

**NEW PROGRAMS AND UPDATES
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
2026–27 Season
Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra**

*Four Family Concerts Added: Halloween and holiday programs,
Peter and the Wolf, Green Eggs and Ham*

*The Orchestra Returns to Carnegie Hall for Five Performances
October 13, February 2, April 2, May 18, and June 4*

*Newly Announced Assistant Conductor Sara Aldana to make
Philadelphia Orchestra Debut Leading Wonderful Waltzes Program
January 2*

Tickets on sale now at philorch.org

(Philadelphia, July 30, 2026)—Coming off a landmark season celebrating its 125th anniversary, **The Philadelphia Orchestra** enters its next chapter as one of Philadelphia's great legacy institutions: homegrown, world-renowned, and continually refined by generations of extraordinary musicians from across the globe. **The 2026–27 season** leans into that legacy, honoring the sound that has been perfected over time in our city and in performances worldwide, inviting new and longtime listeners into an experience that feels both timeless and unmistakably Philadelphia. Under the direction of Music and Artistic Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, the 2026–27 season—Nézet-Séguin's 15th—promises epic musical events, bold artistic experiences, and new musical journeys.

As Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestra prepare for the 2026–27 season, updates have been made to select programs and concerts have been added to the schedule. The complete concert calendar can be found [here](#). Tickets to all programs are on sale now at philorch.org.

Family Concerts return throughout the 2026–27 season with four engaging performances for young listeners and their families. Former Assistant Conductor Austin Chanu will lead the Children's Halloween Spectacular, where guests are encouraged to come dressed in costume to experience a concert of well-known works that invoke the eerie spirit of Halloween (October 10). The Children's Holiday Spectacular will transport families to the North Pole with iconic holiday tunes, sing-alongs, and a visit from Santa Claus himself with former Assistant Conductor Naomi Woo leading the Orchestra (December 5). [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) calls the Orchestra's annual performances of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* "a gift to children and adults alike ... one of those rare, perfect things in this world." [Newly announced Assistant Conductor Sara Aldana](#)

will lead the audience-favorite featuring narrator Michael Boudewyns returning for his 12th performance of *Peter and the Wolf* (February 20). Boudewyns is joined by soprano Kimberly Schroeder for the Orchestra's final Family Concert of the season: an orchestral adaptation of Dr. Seuss's beloved *Green Eggs and Ham*, which will also feature a performance of *Three Fun Fables* with Sara Valentine as narrator (May 1). The Children's Halloween Spectacular and *Green Eggs and Ham* performances will be sensory-friendly concert experiences.

The Philadelphia Orchestra will travel to New York's famed Carnegie Hall for five performances throughout the 2026–27 season, four of which are part of Nézet-Séguin's complete Mahler symphony cycle at Carnegie Hall. Nézet-Séguin opens this season-long undertaking with performances of Mahler's powerful Symphony No. 5, with Webern's *Im Sommerwind* and the New York premiere of Julia Wolfe's *Liberty Bell* (an Orchestra co-commission) also on the program (October 13). Mahler's sublime Symphony No. 7, complete with mandolin, guitar, and cowbells, is the next Philadelphia Orchestra performance in the cycle (April 2). Mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill joins Nézet-Séguin, the Orchestra, sopranos and altos of the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir, the Commonwealth Youth Choir, the Philadelphia Boys Choir, and the Philadelphia Girls Choir for Mahler's glorious Symphony No. 3 (May 18). And Philadelphia's participation in the cycle concludes with Mahler's captivating Symphony No. 1 alongside Caroline Shaw's *The Observatory* and the New York premiere of Valerie Coleman's orchestration of Florence Price's "Rainbow Waltz" (June 4). Additionally, the legendary Simon Rattle will lead the Orchestra in works by John Adams, Debussy, and Ravel (February 2).

Assistant Conductor Sara Aldana will make her Philadelphia Orchestra debut leading the Orchestra in a one-afternoon-only program titled *Wonderful Waltzes*, featuring works by the Strauss family (January 2). Originally from Colombia, and a student of Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop, Aldana begins her tenure as assistant conductor on September 1. She will provide valuable assistance to Nézet-Séguin and other guest conductors throughout the season. Additionally, she will lead select Family Concerts and actively participate in residency programs, Orchestra tours, and a variety of educational activities.

Program changes and event descriptions can be found below. Please note that these updates supersede previous press materials related to these concerts. All programs are subject to change.

Assets for the 2026–27 season can be downloaded [here](#).

Event Addition—Family Concert: Children's Halloween Spectacular

October 10 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Austin Chanu Conductor

No Halloween is complete without music! Hear all the best seasonal favorites, from playful tunes to delightfully eerie classics, performed live by a full orchestra. With interactive moments, kid-

friendly surprises, and plenty of chances to sing, dance, and celebrate, this festive concert is the perfect way to make magical Halloween memories together.

Event Addition—Yannick Conducts Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 at Carnegie Hall

October 13 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Carnegie Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Webern *Im Sommerwind*

Wolfe *Liberty Bell*—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA CO-COMMISSION

Mahler Symphony No. 5

Gustav Mahler’s life changed in the midst of writing his Fifth Symphony: He met Alma Schindler, the beautiful daughter of a renowned landscape painter, herself a composer and the woman who would inspire him for the rest of his life. The Fifth contains what might be called Mahler’s “greatest hit”: The Adagietto, often performed as a stand-alone piece, is a hymn to his love for Alma, rapturously slow and caressed by lustrous strings and harp.

October 16–18: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™ in Concert

Artist Addition: Justin Freer Conductor

Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

Dominick DiOrio Artistic Director

December 4–5: Handel’s Messiah

Artist Addition: Philadelphia Symphonic Choir

Ryan Brandau Director

Event Addition—Family Concert: Children’s Holiday Spectacular

December 5 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Naomi Woo Conductor

Bring the whole family and enjoy a concert designed for all ages, filled with familiar music and a few fun surprises along the way. And keep an ear out for sleigh bells—you never know who might stop by from the North Pole.

Event Addition—The Glorious Sound of Christmas®

December 17 at 7:00 PM—Thursday evening—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Anthony Parnter Conductor
Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia
Dominick DiOrio Artistic Director

The Philadelphia Orchestra lends its iconic sound to timeless holiday classics! The Glorious Sound of Christmas is an annual Philadelphia tradition beloved by listeners of all ages and the perfect way to begin all holiday celebrations. With shimmering orchestral colors, soaring choral moments, and heart-warming surprises, this concert captures the magic, joy, and wonder of Christmas. Gather with friends and family for an unforgettable evening that will leave you glowing long after the final note.

The Glorious Sound of Christmas®

Artist Addition: Charlotte Blake Alston Narrator

Repertoire Addition:

Mendelssohn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Various *A Classical Christmas Suite*

Silvestri and Ballard Concert Suite from *The Polar Express*

Oppido *Yes, Virginia! (There Is a Santa Claus)*

Anderson *Sleigh Ride*

Various *A Christmas Celebration Overture*

Powell “Christus natus est”

Williams “Somewhere in My Memory,” from *Home Alone*

Williams “Star of Bethlehem,” from *Home Alone*

Williams “Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas,” from *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*

Various “A Merry Christmas Sing-Along”

Event Addition—Wonderful Waltzes

January 2 at 2:00 PM—Saturday afternoon—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Sara Aldana Conductor—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Program to include:

J. Strauss, Jr. “On the Beautiful Blue Danube” Waltz

J. Strauss, Jr. “Voices of Spring” Waltz

J. Strauss, Sr. “Radetzky” March

Begin 2027 in grand style with a festive celebration featuring the music of the Strauss family. Inspired by the cherished Viennese tradition that welcomes each new year with music, this

sparkling afternoon overflows with elegance, charm, and exuberance. Sway to the timeless beauty of “On the Beautiful Blue Danube,” delight in the buoyant energy of “Voices of Spring,” and join in the celebratory spirit of the beloved “Radetzky” March. It’s the perfect way to welcome a new year filled with possibility.

Event Addition—Debussy and Ravel at Carnegie Hall

February 2 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Carnegie Hall

Simon Rattle Conductor

Adams *Harmonielehre*

Debussy *La Mer*

Ravel Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloe*

Legendary conductor Simon Rattle leads a program showcasing works for which he has won particular acclaim: his “radiant, dreamy” (*Classical Candor*) *La Mer*, his focus on the “sheer sensual beauty” of John Adams’s *Harmonielehre* (*Bachtrack*), and his interpretation of *Daphnis and Chloe* that “quickly revealed the work’s pulsing energy underneath” (*Opera Wire*). Surrender to an experience of pure pleasure, in the hands of a master.

Event Addition—Family Concert: Peter and the Wolf

February 20 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Sara Aldana Conductor

Michael Boudewyns Narrator

Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* returns, introducing audiences to the instruments of the orchestra through a simple, engaging tale of a boy’s adventure in the woods. Each character is represented by a different instrument, from Peter’s strings to the grandfather’s bassoon and the wolf’s horns, making it easy to hear how the orchestra works together. With audience favorite narrator Michael Boudewyns, this performance is a great introduction for listeners of all ages.

March 5–7—Joe Hisaishi in Concert

Program Title Change: The previous program title, Joe Hisaishi Returns, has been replaced with Joe Hisaishi in Concert.

Event Addition—Yannick Leads Mahler’s Symphony No. 7 at Carnegie Hall

April 2 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Carnegie Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Mahler Symphony No. 7

Affectionately known as “Song of the Night,” Mahler’s sublime Seventh Symphony is a dream filled with melody, colored by unique instrumentation (like mandolin, guitar, and cowbell), and painted with images of a shimmering Mediterranean serenade and a rowboat gliding along a moonlit Alpine lake. Present for the 2024 performance of this spectacular work, WRTI host Ross Amico wrote: “the orchestra performed magnificently. The crowd roared its approval.”

April 23–25—Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony

Program Title Change: The previous program title, Daniil Trifonov Plays Prokofiev, has been replaced with Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony.

Event Addition—Family Concert: Green Eggs and Ham

May 1 at 11:30 AM—Saturday morning—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Sara Valentine Narrator

Michael Boudewyns Narrator

Kimberly Schroeder Soprano

Dorff *Three Fun Fables*

Kapilow *Dr. Seuss’s Green Eggs and Ham*

Do you like Green Eggs and Ham? This orchestral adaptation of Dr. Seuss’s beloved children’s classic is a feast for the ears! The inimitable Michael Boudewyns as Sam-I-Am serves up a veritable banquet of surprises in Robert Kapilow’s culinary cartoon-musical banquet. Plus, dive into the world of Aesop, the famous Greek storyteller, with three of his world-famous fun fables.

Event Addition—Yannick Leads Mahler’s Symphony No. 3 at Carnegie Hall

May 18 at 7:30 PM—Tuesday evening—Carnegie Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Karen Cargill Mezzo-Soprano

Sopranos and Altos of the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir

Commonwealth Youth Choir

Dominique DeSilva Director

Philadelphia Boys Choir

Jeffrey R. Smith Artistic Director

Philadelphia Girls Choir
Nathan Wadley Artistic Director

Mahler Symphony No. 3

Mahler's Third Symphony is a journey from darkness to light, its six movements arranged in a progressive celebration of life, from the simplest creatures to the creator of the universe. Marshalling the forces of an augmented orchestra, mezzo-soprano, soprano and alto choir, and children's choir, this spectacular work envelops the listener in a gorgeous, many-layered paradise of sound—a work Mahler himself declared “something the like of which the world has never yet heard!”

May 16—Spanish Romance and Stravinsky

Program Title Change: The previous program title, Romance, Rodrigo, and Stravinsky, has been replaced with Spanish Romance and Stravinsky.

Event Addition—Yannick Leads Mahler's Symphony No. 1 at Carnegie Hall

June 4 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Carnegie Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Price/orch. Coleman “Rainbow Waltz”
Shaw *The Observatory*
Mahler Symphony No. 1

Florence Price's beguiling “Rainbow Waltz” whirls you into this spectacular program, which pairs Mahler's towering First Symphony with contemporary composer Caroline Shaw's epic exploration of space, inspired by a visit to Los Angeles's famed Griffith Observatory. Take a deep breath ... discovery awaits.

TD Bank is a Proud Sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2026–27 Season.

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

Marin Alsop holds the Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller Chair.

[About The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

[About Yannick Nézet-Séguin](#)

[About the 2026–27 Season](#)

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

###

CONTACTS:

Geoffrey Cohen

215.875.7692

gcohen@philaorch.org

Victoria McCabe

215.790.5808

vmccabe@philorch.org

Jake Rogan

215.790.5870

jrogan@philorch.org