

Your ORCHESTRA.

Your IMPACT.

Our GRATITUDE.




The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director

The Orchestra Looks

Forward



“This fall,  we will honor the losses of the past year with a renewed commitment to the music we make, to musical citizenry,  and to the bright future of The Philadelphia Orchestra.  We can't wait to be together again!”

Yannick leads the Orchestra and pianist Michelle Cann in Florence Price's Piano Concerto in One Movement, part of Hail to the Heroes: A Concert of Gratitude presented in partnership with the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. This was the Orchestra's first performance for a live audience since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

New U.S. citizens enjoy an Our City, Your Orchestra performance at a naturalization ceremony in West Philadelphia.

Yannick leads pianist Aaron Diehl and the Orchestra in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* in a performance on the Digital Stage.

—Music Director
Yannick Nézet-Séguin



Yannick and the Orchestra record a Digital Stage concert in Verizon Hall.

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2020–21 season and anticipate the return of audiences to Verizon Hall, we gratefully acknowledge your generosity to The Philadelphia Orchestra. Thank you for standing with us throughout the pandemic and for joining with us as we embark on a new era. Your dedication and generous gifts inspire us to explore ever-evolving ways of creating and sharing music and community programs with new audiences worldwide. Read on to learn more about the exceptional artistry and meaningful connections that your support makes possible.

This summer, *Your Philadelphia Orchestra* celebrates the return to beloved summer homes at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

In addition to these in-person performances, we are featuring an exciting variety of summer Digital Stage programs, including Bizet and Ravel led by Yannick, An Evening with Esa-Pekka Salonen, and more. We are also getting ready for a spectacular fall 2021 season in Verizon Hall and on the Digital Stage with Yannick and the Orchestra; a stellar lineup of artists, composers, and collaborators; and most importantly ... you!

The theme of our fall season—Forward—is an expression of hope and optimism for the future, showing how music can help us better understand each other and our world amidst profound change. The musicians of the Orchestra will take center stage with inspiring programs that reflect on the pandemic's impact, the social justice

movement in America, and the drive toward creative equity and inclusion in the world of orchestral music. The fall season will feature dynamic artists such as pianist Aaron Diehl, opera singer and activist Davóne Tines, violinist Joshua Bell, and vocalist Laurin Talese, in addition to phenomenal composers like Florence Price, George Gershwin, Wynton Marsalis, Melinda Wagner, Johannes Brahms, Mozart, and more. There is so much music and talent in store at Verizon Hall and on the Digital Stage. We look forward to welcoming you to the 122nd season of The Philadelphia Orchestra.



This page: Paul Jacobs was soloist in Poulenc's Organ Concerto on the Digital Stage, recorded in Verizon Hall.

Spring 2021 Concert Highlights

Throughout the 2020–21 season, the Orchestra presented new concerts on the Digital Stage, hosted a star-studded celebration of the Academy of Music, and continued our commitment to the people and communities of Philadelphia. These are just a few of the concerts and events presented this spring.

The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience

In April, Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs returned to Verizon Hall for two remarkable concerts: a recital featuring his own arrangements of works by Handel and Bach, plus a Digital Stage performance featuring Francis Poulenc's Organ Concerto. Jacobs performed these magnificent works

on the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ, the largest mechanical action concert hall pipe organ in the world. This series of concerts marked the culmination of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience, a five-year initiative to increase and expand programming for the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ in Verizon Hall. We are most grateful to the Wyncote Foundation for its generous \$5 million gift and to Frederick R. Haas, a former member of the Philadelphia Orchestra Board of Directors, who served as artistic advisor of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience.



FANFARE FOR THE FUTURE



inside the Academy, the heartbeat of Philadelphia's arts community. Restoration work at the Academy has been ongoing throughout the pandemic, and when the doors reopen to audiences this fall, the building will be even more beautiful than before. We are grateful to the many patrons, donors, and underwriters whose contributions to Fanfare for the Future helped ensure the future of this beloved National Historic Landmark.

Hail to the Heroes: Reuniting with Audiences

On May 15, after 434 days without in-person audiences, The Philadelphia Orchestra performed live at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. The free concert, Hail to the Heroes: A Concert of Gratitude, was presented for the frontline workers of the pandemic—healthcare and hospital staff, emergency responders, teachers, grocery store workers, Postal Service employees, and more. On this historic occasion, Yannick led the Orchestra in performances of uplifting and powerful works, including the first performance for a live audience of Valerie Coleman's *Seven O'Clock Shout*, commissioned by the Orchestra during the pandemic to honor frontline workers, and a work that has become the Orchestra's anthem of this time in our history. The concert also featured the final movement of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, the Theme from *Rocky*,

James Weldon Johnson's anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with vocalist Laurin Talese, Florence Price's Piano Concerto with Michelle Cann, and Vivian Fung's *Prayer*, also composed during the pandemic.

Hail to the Heroes: A Concert of Gratitude was sponsored by:

AmerisourceBergen

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Independence Blue Cross

**Thomas Jefferson University and
Jefferson Health**

Main Line Health

The National Endowment for the Arts

Penn Medicine

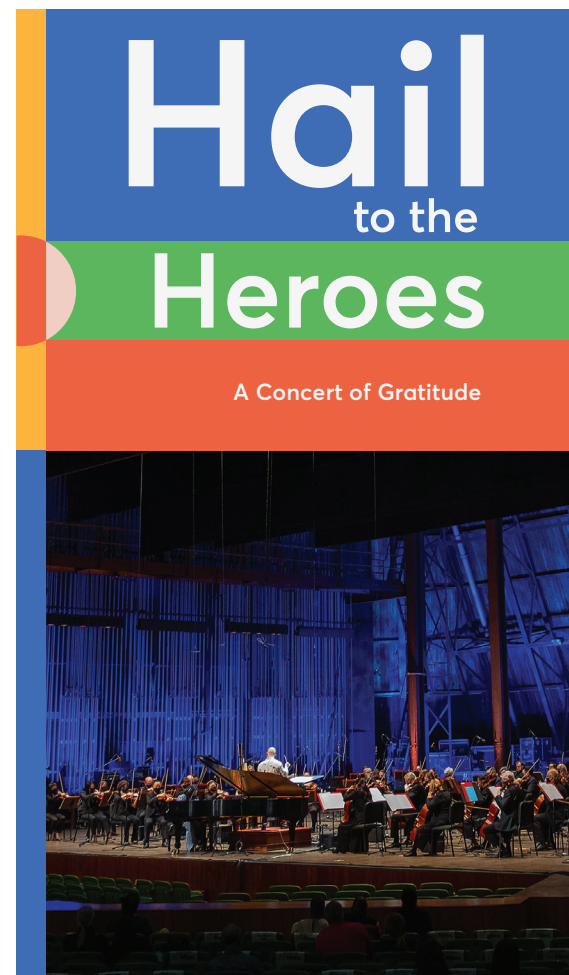
The Snider Foundation

Temple Health

Wills Eye Hospital

Fanfare for the Future: Celebrating the Academy of Music

For over 120 years, The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Academy of Music have shared a storied past as cornerstones of culture in Philadelphia. On May 13, we presented Fanfare for the Future, an interactive online concert event and gala supporting the Academy's ongoing restoration. Fanfare for the Future was a tremendous success, featuring special performances, inspiring moments, and behind-the-scenes glimpses





audiences from all 50 states and on all seven continents! In April, members of the crew at Palmer Station in Antarctica gathered to watch Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestra perform *Rhapsody in Blue* with pianist Aaron Diehl. If you missed that memorable Digital Stage performance, not to worry—you'll have another chance to see Diehl perform on the Verizon Hall stage this fall. Many of the programs that

community organizations, and iconic cultural locations throughout greater Philadelphia. In April, an episode of Our City, Your Orchestra featured UrbanPromise, an organization serving youth in the Camden area. Orchestra musicians David Kim, Daniel Han, Anna Marie Ahn Petersen, and Yumi Kendall were joined by UrbanPromise fellows for a performance of spirited music. As part of a spring fundraising effort, UrbanPromise shared the Our City, Your Orchestra video with their supporters—and raised over \$200,000 in support of programs that challenge young people to develop and realize their potential. New Our City, Your Orchestra programs were released throughout the winter and spring of 2021 and will continue monthly in the fall. Every one of the Our City, Your Orchestra concerts is available to stream for free at philorch.org/ocyo and on Facebook. Our City, Your Orchestra is supported in part by the William Penn Foundation, with additional support provided through the Connelly Foundation, the PNC Arts Alive initiative, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Presser Foundation.

Viewers at the Palmer Station in Antarctica enjoy a Digital Stage performance.



The Digital Stage Continues

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Digital Stage concerts are more popular than ever, garnering critical acclaim and winning devoted fans and new audiences throughout the communities of Philadelphia, across the country, and around the world. Digital Stage presentations provide a unique, up-close look at performances from every part of the stage and offer compelling programs that audiences can enjoy again and again. We are proud that these online concerts have reached

the Orchestra has featured digitally during the current season will be presented again as in-person concerts next season, including Principal Oboe Philippe Tondre performing Mozart's Oboe Concerto, and Igee Dieudonné and Davóne Tines's *Vigil*, dedicated to the memory of Breonna Taylor.

Our City, Your Orchestra

The Orchestra continues to cultivate new friendships and collaborate with communities through Our City, Your Orchestra, a series of free online concerts featuring ensembles of the Orchestra and created in collaboration with Black-owned businesses,





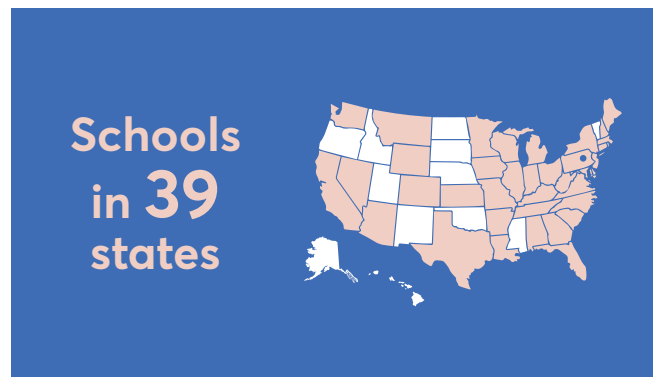
Music Education: Online and in the Classroom

This spring, as students continued to learn at home, the Orchestra engaged with our communities through new programming that supports music education for all ages. Our partnership with the School District of Philadelphia has continued to provide enriching educational programs to students via digital teaching methods with virtual Family Concerts, PlayINs, and Sound All Around concerts. With the return of students to the classroom this fall, we look forward to resuming in-person music education and to inviting educators and young music lovers to special concert presentations in Verizon Hall.

HearTOGETHER

HearTOGETHER, the Orchestra’s monthly podcast, originated in June 2020 amidst the nationwide reckoning over long-present issues of systemic racism, inequality, and injustice. The series tells the compelling stories of artists, activists, and community leaders working to improve our world through the lens of orchestral music. We’re already hard at work planning season two, which will resume in the fall. Stay tuned for more great guests and compelling conversations. HearTOGETHER is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and more, as well as at philorch.org/hear-together.

The series is generously supported by lead corporate sponsor Accordant Advisors. Additional major support has been provided by the Otto Haas Charitable Trust.



• **146**
SCHOOLS ACROSS Pennsylvania



Including Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Venezuela, the U.K., and U.S. military bases in Germany and Japan.

Schools served by virtual concerts presented by the Orchestra



You have received this Philadelphia Orchestra Impact Report because of your generous philanthropic support. If you would like to change your contact preferences, please notify us at 215.893.3151 or development@philorch.org.

Photos: Jeff Fusco, Kelly Kiernan, Timothy White, Andrew Eccles, Mariah Tauger

