



PHILADELPHIA / ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet Séguin · Music & Artistic Director

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MARCH 2025

Contents

March 2025



Page 4

From the Interim President and CEO

Page 10

Marian Anderson Hall

Page 12

Musicians Behind the Scenes

Page 14

When Past, Present, and Future Merge

The Philadelphia Orchestra announces a bold 2025–26 season to celebrate its 125th birthday

Page 19

The Program

On the Cover:

Specially designed art for the Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 concerts, March 28–29, 2025, by Haeg Design

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From the Interim President and CEO



Dear Friends:

Since its founding in 1900, The Philadelphia Orchestra has been a melting pot, an ensemble of passionate musicians from diverse backgrounds with a shared belief in the power of music to inspire and bring people together. In the Orchestra's earliest years, Music Director Fritz Scheel recruited musicians from Europe, bringing together immigrants who worked tenaciously to establish themselves, and their art form, in a new country.

When Leopold Stokowski became music director in 1912, he not only lured away musicians from other orchestras around the country but also continued the process started by Scheel of bringing over top artists from Europe, which was widely considered the best training ground at the time. Stokowski's ability to identify talent was one of his best gifts, and he was responsible for recruiting such stars as oboist Marcel Tabuteau and flutist William Kincaid, and the ensemble's first woman player, harpist Edna Phillips.

It wasn't long before The Philadelphia Orchestra became known for its distinctive "Philadelphia Sound," a unique combination of great musical traditions from across the globe. This signature sound continues to this day and has evolved over the last 125 years with members hailing from the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, Israel, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

As we get ready to mark our 125th anniversary in November, let's celebrate this unique quality of our hometown Orchestra, a quality found nowhere else in the world.

Best regards,

Ryan Fleur
Interim President and CEO

The Philadelphia Orchestra

2024–2025 Season

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Music and Artistic
Director

*Walter and Leonore
Annenberg Chair*

Marin Alsop

Principal Guest Conductor
*Ralph and Beth Johnston
Muller Chair*

Naomi Woo

Assistant Conductor

Joseph Conyers

Education and
Community Ambassador
*Mark and Tobey Dichter
Chair*

Charlotte Blake Alston

Storyteller, Narrator,
and Host
*Osagie and Losenge
Imasogie Chair*

First Violins

David Kim, Concertmaster
Dr. Benjamin Rush Chair
Juliette Kang, First
Associate Concertmaster
*Joseph and Marie Field
Chair*
Christine Lim, Associate
Concertmaster
Marc Rovetti, Assistant
Concertmaster
*Dr. James F. Dougherty
Chair*
Barbara Govatos
Robert E. Mortensen Chair
Jonathan Beiler
Hirono Oka

Richard Amoroso

*Robert and Lynne Pollack
Chair*

Yayoi Numazawa

Jason DePue*

Larry A. Grika Chair

Jennifer Haas

Miyo Curnow

Elina Kalendarova

Daniel Han

Julia Li

William Polk

Mei Ching Huang

Second Violins

Kimberly Fisher, Principal

Peter A. Benoliel Chair

Paul Roby, Associate
Principal

Sandra and David

Marshall Chair

Dara Morales, Assistant
Principal

Anne M. Buxton Chair

Philip Kates

Peter A. Benoliel Chair

Davyd Booth

Paul Arnold

*Joseph Brodo Chair, given
by Peter A. Benoliel*

Boris Balter

Amy Oshiro-Morales

*Volunteer Committees
Chair*

Yu-Ting Chen

Jeoung-Yin Kim

Willa Finck

John Bian

MuChen Hsieh

Eliot Heaton

Violas

Choong-Jin Chang,
Principal

*Ruth and A. Morris
Williams, Jr., Chair*

Kirsten Johnson,
Associate Principal

Kerri Ryan, Assistant
Principal

Burchard Tang

Renard Edwards

Anna Marie Ahn
Petersen

Piasecki Family Chair

David Nicastrò

Che-Hung Chen

Rachel Ku

Marvin Moon

Meng Wang

Cellos

Hai-Ye Ni, Principal

Priscilla Lee, Associate
Principal

Yumi Kendall, Assistant
Principal

*Elaine Woo Camarda and
A. Morris Williams, Jr.,
Chair*

Richard Harlow

Kathryn Picht Read

John Koen

Derek Barnes

Alex Veltman

Jiayin He

Basses

Joseph Conyers,
Principal

*Carole and Emilio
Gravagno Chair*

Gabriel Polinsky,
Associate Principal

Tobias Vigneau, Assistant
Principal

David Fay*
Duane Rosengard
Nathaniel West
Michael Franz
Christian Gray

Some members of the string sections voluntarily rotate seating on a periodic basis.

Flutes

Jeffrey Khaner, Principal
Paul and Barbara Henkels Chair
Patrick Williams,
Associate Principal
Rachelle and Ronald Kaiserman Chair
Olivia Staton
Erica Peel, Piccolo

Oboes

Philippe Tondre, Principal
Samuel S. Fels Chair
Peter Smith, Associate Principal
Jonathan Blumenfeld
Edwin Tuttle Chair
Elizabeth Starr
Masoudnia,
English Horn
Joanne T. Greenspun Chair

Clarinets

Ricardo Morales,
Principal
Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Chair
Samuel Caviezel,
Associate Principal
Sarah and Frank Coulson Chair

Socrates Villegas
Paul R. Demers, Bass
Clarinet
Peter M. Joseph and Susan Rittenhouse Joseph Chair

Bassoons

Daniel Matsukawa,
Principal
Richard M. Klein Chair
Mark Gigliotti,
Co-Principal
Angela Anderson Smith
Holly Blake*,
Contrabassoon

Horns

Jennifer Montone,
Principal
Gray Charitable Trust Chair
Jeffrey Lang, Associate Principal
Hannah L. and J. Welles Henderson Chair
Christopher Dwyer
Chelsea McFarland
Ernesto Tovar Torres

Trumpets

Esteban Batallán,
Principal
Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest Chair
Jeffrey Curnow,
Associate Principal
Anthony Prisk

Trombones

Nitzan Haroz, Principal
Neubauer Family Foundation Chair
Matthew Vaughn,
Co-Principal
Jack Grimm

Blair Bollinger, Bass
Trombone
Drs. Bong and Mi Wha Lee Chair

Tuba

Carol Jantsch, Principal
Lyn and George M. Ross Chair

Timpani

Don S. Liuzzi, Principal
Dwight V. Dowley Chair
Angela Zator Nelson,
Associate Principal

Percussion

Christopher Deviney,
Principal
Charlie Rosmarin,
Associate Principal
Angela Zator Nelson

Piano and Celesta

Kiyoko Takeuti

Keyboards

Davyd Booth

Harp

Elizabeth Hainen,
Principal

Librarians

Nicole Jordan, Principal
Holly Matthews

Stage Personnel

Dennis Moore, Jr.,
Manager
Francis “Chip” O’Shea III
Aaron Wilson

*On leave

Music and Artistic Director



Landen Nordeman

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is currently in his 13th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. An inspired leader, Yannick, who holds the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair, is both an evolutionary and a revolutionary, developing the mighty “Philadelphia Sound” in new ways. His collaborative style, deeply rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm have been heralded by critics and audiences alike. The *New York Times* has called him “phenomenal,” adding that “the ensemble, famous for its glowing strings and homogenous richness, has never sounded better.”

Yannick has established himself as a musical leader of the highest caliber and one of the most thrilling and sought-after talents of his generation. He became the third music director of New York’s Metropolitan Opera in 2018. In addition, he has been artistic director and principal conductor of Montreal’s Orchestre Métropolitain since 2000. In 2017 he became the third-ever honorary member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He served as music director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 2008 to 2018 (he is now honorary conductor) and was principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic from 2008 to 2014. He has made wildly successful appearances with the world’s most revered ensembles and at many of the leading opera houses.

Yannick has shown a deep commitment to expanding the repertoire by embracing an ever-growing and diverse group of today’s composers and by performing the music of under-appreciated composers of the past. In 2018 he signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. Under his leadership The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to recording with 14 releases on that label, including *Florence Price Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3*, which won a GRAMMY® Award for Best Orchestral Performance in 2022.

A native of Montreal, Yannick studied piano, conducting, composition, and chamber music at Montreal’s Conservatory of Music and continued his studies with renowned conductors, most notably Carlo Maria Giulini; he also studied choral conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt at Westminster Choir College. Among Yannick’s honors are an appointment as Companion of the Order of Canada; Companion to the Order of Arts and Letters of Quebec; an Officer of the Order of Quebec; an Officer of the Order of Montreal; an Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; *Musical America’s* 2016 Artist of the Year; ECHO KLASSIK’s 2014 Conductor of the Year; a Royal Philharmonic Society Award; Canada’s National Arts Centre Award; the Prix Denise-Pelletier; the Oskar Morawetz Award; and honorary doctorates from the University of Quebec, the Curtis Institute of Music, Westminster Choir College of Rider University, McGill University, the University of Montreal, the University of Pennsylvania, Laval University, and Drexel University.

To read Yannick’s full bio, please visit philorch.org/conductor.

Marian Anderson Hall

Adrian Segel Collection/Philadelphia Orchestra Archives



Marian Anderson with Music Director Eugene Ormandy during a Philadelphia Orchestra rehearsal at the Academy of Music in December 1938

On June 8, 2024, Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts was officially rededicated as Marian Anderson Hall in honor of the legendary Black contralto, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian. The first major concert venue in the world to honor Marian Anderson—85 years after she was barred from performing at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., because of her race—the hall is a permanent monument to its namesake’s artistry and achievements, a reflection of the inclusive future she helped to engender, and an active testament to the intersection of music, art, and positive social impact. We look forward to honoring Marian Anderson in perpetuity with a venue that reflects the ideals by which she lived her life: equity, justice, freedom, and the belief that the arts are for everyone.

Marian Anderson Hall was named in her honor by a visionary \$25-million philanthropic gift from Richard Worley and Leslie Miller. Worley has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra’s Board of Trustees since 1997 and served as board chair from 2009 to 2019. Miller is a former Kimmel Center trustee and previous acting president of the Kimmel Center. They are among the largest donors in Philadelphia Orchestra history. Additional generous support for Marian Anderson Hall was given by Sidney and Caroline Kimmel.

Musicians Behind the Scenes

Che-Hung Chen Viola



Seth Jacobson

Where were you born?

I was born in Taipei, Taiwan.

What piece of music could you play over and over again?

Brahms's Two Songs for Voice, Viola, and Piano, Op. 91.

What is your most treasured possession?

My Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto LA Dodgers jerseys gifted by our stagehand Chip O'Shea in celebration of my United States citizenship.

What's your favorite food?

Mediterranean.

Tell us about your instrument.

My main instrument is a viola made by Carlo Antonio Testore in Milan, Italy, in 1756, which I pair with a bow made by Canadian Michael Vann that I won as part of the Grand Prize at the 7th International Banff String Quartet Competition. I also use a 1949 Genuzio Carletti viola and a bow by Frenchman Jean-Jacques Millant. Both were acquired by my parents for me when I was 12 years old.

What piece of music never fails to move you?

Chopin's Etude in E major, Op. 10, No. 3.

What is the most challenging piece you have ever played?

Everything is challenging on the viola.

When did you join the Orchestra?

January 15, 2001.

What's your favorite Philadelphia restaurant?

Lau Kee in Chinatown.

Do you speak any other languages?

Chinese and Taiwanese.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Re-watch the 2024 World Series.

What's on your Spotify playlist?

Edgar Meyer's Quintet for Strings and Double Bass; "Demons" by Imagine Dragons; Hilary Hahn and Natalie Zhu playing Mozart violin sonatas.

What is your favorite memory with the Orchestra?

On February 22, 2023, when the Orchestra played "The Star-Spangled Banner" for me and fellow new United States citizens at the top of our naturalization ceremony.

What is a little-known fact about you?

Google "General Tso's Chicken costume."

When Past, Present, and Future Merge

The Philadelphia Orchestra announces a bold 2025–26 season to celebrate its 125th birthday

By Paul J. Horsley

The orchestra of the 21st century gazes into the past and the future simultaneously as it draws inspiration from its foundational principles to forge a solid yet innovative path forward. As The Philadelphia Orchestra marks its 125th anniversary during the 2025–26 season, it embraces old and new as one, tapping into the peerless heritage of master composers and interpreters with an ongoing resolve to continue refreshing the repertoire with new points of view.

The Orchestra will also celebrate the intersection of its own 125th birthday with America 250—the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The season shines light on a diverse range of American composers, invites the world's best performers, engages the community in education and outreach programs, and presents milestones of the repertoire that the Orchestra helped bring to America during its 125-year history.



"The 2025–26 season of The Philadelphia Orchestra is a joyful celebration—of the Orchestra's 125 years of musical brilliance and of America's 250th birthday," said Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. "In this year-long musical fête, we will illuminate works by Bartók, Ravel, Shostakovich, Sibelius, Stravinsky, and more—many of which The Philadelphia Orchestra introduced to America. We will honor the significant yet often overlooked voices of Amy Beach, Julius Eastman, and William Grant Still, whose contributions to American music reflect the cultural landscape of our nation. And, as always, we will create a path for the future of music with 21st-century commissions from John Adams, Wynton Marsalis, Tyshawn Sorey, Julia Wolfe, and Du Yun, and other contemporary voices. Please come celebrate with us—everyone is welcome!"

The Orchestra also brings works by American composers John Williams (Tuba Concerto, with Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch), Leonard Bernstein (*Candide* Overture, "Jeremiah" Symphony, and Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*), George Gershwin (Piano Concerto), and Kevin Puts (*Contact*, with Time for Three).

The creation of new repertoire by the most prominent composers has been central to the Orchestra's mission since its earliest days. Running like a thread through the 2025–26 season is a selection of significant pieces that The Philadelphia Orchestra introduced, and which are now acknowledged as masterworks.

Among these storied world premieres is Jennifer Higdon's Concerto for Orchestra, which was part of the Orchestra's Centennial Commissions nearly 25 years ago and which caused a minor



Pianist Yuja Wang joins Yannick and the Orchestra for the 2025 Opening Night Concert.

BBC Studios



sensation at its premiere in June 2002. “It’s a piece that this Orchestra commissioned, and which has gone on to be one of the most successful American contemporary works of the new millennium,” said Chief Programming Officer Jeremy Rothman.

Other historic past world premieres on the season include Béla Bartók’s Piano Concerto No. 3 with 2022 Van Cliburn Competition Gold Medalist Yunchan Lim and Samuel Barber’s Violin Concerto with soloist Augustin Hadelich.

Many of these commissions, often made during times of war, were from composers who had sought refuge in America from hostile regimes abroad. “We are celebrating works this Orchestra brought to America,” Rothman said, “and celebrating the composers, some of whom were in exile from their own countries when they came here.”

Among the compositions on the 2025–26 season that were presented as United States premieres are Ravel’s *Une Barque sur l’océan* (led by former Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève), celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy’s founding in Philadelphia; Sibelius’s Symphony No. 5 and Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*, both with Yannick; Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with Seong-Jin Cho; Falla’s original version of *El amor brujo* with guest conductor Rafael Payare; and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 6 with Santtu-Matias Rouvali in his long-awaited debut.

What is striking is how fresh these works sound today. “*The Rite of Spring* still sounds as surprising and shocking and avant-garde as it did over 100 years ago,” Rothman said.

In addition, selections from William Grant Still’s tone poem *Wood Notes* are presented in a new version prepared by Principal Librarian Nicole Jordan and former Assistant Conductor Austin Chanu, as part of the Orchestra’s revival of the music of this prolific and enormously gifted Black composer.

Past and present mingle in other ways throughout the upcoming season. Just as earlier generations of Philadelphians witnessed composer-conductors such as Zoltán Kodály, Virgil Thomson, Leonard Bernstein, and Luciano Berio interpreting their own works, the 2025–26 season features Matthias Pintscher conducting his *Assonanza* with violin soloist Leila Josefowicz.

Pianist Lang Lang appears twice in the 2025–26 season: with Yannick and the Orchestra in Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto and in a duo recital with violinist Hilary Hahn.



Gregor Hakenberg/Deutsche Grammophon

The new season celebrates a cornucopia of world-renowned conductors, many of whom are women, including Dalia Stasevska, Xian Zhang, Jane Glover, and Elim Chan—as well as Payare, Rouvali, and András Schiff, the latter also appearing as solo pianist in concertos by Bach and Mozart.

Some of the world's most prominent soloists will grace the stage of Marian Anderson Hall, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma; pianists Lang Lang, Marc-André Hamelin, and Hélène Grimaud; violinists Gil Shaham, Lisa Batiashvili, María Dueñas, Concertmaster David Kim, and Hilary Hahn; pipa player Wu Man; and soprano Ying Fang and mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato appearing in Mahler's magisterial Second Symphony ("Resurrection"). Pianist Emanuel Ax marks the 50th anniversary of his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1975 with performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3.

The film series returns with *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* with Howard Shore's peerless score performed live; *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* with masterful music by that most prolific of American nonagenarians, John Williams; and *Fantasia in Concert*, the epochal film for which The Philadelphia Orchestra provided the original soundtrack. The Orchestra After 5 series, which had a tremendous debut in the 2023–24 season, continues, with its informal one-hour concerts examining specific works ("great introductions to these pieces in a more casual environment," Rothman said).

The Spotlight Series includes recitals by pianist Víkingur Ólafsson and a joint performance by violinist Hilary Hahn and pianist Lang Lang. The annual holiday programs include Handel's *Messiah*, with Yannick conducting; The Glorious Sound of Christmas with guest conductor Enrico Lopez-Yañez; and the annual New Year's Eve Celebration led by Anthony Parnter. And the Chamber Orchestra of Europe visits Marian Anderson Hall with an all-Brahms program conducted by Yannick.

The Orchestra also presents familiar masterpieces throughout the season, including Strauss's *Alpine Symphony* with Denève; Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 with Esa-Pekka Salonen; Brahms's Third and Fourth symphonies with Yannick; Mozart's Requiem with Glover; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 with Zhang; Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 and Mahler's Symphony No. 4, both with Stasevska; Mahler's Second and Fifth symphonies with Yannick; and Musorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition* with Chan.

"The Philadelphia Orchestra continues to interpret music in a way that few orchestras can match," said Rothman. "We are fortunate to have the direction and vision that Yannick brings to the mix, as we head undaunted into the future of music in America and the world."

Paul Horsley is performing arts editor for the Independent in Kansas City. Previously he was music and dance critic for the Kansas City Star and program annotator and musicologist for The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Pipa player Wu Man, shown during a rehearsal on the Orchestra's 2024 Tour of China, joins the Philadelphians for Du Yun's *Ear of the Book*.



David Rossbach

2024–2025 | 125th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Thursday, March 27, at 6:30

Orchestra After 5

Nathalie Stutzmann Conductor
Austin Chanu Host

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47
I. Moderato—Allegro non troppo
II. Allegretto
III. Largo
IV. Allegro non troppo

This program runs approximately one hour and will be performed without an intermission.

Philadelphia Orchestra concerts are broadcast on WRTI 90.1 FM on Sunday afternoons at 1 PM and are repeated on Monday evenings at 7 PM on WRTI HD 2. Visit www.wrti.org to listen live or for more details.

PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA/125

YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN
MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The GRAMMY® Award-winning Orchestra celebrates
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Jeff Fusco

The Philadelphia Orchestra

The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra strives to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience, and to create joy, connection, and excitement through music in the Philadelphia region, across the country, and around the world. Through innovative programming, robust education initiatives, a commitment to its diverse communities, and the embrace of digital outreach, the ensemble is creating an expansive and inclusive future for classical music and furthering the place of the arts in an open and democratic society. In June 2021 the Orchestra and its home, the Kimmel Center, united. Today, The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts brings the greatest performances and most impactful education and community programs to audiences in Philadelphia and beyond.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is now in his 13th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. His connection to the ensemble's musicians has been praised by both concertgoers and critics, and he is embraced by the musicians of the Orchestra, audiences, and the community. In addition to expanding the repertoire by embracing an ever-growing and diverse group of today's composers, Yannick and the Orchestra are committed to performing and recording the works of previously overlooked composers.

Your Philadelphia Orchestra takes great pride in its hometown, performing for the people of Philadelphia year-round, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, around the community, over the airwaves, and online. The Kimmel Center has been the ensemble's home since 2001, and in 2024 Verizon

Hall at the Kimmel Center was officially rededicated as Marian Anderson Hall in honor of the legendary contralto, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian. The Orchestra's award-winning education and community initiatives engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members of all ages through programs such as PlayINs; side-by-sides; PopUP concerts; Our City, Your Orchestra Live; the free annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert; School Concerts; sensory-friendly concerts; open rehearsals; the School Ensemble Program; All-City Orchestra Fellowships; and residency work in Philadelphia and abroad.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador and one of our nation's greatest exports. It performs annually at Carnegie Hall, the Mann Center, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. The Orchestra also has a rich touring history, having first performed outside Philadelphia in its earliest days. In 1973 it was the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, launching a now-five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange.

Under Yannick's leadership, the Orchestra returned to recording with 14 celebrated releases on the Deutsche Grammophon label, including the GRAMMY[®] Award-winning *Florence Price Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3*. The Orchestra also reaches thousands of radio listeners with weekly broadcasts on WRTI-FM and SiriusXM. For more information, please visit www.philorch.org.

Conductor



Nathalie Stutzmann is the music director of the Atlanta Symphony and the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She made her Philadelphia Orchestra conducting debut in 2016 with Handel's *Messiah* and her subscription conducting debut in 2019; she served as principal guest conductor of the Orchestra from 2021 to 2024. She made her Bayreuth debut at the 2023 Festival with Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, performances that resulted in her being named "Best Conductor" at the 2024 Oper! Awards.

She returned in 2024 for a revival of the production and returns in 2026 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Festival, conducting a new production of Wagner's *Rienzi* in addition to a revival of *Tannhäuser*. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2023.

Ms. Stutzmann's 2024–25 season with the Atlanta Symphony features key pillars of the Romantic repertoire including Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, Mahler's Symphony No. 1, and Strauss's *An Alpine Symphony* alongside a complete Beethoven symphony cycle and the *Missa solemnis*. Highlights of the current season include debuts with the Czech Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, and her conducting debut at the Musikverein with the Vienna Symphony. Her season also includes returns to the New York Philharmonic with two programs as its featured artist, the Munich Philharmonic, and the Orchestre de Paris, and a return to La Monnaie in Brussels to conduct Bizet's *Carmen*. She has signed an exclusive recording contract with Warner Classics/Erato. Her first symphonic recording for the label, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 ("From the New World") and the "American" Suite with the Atlanta Symphony, was released in September 2024. She was awarded the 2023 Opus Klassik "Concerto Recording of the Year" for the Glière and Mosolov harp concertos with Xavier de Maistre and the WDR Symphony (Sony Classical). In 2022 she released the complete Beethoven piano concertos recorded with Haochen Zhang and The Philadelphia Orchestra (BIS).

Ms. Stutzmann began her studies at a very young age in piano, bassoon, and cello, and studied conducting with the legendary Finnish teacher Jorma Panula. Also one of today's most esteemed contraltos, she has made more than 80 recordings and received the most prestigious awards. She made her Philadelphia Orchestra performing debut in 1997. Recognized for her significant contribution to the arts, she was named Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honor, and Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government.

PHILADELPHIA/ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet-Séguin · Music & Artistic Director

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Photo: Pete Checchia

Host

Cristina Bugges



A recipient of the 2023 and 2024 Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., Brazilian-American conductor **Austin Chanu** just concluded his tenure as the assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, where he supported Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut in April 2023 conducting Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

Mr. Chanu has recently appeared as a guest conductor with the Filarmonica Banatul Timișoara in Romania, the Baltimore Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, and the Omaha Symphony. He has worked with prominent conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Herbert Blomstedt, Stéphane Denève, Alan Gilbert, and Marin Alsop. He is currently co-leading a project with The Philadelphia Orchestra to restore, rebuild, and elevate the underperformed works of American composer William Grant Still. In this context, he recently led the world premiere of a newly restored edition of Still's *Wood Notes* that he helped create.

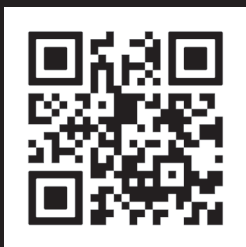
Stemming from his background as a composer, Mr. Chanu has a passion for contemporary music. He served as a teaching artist and conductor for the LA Philharmonic Association's Associate Composer Program and as a conducting fellow at the 2022 Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, where he studied with conductor Cristian Măcelaru. He was commissioned by the Eastman School of Music to compose an orchestral work for the school's centennial celebration and conducted its world premiere in the fall of 2021.

Previously, Mr. Chanu was music director for the Los Angeles Music and Art School, where he conducted and developed the artistic direction for the youth orchestra, choirs, and jazz band. Drawing on his Latino heritage he found it rewarding to foster representation for the predominantly Latinx students and families in the program through repertoire selection. In addition to his orchestral background, he has extensive experience in jazz and musical theater styles. While living in Los Angeles, he was a high-call woodwind performer for musical pit orchestras and jazz ensembles. He received a Bachelor of Music in composition from the USC Thornton School of Music in 2015, graduating magna cum laude. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music in 2021 with a master's degree in orchestral conducting.

DID YOU KNOW?

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PHILADELPHIA/ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet-Séguin · Music & Artistic Director

Framing the Program

Parallel Events

1937

Shostakovich

Symphony

No. 5

Music

Orff

Carmina burana

Literature

Steinbeck

Of Mice and Men

Art

Picasso

Guernica

History

Japan invades

China

Dmitri Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was a key work in the composer's career. Shostakovich had emerged rapidly in his 20s as the great genius and hope of Soviet music, but in 1936 he was brutally attacked in the official Communist press, which put both his private and professional life in serious peril. He withheld the premiere of his Fourth Symphony for more than a quarter century and wrote the magnificent Fifth Symphony, which helped to restore his reputation at home while achieving classic status abroad.

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The Music

Symphony No. 5

Dmitri Shostakovich

Born in St. Petersburg, September 25, 1906

Died in Moscow, August 9, 1975



The life and career of Dmitri Shostakovich were in a perilous state when he began writing his Fifth Symphony in April 1937. The 30-year-old composer had recently experienced a precipitous fall from the acclaim he had enjoyed throughout his 20s, ever since he burst on the musical scene at age 19 with his brash and brilliant First Symphony. That work won him overnight fame and extended his renown far beyond the Soviet Union. Bruno Walter, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Arturo Toscanini, and other leading conductors championed the

Symphony and Leopold Stokowski gave its American premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1928. Shostakovich's Second Symphony followed the next year and was entitled "To October—A Symphonic Dedication." It included a chorus praising Lenin and the Revolution, and the Third Symphony, "The First of May," also employed a chorus to make a political statement. Despite their ideological baggage, his musical innovations continued.

A Fall from Grace Shostakovich had also received considerable attention for his contributions to the screen and stage, including film scores, ballets, incidental music, and two full-scale operas: *The Nose* and *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. The latter enjoyed particular popular and critical success in the Soviet Union and abroad after its premiere in January 1934, so much so that a new production was presented at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow two years later.

And that is when the serious troubles began that changed the course of Shostakovich's life. Stalin attended *Lady Macbeth* on January 26, 1936, and left before the end of the performance. A few days later an article titled "Muddle Instead of Music" appeared in *Pravda*, the official newspaper of the Communist Party. The anonymous critic wrote that the opera "is a leftist bedlam instead of human music. The inspiring quality of good music is sacrificed in favor of petty-bourgeois formalist celebration, with pretense at originality by cheap clowning. This game may end badly."

Those terrifying final words were life-threatening; this was not just a bad review that could hamper a thriving career. The article was soon followed by another in *Pravda* attacking Shostakovich's ballet *The Limpid Stream*, and then by yet another. The musical establishment, with a few brave exceptions, lined up in opposition to the composer, who was working at the time on a massive Fourth Symphony, which went into rehearsals in

December 1936. At the last moment, just before the premiere, the work was withdrawn, most likely at the insistence of the authorities. The impressive Symphony would have to wait 25 years before its unveiling in 1961. (The Philadelphians gave the American premiere in 1963.)

Shostakovich's Return Shostakovich, whose first child had just been born, was well aware of the show trials and mounting purges, as friends, family, and colleagues disappeared or were killed. He faced terrifying challenges in how to proceed after the sustained attacks on his music. He composed the first three movements of the Fifth Symphony with incredible speed—he later recounted that he wrote the Largo in just three days—although the finale slowed him down. The completion of his new symphony is usually dated July 29, 1937, but the most recent investigation for a new critical edition indicates that composition continued well into the fall.

The notable premiere took place on November 21 with the Leningrad Philharmonic under Evgeny Mravinsky, at that time a relatively unknown young conductor. In the words of Shostakovich biographer Laurel Fay: “The significance of the occasion was apparent to everyone. Shostakovich’s fate was at stake. The Fifth Symphony, a non-programmatic, four-movement work in a traditional, accessible symphonic style, its essence extrapolated in the brief program note as ‘a lengthy spiritual battle, crowned by victory,’ scored an absolute, unforgettable triumph with the listeners.”

The funereal third movement, the Largo, moved many listeners to tears. According to one account, members of the audience, one by one, began to stand during the extravagant finale. Composer Maximilian Steinberg, a former teacher of Shostakovich, wrote in his diary: “The ovation was stupendous, I don’t remember anything like it in about the last 10 years.” Yet the enormous enthusiasm from musicians and non-musicians alike—the ovations reportedly lasted nearly a half hour—could well have been viewed as a statement against the Soviet authorities’ rebukes of the composer—artistic triumphs could spell political doom. Two officials were sent to monitor subsequent performances and concluded that the audience had been selected to support the composer—a false charge made even less tenable by the fact that every performance elicited tremendous ovations.

The Importance of Art It may be difficult for contemporary audiences to appreciate how seriously art was taken in the Soviet Union. The attention and passions, the criticism and debates it evoked—dozens of articles, hours of official panels at congresses, and abundant commentary—raised the stakes for art and for artists. For his part Shostakovich remained silent at the time about the Fifth Symphony. He eventually stated that the quasi-autobiographical work was about the “suffering of man, and all-conquering optimism. I wanted to convey in the Symphony how, through a series of tragic conflicts of great inner spiritual turmoil, optimism asserts itself as a world view.”

The best-known remark about the work is often misunderstood. In connection with the Moscow premiere of the Symphony, Shostakovich noted that among all the attention it had received, one interpretation gave him “special pleasure, where it was said that the

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Photos: Allie Ippolito, Jeff Fusco

Fifth Symphony is the practical creative response of a Soviet artist to just criticism.” This last phrase was subsequently attributed to the composer as a general subtitle for the Symphony. Yet as Fay has observed, Shostakovich never agreed with what he considered the unjust criticism of his earlier work, nor did he write the Fifth along the lines he had been told to do. Most importantly, he gave no program or title to it at any time. The work, which reportedly was one the composer thought particularly highly of in later years, went on to be one of his most popular and successful compositions and a staple of the symphonic repertory.

A Closer Look The first movement (**Moderato**) opens with the lower strings intoning a striking, jagged theme, somewhat reminiscent of the one Beethoven used in his “Great Fugue,” Op. 133. It is immediately imitated by the violins and gradually winds down to become an accompaniment to an eerie theme that floats high above in the upper reaches of the violins. The tempo eventually speeds up (**Allegro non troppo**), presenting a theme that will appear in different guises elsewhere in the Symphony, most notably transformed in the triumphant conclusion.

The brief scherzo-like **Allegretto** shows Shostakovich’s increasing interest at the time in the music of Mahler, in this case the Fourth Symphony, which also includes a grotesque violin solo. The **Largo**, the movement that so moved audiences at the first performances, projects a tragic mood of enormous intensity. The brass instruments do not play at all in the movement but return in full force to dominate the finale (**Allegro non troppo**). The “over the top” exuberance of this last movement has long been debated, beginning just after the first performances. Especially following the effect of the preceding lament, some have found the optimistic triumphalism of the ending forced and ultimately false. Perhaps it is the ambiguity still surrounding the work that partly accounts for its continued appeal and prominence.

—Christopher H. Gibbs

Christopher H. Gibbs is James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of Music at Bard College and has been the program annotator for The Philadelphia Orchestra since 2000. He is the author of several books on Schubert and Liszt, and the co-author, with Richard Taruskin, of The Oxford History of Western Music, College Edition.

Shostakovich composed his Symphony No. 5 in 1937.

Leopold Stokowski led the first Philadelphia performances of the Symphony, in March 1939. Since then the Orchestra has performed the work many times at home, as well as on domestic and international tours, including performances in the Soviet Union under Eugene Ormandy in 1958. The most recent subscription performances were in March 2022, with Kensho Watanabe.

The Philadelphians have recorded the Symphony five times: in 1939 for RCA with Stokowski; in 1965 for CBS with Ormandy; in 1975 for RCA with Ormandy; in 1992 for EMI with Muti; and in 2006 with Eschenbach for Ondine.

Shostakovich scored the work for piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, E-flat clarinet, two bassoons, contrabassoon, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion (bass drum, cymbals, orchestra bells, snare drum, tam-tam, triangle, xylophone), harp, piano (doubling celesta), and strings.

The Symphony runs approximately 45 minutes in performance.

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Musical Terms

GENERAL TERMS

Cadence: The conclusion to a phrase, movement, or piece based on a recognizable melodic formula, harmonic progression, or dissonance resolution

Chord: The simultaneous sounding of three or more tones

Coda: A concluding section or passage added in order to confirm the impression of finality

Dissonance: A combination of two or more tones requiring resolution

Dynamics: The varying and contrasting degrees of loudness

Fugue: A piece of music in which a short melody is stated by one voice and then imitated by the other voices in succession, reappearing throughout the entire piece in all the voices at different places

Harmonic: Pertaining to chords and to the theory and practice of harmony

Harmony: The combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions

Intonation: The treatment of musical pitch in performance

Legato: Smooth, even, without any break between notes

Meter: The symmetrical grouping of musical rhythms

Minuet: A dance in triple time commonly used up to the beginning of the 19th century as the lightest movement of a symphony

Op.: Abbreviation for opus, a term used to indicate the chronological position of a composition within a composer's output. Opus numbers are not always reliable because they are often applied in the order

of publication rather than composition.

Rondo: A form frequently used in symphonies and concertos for the final movement. It consists of a main section that alternates with a variety of contrasting sections (A-B-A-C-A etc.).

Scherzo: Literally "a joke." Usually the third movement of symphonies and quartets that was introduced by Beethoven to replace the minuet. The scherzo is followed by a gentler section called a trio, after which the scherzo is repeated. Its characteristics are a rapid tempo, vigorous rhythm, and humorous contrasts. Also an instrumental piece of a light, piquant, humorous character.

Sonata form: The form in which the first movements (and sometimes others) of symphonies are usually cast. The sections are exposition, development, and recapitulation, the last sometimes followed by a coda. The exposition is the introduction of the musical ideas, which are then "developed." In the recapitulation, the exposition is repeated with modifications.

Timbre: Tone color or tone quality

THE SPEED OF MUSIC (Tempo)

Allegretto: A tempo between walking speed and fast

Allegro: Bright, fast

Largo: Broad

Moderato: A moderate tempo, neither fast nor slow

TEMPO MODIFIERS

Non troppo: Not too much

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