

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

2022–23 Season: Transformation
Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra
Featuring Lang Lang
September 28, 2022

Valerie Coleman's Umoja, Anthem for Unity,
performed by BalletX in Verizon Hall premiere of choreography
by New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Tiler Peck

(Philadelphia, September 7, 2022)—**The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin** launch the 2022–23 season on **Wednesday, September 28, 2022**, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts with a special **Opening Night Celebration**, featuring acclaimed pianist **Lang Lang** performing Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 2. The concert will open with Valerie Coleman's *Umoja, Anthem for Unity*, with a special performance from Philadelphia's own BalletX, featuring new choreography by New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Tiler Peck. The program will also include a performance of Dvořák's Symphony No. 8. The concert will take place at 7:00 PM in Verizon Hall. Tickets are available at 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org.

"Opening Night with *Your* Philadelphia Orchestra will introduce audiences to a new season of fresh voices and transformative music," said Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, who will be entering his 11th season with the Orchestra. "Collaboration is key to our success, and we are thrilled to perform alongside Lang Lang and BalletX, who join us in striving for innovation and connection through the arts. It is certain to be a very special night."

Returning to pre-pandemic traditions, donors who contribute at benefactor levels to support the Opening Night Celebration will enjoy a pre-concert reception beginning at 6:00 PM in Commonwealth Plaza. Following the 7:00 PM concert, benefactors will enjoy a gala dinner in the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza catered by Garces Events.

For those interested in purchasing a benefactor package for the Opening Night Celebration, more information is available [here](#). Young Friends of The Philadelphia Orchestra can access a special benefactor package for tickets to both the gala celebration and concert; please contact youngfriends@philorch.org for more information.

The musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin are graciously donating their services for the Opening Night concert. This year's Opening Night Celebration is organized under the direction of Opening Night Co-Chairs Elizabeth Zelov, Orchestra violinist Amy Oshiro-Morales, and Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc. Board member Alison T. Young, as well as The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center Inc.'s Board of Directors and dedicated Volunteers.

This year marks the 36th season for which The Philadelphia Orchestra's Volunteer Committees have presented the Opening Night festivities. The Volunteer Committees for The Philadelphia Orchestra were formed in 1904, and served as the first permanent organization of its kind in the United States. Since their formation, the Volunteer Committees have come to serve as a model for similar groups in the U.S. and abroad. The current Volunteer Committees for The Philadelphia Orchestra include Central, Main Line, New Jersey, Rittenhouse, and West Philadelphia. Through their endeavors over the past century, thousands of members of the Volunteer Committees have given countless hours and innumerable talents in service to The Philadelphia Orchestra and the people of the greater Philadelphia region.

Opening Night Celebration with Yannick and Lang Lang

September 28 at 7:00 PM—Wednesday evening—Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Lang Lang Piano
BalletX
Christine Cox Artistic Director

Coleman	<i>Umoja, Anthem for Unity</i>
Saint-Saëns	Piano Concerto No. 2
Dvořák	Symphony No. 8

Yannick and the Orchestra open the season with Saint-Saëns's stunning Piano Concerto No. 2. And who better to join us than the incomparable Lang Lang, hailed by the *New York Times* as "the hottest artist on the classical music planet." Accompanying Valerie Coleman's stirring *Umoja, Anthem for Unity*, the innovative style of BalletX will be on full display as they perform new choreography from acclaimed American ballet dancer Tiler Peck for a showstopping collaboration in this special concert and gala event—an unforgettable start to our 123rd season. The Tiler Peck co-commission with BalletX is sponsored by Neal Krouse.

For tickets, call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org.

The Philadelphia Orchestra would like to extend sincere gratitude to our 2022 Opening Night Celebration Benefactors.

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