PHILADELPHIA /ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music & Artistic Director

2026–27 SEASON

The Philadelphia Orchestra Announces One-Night-Only Performance with Ben Folds

Special concert benefits the Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians' Retirement Fund and celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Performance marks Folds's third collaboration with the Orchestra

December 16, 2026
MARIAN ANDERSON HALL, HOME OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

(Philadelphia, October 5, 2026)—The Philadelphia Orchestra will welcome Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter, composer, and pianist **Ben Folds** back to Philadelphia for a one-night-only performance on **Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**. **Steven Reineke** will conduct.

The special concert will benefit the Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians' Retirement Fund and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. The performance marks Folds's third collaboration with the Orchestra, following appearances in 2014 and 2019.

For more than two decades, Folds has brought his distinctive songwriting and piano-driven sound to the orchestral stage, performing with many of the world's leading symphony orchestras. For his return to The Philadelphia Orchestra, Folds will join the ensemble for an evening showcasing his genre-bending music through the power and sound of a full orchestra.

Folds first performed with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2014, in a performance also conducted by Reineke, which paired a movement from Folds's Piano Concerto with orchestral arrangements of songs from his career. He returned in 2019 for a performance in Verizon Hall, now Marian Anderson Hall.

Subscriber and member pre-sales begin today at 12 PM. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, October 8, at 12 PM. Tickets will be available at www.philorch.org or 215.893.1999.

The musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra are graciously donating their services for the December 16 concert as a benefit for the Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians' Retirement Fund.

On December 16, 2001, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors to the public. In the 25 years since, it has welcomed more than 10 million people and served as a hub for artistic excellence, community engagement, and architectural innovation. Attendees of Ben Folds with The Philadelphia Orchestra will enjoy special anniversary activities, including a specialty cocktail at Curtain Call and multiple surprise and delight moments.

In addition, one dollar from every ticket sold will benefit Keys for Kids, Ben Folds's charitable initiative supporting access to music education. Keys for Kids provides funding and keyboards

to nonprofit organizations offering free or affordable piano lessons to school-age children from economically disadvantaged households.

An Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter and composer, Folds has created a wide-ranging body of music that includes albums with Ben Folds Five, numerous solo and collaborative recordings, and compositions for orchestra, film, television, and theater. He has performed with symphony orchestras around the world and served for eight years as the first artistic advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

Folds is also a *New York Times* best-selling author and longtime advocate for music education and public funding for the arts. His most recent orchestral album, *Ben Folds Live with the National Symphony Orchestra*, captures two performances with that ensemble.

Ben Folds with The Philadelphia Orchestra
December 16 at 7:00 PM—Wednesday evening—Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Steven Reineke Conductor
Ben Folds Piano and Vocalist

A special performance celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra are graciously donating their services for this concert as a benefit for the Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians' Retirement Fund.

One dollar from every ticket sold will benefit Ben Folds's Keys for Kids.

For tickets, visit www.philorch.org or call 215.893.1999.

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

About The Philadelphia Orchestra

About the 2026–27 Season

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

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