



EnsembleArts

Matías Tarnopolsky President and Chief Executive Officer

2024–25 Season



Matías Tarnopolsky is president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts, a visionary organization that shares the transformative power of the performing arts and arts education with the widest possible audience. A passionate believer in the arts as a unifying force, he is recognized for his commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, innovation, and community engagement.

Described in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a “quiet revolutionary,” Tarnopolsky has positioned The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts to boldly lead the way in building a bright, inclusive future for the performing arts—as the center of cultural life in Philadelphia, and as a model for the nation. With The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin as the centerpiece, the organization features vibrant, multi-genre

programming performed at the highest level, animating stages across three buildings and attracting millions of visitors each year.

Tarnopolsky served as president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra from 2018 through 2021. He then forged a groundbreaking partnership between the world-renowned Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc. The merger, the first major post-pandemic innovation in the arts nationally, laid the groundwork for the creation of Ensemble Arts Philadelphia, launched in 2024, as the organization’s presenting brand.

Tarnopolsky’s tenure is marked by significant achievements, including three major awards in 2022: a Tony Award for the Kimmel Center’s role in producing the Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical *Company*, as well as a GRAMMY® Award for Best Orchestral Performance and a Diapason d’or for The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin for their Deutsche Grammophon recording of Florence Price’s First and Third symphonies.

Tarnopolsky continues to position the organization as a convener, creating opportunities and experiences that contribute to Philadelphia’s diverse cultural and intellectual vibrancy. In 2024, he led the effort to rededicate Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts as Marian Anderson Hall, the first major concert venue in the world named in honor of the trailblazing Black singer, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian.

By enriching programming with works of BIPOC musicians, composers, and artists; expanding the traditional classical music canon; hosting free festivals with arts and culture organizations from across the region; launching the Digital Stage; amplifying the voices, stories, and causes of unique Philadelphia organizations and businesses through musical collaboration; creating opportunities for productive dialogue on social justice and the arts; and encouraging a change to the formal dress

code for Orchestra musicians, Tarnopolsky dismantles barriers to access to reach ever broader and more diverse audiences.

With Tarnopolsky at the helm, The Philadelphia Orchestra received the largest financial contribution in its history, launched an innovative free ticket program for the School District of Philadelphia, and was named *Gramophone* magazine's 2020 Orchestra of the Year. He also facilitated a flagship collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania by transferring the Orchestra's archives to the Penn Libraries Kislak Center for Special Collections, providing broad research opportunities and access to more than a century of Philadelphia's rich musical history.

In 2023, Tarnopolsky led a group of Orchestra musicians on a special visit to China, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Orchestra's historic 1973 tour to China, the first by an American orchestra. The visit took place against the backdrop of the November 2023 summit between Presidents Joseph R. Biden and Xi Jinping, and both leaders noted the Orchestra's achievements and commitment to cultural diplomacy in letters sent to The Philadelphia Orchestra. Tarnopolsky continues to make international outreach a priority of the Orchestra, one of the nation's premier cultural ambassadors, and contributed a guest essay on this topic to the *New York Times*.

Driven by a lifelong passion for and innate knowledge of the arts, Tarnopolsky has deep experience molding the artistic profiles of orchestras and cultural centers, including key leadership roles at the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He also previously served as executive and artistic director of Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, the largest multidisciplinary university-based arts presenter and producer in the United States. Born in Buenos Aires, and raised in London, he received degrees in music and musicology from the King's College London. He serves on the boards of New Music USA, the Executive Committee of the Avery Fisher Artist Program, the Advisory Council of the Tianjin Juilliard School, the Pacific Harmony Foundation, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, and the Viñoly Foundation.

Tarnopolsky has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture. In 2022, he was awarded the William J. Clothier II Award from the Pan American Association of Philadelphia. The *Philadelphia Business Journal* recognized Tarnopolsky and the Orchestra with the 2021 Faces of Philanthropy award. It also named him to its list of 2021 Most Admired CEOs. He was selected as one of the 100 most powerful people in Philadelphia for City & State Pennsylvania's Philadelphia Power 100 list in December 2021.

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Photo by Jeff Fusco