and premiered at the same time, the “Pastoral” offers a striking contrast to the assertive Fifth.

YUJA WANG AND THE BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTOS

May 28 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 29 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 30 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 31 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Yuja Wang Piano

Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 (Thursday and Friday)
Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 (Saturday and Sunday)
Sibelius Symphony No. 3

Brahms wrote just two piano concertos. He was 25 when he completed his youthful and vigorous First Concerto. Two decades later he composed his tremendous Second; Yannick compares the final, fourth movement to playing in heaven, surrounded by angels. The fiery Yuja Wang, Curtis Institute of Music graduate and Philadelphia favorite, returns to her second home for four performances, bringing her technical virtuosity and thoughtful depth of music-making to these two corresponding and harmonious works. Hear them both, paired with Sibelius’s Symphony No. 3, a masterpiece of the Finnish national hero.

THE SEASON FINALE

June 4 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 5 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 6 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Philadelphia Symphonic Choir

Joe Miller Director

Bruckner

Selected Motets

Bruckner

Symphony No. 3 (original version)

Bruckner is “one of the great symphonists of all time,” says Yannick. His music is “spiritual, romantic, dreamy, imposing, cataclysmic ... music that excites all the emotions and magnifies the results of the symphony.” A Bruckner champion and world-renowned interpreter, Yannick’s deep affinity for the composer shines in passionate performances of the thrilling Third Symphony, “an unquestioned masterpiece, a citadel that no critic can pull down. Bruckner’s invention is exuberant throughout: the finale confidently transforms the tragic mood of the first movement into triumph.” (*The New Yorker*) A set of exquisite Bruckner motets, sung a cappella, provides a contemplative opening to a program that aims to end the season’s musical journey in communion with the divine.

UP—LIVE IN CONCERT

June 11 at 7:00 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 12 at 7:00 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 13 at 7:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Giacchino

Up (complete with film)

A 78-year-old curmudgeonly balloon salesman is not your average hero. When he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America, he finally fulfills his lifelong dream of adventure. But after Carl discovers an eight-year-old stowaway named Russell, this unlikely duo soon finds themselves on a hilarious journey in a lost world filled with danger and surprises. This film is enhanced by Michael Giacchino’s Academy Award-winning original score performed live by the incomparable Philadelphia Orchestra.

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BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY

June 25 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 26 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

June 27 at 7:30 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra

George Daugherty Conductor

LiveNote is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the William Penn Foundation.

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About [The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

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