

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2025

The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin Return to Carolina Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for Two Concerts November 4–5, 2025

*First of three domestic tours celebrating the
Orchestra's 125th anniversary and America 250*

(Philadelphia, October 6, 2025)—**The Philadelphia Orchestra** will embark on the first of three domestic tours throughout the 2025–26 season commemorating two major milestones: the Orchestra's 125th anniversary and the upcoming America 250 celebration. Under the baton of **Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, the Orchestra will perform two concerts in partnership with Carolina Performing Arts in Memorial Hall at the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November 4–5, 2025**. Concert tickets are available at carolinaperformingarts.org. In addition, 10 musicians of the Orchestra will lead clinics with student musicians, Principal Librarian Nicole Jordan will join a discussion with UNC students in a "Great Musical Works" class, and former Assistant Conductor Austin Chanu will engage with the UNC Wind Ensemble.

The Philadelphia Orchestra is commemorating its 125th anniversary and America's 250th anniversary by sharing works by American composers of the past and present, and masterpieces that were originally premiered in the United States by the Orchestra throughout its history. Chapel Hill audiences will have the opportunity to hear William Grant Still's *Wood Notes* on November 4, presented in a new edition that was prepared by Jordan and Chanu as part of the Orchestra's restoration of the music of the prolific Black American composer. The newly restored edition of *Wood Notes*, including a previously unpublished fifth movement, was given its world premiere by the Orchestra in 2024, thanks to generous support by the Pew Foundation for Arts and Culture. The piece is paired with Brahms's Symphony No. 3 and Beethoven's Piano

Concerto No. 3 featuring Emanuel Ax, who is celebrating 50 years of collaboration with the Orchestra this year. On November 5, the Orchestra will perform Brahms's Symphony No. 4 and Jennifer Higdon's Concerto for Orchestra, which was commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra and given its premiere by the ensemble on June 12, 2002, and has been one of the most widely programmed contemporary works since then.

"Returning to Carolina Performing Arts during our 125th anniversary season is a homecoming," said Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. "These concerts at Memorial Hall honor the roots of The Philadelphia Orchestra while embracing the energy of a new chapter. As we share this moment with our North Carolina audiences and look ahead to America's 250th birthday, we reaffirm our belief in music's power to unite, uplift, and move us forward together—as one country."

"We are thrilled that the first of our three domestic tours this season will take place at UNC," said President and CEO Ryan Fleur. "Throughout its history, The Philadelphia Orchestra has been a cultural ambassador, bringing the best of Philadelphia to audiences across the nation and around the globe. The convergence of our 125th anniversary and the America 250 celebration presents a wonderful opportunity to inspire and connect with audiences across the nation. We are grateful to the team at Carolina Performing Arts for their collaboration and commitment to classical music and look forward to building on this fruitful partnership."

The Philadelphia Orchestra has a long and distinguished touring history, connecting with people around the world through music, and is one of the most-traveled American symphonic ensembles. The Orchestra has toured the United States extensively, with over 100 U.S. tours throughout its history. In 1936 it became the first American orchestra ever to make a transcontinental tour. The Orchestra will also embark on a tour of Florida and the Midwest during the 2025–26 season.

About Carolina Performing Arts

Carolina Performing Arts at UNC–Chapel Hill brings artists from around the world and its own community to create live arts experiences that spark discovery, foster belonging, and bring people together. Through performances, residencies, and workshops, it connects students and communities statewide to the enduring power of the arts, supported by \$11 tickets for every K–graduate student in North Carolina. Together, they're building a community where live

performance—and a sense of belonging—thrives, creating a North Carolina that is healthier, more joyful, and better connected. Learn more at carolinaperformingarts.org.

The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nézet-Séguin
November 4 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Memorial Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Emanuel Ax Piano

Still *Wood Notes*
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3
Brahms Symphony No. 3

Experience the lyrical brilliance of Emanuel Ax as he joins forces with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra for a performance of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. From the stormy opening movement to the dazzling energy of the finale, this is the perfect showcase for this beloved pianist's "sublime ... strength and warmth of tone" (*Limelight*). Brahms's romantic Third Symphony and Still's stunningly poetic *Wood Notes* round out the rest of this brilliant program with picturesque scenes of nature. Yannick leads what is sure to be an incredible evening of music you won't soon forget.

The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nézet-Séguin
November 5 at 7:30 PM—Wednesday evening—Memorial Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Higdon Concerto for Orchestra
Brahms Symphony No. 4

Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads Jennifer Higdon's scintillating Concerto for Orchestra—commissioned and premiered by The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2002. This piece gives each section of the ensemble its moment to shine, delivering "wave after wave of intoxicating color" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*). Closing this beautiful program is Brahms's Fourth Symphony, a brilliant study in contrasts from dark mystery to sunlit joy. From its sweetly sad opening to its swirling flourish of a finale, this dynamic masterwork leaves the listener breathless. Don't miss out on what is sure to be an evening of musical mastery!

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

The restoration of William Grant Still's *Wood Notes* was made possible thanks to the Pew Foundation for Arts and Culture.

[About The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

[About Yannick Nézet-Séguin](#)

[About the 2025–26 Season](#)

Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Strategies (IDEAS)

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