

# PHILADELPHIA/ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet-Séguin · Music & Artistic Director



## 2024–25 SEASON DONOR IMPACT REPORT

YOUR ORCHESTRA. YOUR IMPACT. OUR GRATITUDE.





## DEAR FRIENDS,

It is the honor of my lifetime to serve as president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts, and a great privilege to share my heartfelt gratitude to you for your support of this great organization.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has been at the center of my professional and cultural life since 2012, when Yannick Nézet-Séguin began his transformational role as music director. Over the past 13 years I have had the privilege of working alongside him and this renowned ensemble, sharing beautiful music with communities at home and across the globe, sustaining our mission during the pandemic, and striving to make our art form more open and accessible. This has all been possible thanks to your support.

As we prepare to celebrate the Orchestra's 125th anniversary in the upcoming season with symphonic masterpieces, world premieres, overlooked artistic voices, and tributes to our legendary past, we hope you will join us in recognizing the Orchestra's essential place in American musical life.

Before we begin the anniversary celebrations, let us reflect on our most recent season and the accomplishments we achieved because of your philanthropy. From the inaugural year of the Marian Anderson Artistic Initiative; to Yannick leading historic performances of Wagner's complete *Tristan and Isolde*; to welcoming former Music Director Riccardo Muti back to the podium; and sharing the power of classical music with thousands of Philadelphia-area students through our free arts education programs, the 2024–25 season had a monumental and memorable impact.

Your support ensures that our Orchestra continues to shine as a beacon of the arts—where everyone sees themselves on our stages; where musicians, conductors, and composers bring the concert hall vividly to life; and where generations of audiences build memories that last a lifetime. I invite you to explore the following pages to learn more about how your generosity illuminates The Philadelphia Orchestra's work on stage, in our communities, and around the world.

With gratitude,

**Ryan Fleur**

President & CEO



“As we look forward together, the magic of music—its unparalleled power to unite, heal, and transform—remains at the heart of everything we do.”

—Yannick Nézet-Séguin,  
Music and Artistic Director  
Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair

## YANNICK'S YEAR OF EXPANSIVE SOUND

The 2024–25 season saw Music and Artistic Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** guide us through a thrilling exploration of musical horizons, marked by the return of enthusiastic audiences and first concerts for many new patrons. The season's centerpiece, Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, was a powerful realization of Yannick's deep passion for operatic works, showcasing the Orchestra in a sweeping, “five-hour triumph” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*).



"Yannick Nézet-Séguin ... coaxed a luminous rendition from a premier orchestra at its peak." —*Associated Press*

## MARIAN ANDERSON ARTISTIC INITIATIVE

Following the dedication of Marian Anderson Hall in June 2024, we established the Marian Anderson Artistic Initiative in celebration of the legendary contralto, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian. The initiative showcases composers and artists who embody Ms. Anderson's passion for increasing inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access in the performing arts.

2024–25 season programs of this initiative included the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's Orchestral Suite from his opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*; William Grant Still's Symphony No. 2 (“Song of a New Race”); the world premiere of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Picaflor: A Future Myth*; Margaret Bonds's *The Montgomery Variations*, inspired by events of the civil rights movement; Barbara Assiginaak's *Eko-Bmijwang (As Long in Time as the River Flows)*; and Florence Price's Piano Concerto in One Movement.



Riccardo Muti takes a bow after leading Verdi's Requiem.



Gabriela Lena Frank and Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop at the premiere of *Picaflor: A Future Myth*.

## A MOMENT WITH MAESTRO MUTI

To the delight of longtime Orchestra patrons and passionate Verdi fans alike, in October 2024 we were thrilled to welcome legendary conductor and former Music Director **Riccardo Muti** back to the Philadelphia podium for the first time since 2005. The Orchestra's performances of Verdi's dramatic Requiem, led by Muti, reaffirmed the magic created with a musical master at the helm of one of the world's greatest orchestras.



## CELEBRATING THE MAGIC MAKERS SINCE 1900

In the 2024–25 season, we proudly welcomed new members to our Orchestra family: violinists **John Bian**, **Eliot Heaton**, and **MuChen Hsieh**; cellists **Jiayin He** and **Michael Katz**; violist **Hsiang-Hsin Ching**; Assistant Principal Bass **Tobias Vigneau**; trombonist **Jack Grimm**; and Assistant Conductor **Naomi Woo**.

We also recognized the exemplary contributions of our distinguished musicians, celebrating the 25th anniversaries of violinist **Jason DePue** and Principal Bassoon **Daniel Matsukawa**. And retiring musicians **Ohad Bar-David** (cello), **Jeffrey Curnow** (associate principal trumpet), and **Kiyoko Takeuti** (piano and celesta) were honored after a remarkable 98 years of combined service to the Orchestra. We thank them for their extraordinary dedication, artistry, and the countless unforgettable performances they’ve given to our audiences at home and around the world.

### 2025 C. HARTMAN KUHN AWARD: PRINCIPAL TUBA CAROL JANTSCH

We are thrilled to recognize this year’s recipient of the C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given annually to “the member of The Philadelphia Orchestra who has shown ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the standards and the reputation of the ensemble.” Yannick selected Principal Tuba **Carol Jantsch**, praising her artistry and dedication to the Orchestra’s education programs. Jantsch is an active and enthusiastic participant in side-by-side rehearsals and performances, master classes, and PlayINs, and serves as a host of Sound All Around engagements both at home and at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center during the Orchestra’s summer season. Congratulations, Carol, on this much-deserved honor!



Carol Jantsch at the Kuhn Awards ceremony with Ryan Fleur and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.



Violinist MuChen Hsieh prior to the beginning of rehearsal in Nanchang, China.



Principal Bassoon Daniel Matsukawa at Mural Arts Philadelphia’s *Autumn Revisited* mural by David Guinn on the Fleisher Art Memorial.



Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch at Philadelphia’s Magic Gardens.

## ELLENBERG PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA SOLOIST SPOTLIGHT SERIES

The Philadelphia Orchestra’s collective brilliance shapes the iconic Philadelphia Sound, but it is in moments of solo performance that audiences get to fully appreciate each musician’s individual mastery. Thanks to the generosity of **Susan and Jonas Ellenberg**, the **Ellenberg Philadelphia Orchestra Soloist Spotlight Series** showcases these world-class musicians, bringing their talent, dedication, and expressive power center stage.

These solo performances offer a rare and intimate glimpse into the extraordinary musicianship that lies within the Orchestra, and it is a cherished tradition to elevate our musicians out of the ensemble and into the spotlight.

As Principal Viola **Choong-Jin Chang** reflected, “One of the most meaningful moments for me this season was stepping forward as soloist with the Orchestra. Performing a concerto with my colleagues in this amazing orchestra was both humbling and exhilarating. There was an incredible sense of connection onstage and with our audience that I will never forget.”

We are so grateful to the Ellenbergs for their longstanding support of The Philadelphia Orchestra, and for their visionary gift to support the Orchestra’s most valuable assets—the musicians.



In the 2024–25 season, the series featured the following performances:

- Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* and Piazzolla’s *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* with Concertmaster **David Kim**
- Bartók’s Violin Concerto No. 2 with First Associate Concertmaster **Juliette Kang**
- Martinů’s Rhapsody-Concerto and Joe Hisaishi’s *Viola Saga* with Principal Viola **Choong-Jin Chang**
- Bach’s Cantata No. 51 with former Principal Trumpet **Esteban Batallán**



Susan and Jonas Ellenberg with Juliette Kang

“Our wonderful Philadelphia Orchestra is composed of amazingly talented musicians—it’s a real thrill to see them taking well-deserved solo turns, and **we are delighted to be supporting these concerts.**”

—Susan Ellenberg



# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

The 2024–25 season delivered music education programs and classical music experiences to thousands of students, teachers, and families from across the Philadelphia region, fostering creativity and confidence and cultivating the next generation of music lovers.



Concertmaster David Kim and a Play On Philly! student musician during a Side-by-Side rehearsal.

For the first time since 2018, our **Side-by-Side** program brought 51 student musicians to the stage of Perelman Theater to perform alongside musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra. Led by former Assistant Conductor **Austin Chanu**, the students explored works by Mahler, Beethoven, Florence Price, and more. The rehearsal was an extraordinary experience for students as they played alongside the world-class talent of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Another highlight of the season was a visit by Music and Artistic Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** to KIPP West Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School, where he led a rehearsal with the school’s Honors Orchestra. As part of our **School Ensemble Program**, which provides music education opportunities for every student at KIPP West, the visit marked an unforgettable moment of inspiration



Yannick and the KIPP West Honors Orchestra, 2025.

and mentorship for over 100 young musicians who had the rare opportunity to learn directly from Yannick.

Throughout the season, the Orchestra welcomed nearly 5,500 students and teachers to our **Jane H. Kesson School Concert Program** and hosted over 4,100 students and educators at **Open Rehearsals**. For many Philadelphia School District students, these visits to Marian Anderson Hall are their first experience with live classical music and their first visit to a concert hall.

Our free arts education programs reflect our ongoing commitment to building strong, inclusive, and accessible pathways to classical music. We are deeply grateful to our donors for making this vital work possible.

## PHILADELPHIA PROUD

On June 4, this year’s free Pride Concert welcomed **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** back to the podium to lead The Philadelphia Orchestra in a joyous celebration of unity, empowerment, and the Philadelphia region’s LGBTQ+ community. Hosted once again by Philadelphia drag queen **Martha Graham Cracker**, the

concert included performances by the **ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir**, the **Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus**, **Philadelphia Voices of Pride**, and the **Transcendent Choir of Philadelphia**. We are especially grateful to **Dr. James F. Dougherty** for providing a generous matching gift and to Yannick for donating his time and talent. Their support made it possible to present a program that reflects our core values—even in the face of unexpected challenges.



Yannick Nézet-Séguin with Martha Graham Cracker at this year’s free Pride Concert.

# THE ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO CHINA

In November 2024, the full Philadelphia Orchestra, led by Principal Guest Conductor **Marin Alsop**, completed its first tour to China since 2019, deepening its historic ties with Chinese audiences. Continuing the Orchestra’s role as a cultural ambassador, the tour included two weeks of concerts, community engagement activities, and diplomatic events, and a third week of residency activities with a smaller group of musicians.

This trip saw The Philadelphia Orchestra perform for over 14,000 people in seven different cities, traveling a total of 18,480 miles. The Orchestra also traveled to Chengdu for the first time, where they performed a side-by-side concert with members of the Chengdu Symphony and performed a concert in the Phoenix Hill Sports Park that attracted over 5,000 in-person attendees and amassed millions of livestream views.

The final leg of the tour brought the Orchestra to Hainan, Haikou. Special thanks to Hainan Airlines, which provided a dedicated charter flight for the entire journey. With this trip, The Philadelphia Orchestra became the first



China Tour, November 2024.

American orchestra to visit Hainan, marking another notable first in its history.

## LOOKING AHEAD: 125TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

In the 2025–26 season, Music and Artistic Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** and The Philadelphia Orchestra will look to the past and future simultaneously, celebrating the Orchestra’s essential place in American musical life, and in the birthplace of American democracy, as well as its historic and contemporary

role as a musical innovator.

Experience iconic and transformative works that received their world or United States premieres by The Philadelphia Orchestra. From Stravinsky’s groundbreaking *The Rite of Spring* and Shostakovich’s powerful Piano Concerto No. 1 to Sibelius’s majestic Symphony No. 5, these performances and more showcase the Orchestra’s pioneering spirit. We look forward to welcoming you to another season filled with the magic of The Philadelphia Orchestra, as we celebrate 125 years of enduring influence in American classical music.

“Music touches people’s lives in so many ways at all ages. I have been coming to The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1975 and that’s my longest commitment, besides my alma mater, to any organization.

I have included the Orchestra in my estate plans because I believe in your mission—to education, diversity, excellence—and I simply love every experience I have ever had here!”

—Ardith Talbott  
Frances Anne Wister Society Member

To learn more about making a planned gift to The Philadelphia Orchestra, please contact Helen Radenkovic at 215.893.1819 or hrad@philorch.org.





# THANK YOU

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

**Marin Alsop** holds the Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller Chair.

**David Kim** holds the Dr. Benjamin Rush Chair.

**Juliette Kang** holds the Joseph and Marie Field Chair.

**Jason DePue** holds the Larry A. Grika Chair.

**Choong-Jin Chang** holds the Ruth and A. Morris Williams, Jr., Chair

**Daniel Matsukawa** holds the Richard M. Klein Chair.

**Esteban Batallán** held the Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest Chair.

**Carol Janstech** holds the Lyn and George M. Ross Chair.

Generous support for Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* was given by **Oscar L. Tang** and **Agnes Hsu-Tang**. Additional support was given by **Judith Broudy**.

The Marian Anderson Artistic Initiative is supported in part by the **Wyncote Foundation**.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2024 Tour of China was made possible through the generous support of **Lead Sponsor Bank of China**, **Premiere Sponsor Hainan Airlines**, and the **Ford Foundation**.

The Pride Concert was supported by a lead gift from **Dr. James F. Dougherty** and **George Condos**. Additional support was given by **Donald E. Barb, Esq.**, and the **Rev. Bruce H. Davidson**; **Christos Coutifaris** and **Deborah Driscoll**, in memory of **Woody Driscoll**; **MaryAnn Edwards**; **Allan Schimmel**; and **Jennifer and Ralph Watts**.

Lead Community Engagement Partners: **Independence Blue Cross** and **William Penn Foundation**. Additional support provided by: **PNC Arts Alive**.

The **Jane H. Kesson School Concert Program** is funded in part by the **Acadia Fund**, the **Paul M. Angell Foundation**, the **Annenberg Foundation**, **Donald E. Barb, Esq.**, and the **Rev. Bruce H. Davidson**, **Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.**, the **Connelly Foundation**, the **Dolfinger- McMahon Foundation**, **Mr. Colin Gardner** and **Ms. Erika L. Faust**, the **Hess Foundation**, the **Christian Humann Foundation**, **JKG Florida Business Corporation**, the **Billy Joel Fund for Music Education**, **Mrs. Beth Ann Wahl Kolpen** and **Mr. Jack Kolpen**, **Lincoln Financial Group Foundation**, the **Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation**, the **Nancy and William A. Loeb Student Education Fund**, **Philadelphia Insurance Co.**, **Linda S. Rothermel**, the **Volunteer Committees for The Philadelphia Orchestra**, and an anonymous donor.

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](mailto:development@philorch.org).

Photos: Pete Checchia, Jessica Griffin, Todd Rosenberg, Jeff Fusco, Allie Ippolito, Chris Kendig, Neal Santos