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The  
Philadelphia  
Orchestra  
Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
Music and Artistic Director

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2024

## OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

2024–25 SEASON

MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN  
AND THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

*Featuring host Terry Gross, violinist María Dueñas, and the world premiere of  
Terence Blanchard's Orchestral Suite from Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

(Philadelphia, September 16, 2024)—**Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra** will launch the 2024–25 season in Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on **Thursday, September 26, 2024**, at 7:00 PM. The evening will mark the first Opening Night Celebration and the first full season to take place in the newly renamed hall, dedicated in June in honor of the legendary Black contralto, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian.

**Terry Gross** will host the **Opening Night Concert**. She is the host and an executive producer of *Fresh Air with Terry Gross & Tonya Mosley*, which is produced at WHYY in Philadelphia and broadcast on public radio stations around the country, and a passionate music lover and fan of the Orchestra. The concert will feature violinist **María Dueñas** performing Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. The Orchestra will also give the world premiere of **Terence Blanchard's** Orchestral Suite from *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, co-commissioned by Yannick and The Philadelphia Orchestra. The history-making and GRAMMY-winning opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* was the first by a Black composer to be performed at the Metropolitan Opera, led by Yannick in 2021. The concert will conclude with Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*. Tickets are available at 215.893.1999 or [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

"The Opening Night Concert sets the stage for a season of renewal and rediscovery, as we revisit the beloved masterpieces that we know and love. We also continue our exploration of works by composers who have been historically overlooked and those whose unique voices remind us that art knows no boundaries," said Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, who is entering his 13th season with the Orchestra. "I know the audience will be blown away by the passion and talent of María Dueñas, one of classical music's brightest young stars. To also present the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's Orchestral Suite from *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* is a truly full-circle moment. After the opera made history when I conducted it at the Met, we look forward to marking another milestone in the history of this groundbreaking work, here in Marian Anderson Hall. I can think of no better way to begin the first full season in our newly rededicated hall, as Marian Anderson's legacy guides and inspires us every day."

Donors who contribute at benefactor levels to support Opening Night will enjoy a pre-concert reception beginning at 5:30 PM in the Tier 2 Lounge at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Following the 7:00 PM concert, benefactors will enjoy a gala dinner in the Kimmel Center's Commonwealth Plaza featuring the culinary expertise of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts's new food and beverage provider, Rhubarb Hospitality Collection by Oak View Group (RHC). For those interested in purchasing a benefactor package for Opening Night, more information is available [here](#).

The musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music and Artistic 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 Celebration Co-Chairs Lauren Gilchrist, Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts Board member; Marvin Moon, Philadelphia Orchestra violist; and Diane Larzelere, Volunteer Committee member; as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts Board of Trustees and dedicated members of the Volunteer Committees.

This year marks the 38th 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 its formation, the Volunteer Committees have come to serve as a model for similar groups in the United States and abroad. The current Volunteer Committees for The Philadelphia Orchestra include Central, Main Line, New Jersey, Rittenhouse Square, and Starlight Circle. 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.

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## Opening Night

**September 26** at 7:00 PM—Thursday evening—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin** Conductor

**Terry Gross** Host

**María Dueñas** Violin

**Blanchard** Orchestral Suite from *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*—WORLD PREMIERE—Co-Commissioned by Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

**Bruch** Violin Concerto No. 1

**Tchaikovsky** *Romeo and Juliet*

Tchaikovsky wrote *Romeo and Juliet* when he was lost in love; small wonder, then, that Shakespeare's tale of star-crossed lovers inspired new heights of genius for this passion-driven composer. This extraordinary flight of emotion is the finale of a thrilling program that includes the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's stunning Orchestral Suite from his powerful opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. Bruch's melodic, rapturous First Violin Concerto is a showcase for the fastest rising international star of the violin, María Dueñas, whose "fearless attack and nimble-fingered technique" deliver "an assured, deeply felt performance, full of character and strong on musical storytelling" (*The Guardian*).

For tickets, call 215.893.1999 or visit [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

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**The Philadelphia Orchestra would like to extend sincere gratitude to the  
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*As of September 13, 2024*

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Yannick Nézet-Séguin holds the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair.

Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* orchestral suite is supported in part by the Wyncote Foundation.

Opening Night is part of the Peter A. Benoliel Violin Concerts, established in his honor by Dr. Richard M. Klein.

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[About Yannick Nézet-Séguin](#)

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