

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 26, 2025

**2025–26 SEASON  
OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION  
COMMEMORATING THE ORCHESTRA’S 125TH ANNIVERSARY  
MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN  
AND THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA WITH YUJA WANG  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

(Philadelphia, August 26, 2025)—**Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin** and the GRAMMY Award-winning **Philadelphia Orchestra**—recently described in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as “mind-blowingly good ... at the top of its considerable form”—will launch the star-studded, celebratory 2025–26 season marking the Orchestra’s 125th anniversary on **Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in **Marian Anderson Hall** at the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** with an **Opening Night Celebration** fit for the occasion, with world-renowned pianist **Yuja Wang**, an artist with deep connections to the Orchestra and to Philadelphia. Tickets to the Opening Night concert are available at 215.893.1999 or [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org). For those interested in purchasing a benefactor package for Opening Night, more information is available [here](#).

Throughout the 2025–26 season, 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. The Opening Night Concert embodies the spirit of the celebration, featuring Yuja Wang in Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G major, a work that received its United States premiere by the Orchestra in 1932. The piece will be paired with two works by living composers: Arturo Márquez’s *Danzón* No. 2 and Julia Wolfe’s *Pretty*, a piece co-commissioned by the Orchestra and Nézet-Séguin that received its Philadelphia premiere last season to rave reviews.

“The season ahead is a joyful celebration of The Philadelphia Orchestra’s rich history and influence, from our earliest days to the present. I am so excited to kick off this musical fête with the brilliant musicians of the Orchestra and our dear friend Yuja Wang on Opening Night,” said Nézet-Séguin, who is entering his 14th season with the Orchestra. “Everyone is welcome to join us on this journey as we perform incredible works that were first heard here in Philadelphia, honor the underrepresented composers whose important contributions have helped to shape our musical landscape, and share new works by some of the most influential composers of our time.”

“The 125th anniversary of The Philadelphia Orchestra is a moment of historic significance that we look forward to celebrating all year, beginning with a thrilling Opening Night,” said Ryan Fleur, president and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts. “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. We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate everything that makes this ensemble so unique.”

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 talents of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts’s new food and beverage provider, Rhubarb Hospitality Collection by Oak View Group (RHC).

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 Julia Haller, Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts Board member; Nicole Jordan, Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Librarian; and Bonnie Young, 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 39th season for which The Philadelphia Orchestra’s Volunteer Committees have presented the Opening Night festivities. The Volunteer Committees 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.

---

## Opening Night

**September 25** at 7:00 PM—Thursday evening—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin** Conductor

**Yuja Wang** Piano

**Márquez Danzón** No. 2

**Ravel** Piano Concerto in G major

**Wolfe** *Pretty*

The “preternaturally gifted” (*The New York Times*) Yuja Wang joins Yannick and the Orchestra, performing Ravel’s dashing Concerto in G major as the spectacular centerpiece in a sparkling season opener.

Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G major begins with the crack of a whip and the race is on, with piano and orchestra joyfully driving to the finish. A love letter to America that weaves fast-paced, jazz-laced bravado into a masterwork that demands the ultimate virtuoso, it’s in very good hands here with Yuja Wang, whose five-star reviews hail her ability to shift “from delicate finesse to fierce intensity ... with superb control” (*The Guardian*).

Contemporary composer Julia Wolfe’s works make headlines, change hearts, and draw new fans with each new bold venture. *Pretty*, co-commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra, boldly combines a

vernacular American sound with noise, power, delicacy, and aggression. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* hailed *Pretty* as “the work of a rich creative mind having a blast, playing with traditional symphonic expectations.”

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

---

**The Philadelphia Orchestra would like to extend sincere gratitude to the  
2025 Opening Night Celebration Benefactors.**

**Lead Benefactor**

The Central Volunteer Committee  
Comcast NBCUniversal  
Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller  
Lee Shlifer

**Diamond Benefactor**

Highmark Blue Shield  
Patricia and John Imbesi  
Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden  
Neal Krouse and Karl Fong  
The Main Line Volunteer Committee  
The Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation  
Joseph Neubauer and Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer

**Platinum Benefactor**

Elaine Woo Camarda and A. Morris Williams, Jr.  
Rob and Patty Delany  
Dranoff Family Foundation  
Julia A. Haller, M.D., and John D. Gottsch, M.D.  
Miriam Mandell  
David and Sandy Marshall  
The New Jersey Volunteer Committee  
Parx Casino  
PNC  
The Rittenhouse Square Volunteer Committee  
Caroline B. Rogers  
Adele K. Schaeffer  
Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, LLP  
Leonard and Barbara Sylk  
TD Bank  
Zisman Family Foundation

**Gold Benefactor**

Ballard Spahr LLP  
William and Sylvia Barone  
Blank Rome LLP  
PJ and Ann Brennan  
N. Judith Broudy  
Mrs. Julie Jensen Bryan

Sara A. Cerato  
Sarah Miller Coulson  
Tobey and Mark Dichter  
Dilworth Paxson LLP  
Freedom Mortgage  
Carole Haas Gravagno  
Robert Heim and Eileen Kennedy  
Eric and Lenora Hume  
Rachelle and Ronald Kaiserman  
Bennett Keiser and Joy Wilf Keiser  
Richard and Diane Larzelere  
The Malmud-Kravitz Foundation  
Oak View Group  
Claudio Pasquinelli and Kyong-Mi Chang  
Dr. Joel and Mrs. Roberta Porter  
Lyn M. Ross  
Dianne and Jeffrey Rotwitt  
Mark and Robin Rubenstein  
Katie and Tony Schaeffer  
Molly D. Shepard and Peter J. Dean  
Kathleen and Roger Smith  
Tom and Pat Vernon  
Penelope and Thomas Watkins  
Martin Zeldin – Zeldin Family Foundation

*As of August 26, 2025*

---

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

---

[About The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

[About Yannick Nézet-Séguin](#)

[About the 2025–26 Season](#)

[Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Strategies \(IDEAS\)](#)

---

###

CONTACTS:

Ashley Berke  
267.250.5148  
[aberke@philorch.org](mailto:aberke@philorch.org)

Stephanie Williams  
610.952.6836  
[swilliams@philorch.org](mailto:swilliams@philorch.org)

Jake Rogan  
215.790.5870  
[jrogan@philorch.org](mailto:jrogan@philorch.org)