

**2024–2025 | 125th Season**  
**Marian Anderson Hall**

# The Philadelphia Orchestra

Saturday, December 14, at 7:00

Sunday, December 15, at 2:00

## **The Glorious Sound of Christmas**

**William Eddins** Conductor

**Benjamin Taylor** Baritone

**Charlotte Blake Alston** Narrator

**Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia**

**Dominick DiOrio** Artistic Director

**Mendelssohn/arr. Harris** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

**Vaughan Williams** Fantasia on Christmas Carols, for baritone, chorus, and orchestra

**Rosner** *Sugar Plum on the Run*

*First Philadelphia Orchestra performances*

**Traditional** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

## **Intermission**

**Various/arr. Stephenson** *A Charleston Christmas*

**DiOrio** "A Home Is Found at Christmas"

*First Philadelphia Orchestra performances*

**Adam/arr. Ryden** "O Holy Night"

**Tovey** "The Rittenhouse Carol"

**Anderson** *Sleigh Ride*

**Various/arr. Gray** Medley of Christmas Favorites

**Wade/arr. Harris** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

This program runs approximately two hours.

Philadelphia Orchestra concerts are broadcast on WRTI 90.1 FM on Sunday afternoons at 1 PM and are repeated on Monday evenings at 7 PM on WRTI HD 2. Visit [www.wrti.org](http://www.wrti.org) to listen live or for more details.



Jeff Flacco

# The Philadelphia Orchestra

The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra strives to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience, and to create joy, connection, and excitement through music in the Philadelphia region, across the country, and around the world. Through innovative programming, robust education initiatives, a commitment to its diverse communities, and the embrace of digital outreach, the ensemble is creating an expansive and inclusive future for classical music and furthering the place of the arts in an open and democratic society. In June 2021 the Orchestra and its home, the Kimmel Center, united. Today, The Philadelphia Orchestra and Ensemble Arts brings the greatest performances and most impactful education and community programs to audiences in Philadelphia and beyond.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is now in his 13th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. His connection to the ensemble's musicians has been praised by both concertgoers and critics, and he is embraced by the musicians of the Orchestra, audiences, and the community. In addition to expanding the repertoire by embracing an ever-growing and diverse group of today's composers, Yannick and the Orchestra are committed to performing and recording the works of previously overlooked composers.

Your Philadelphia Orchestra takes great pride in its hometown, performing for the people of Philadelphia year-round, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and around the community, in classrooms and hospitals, and over the airwaves and online. The Kimmel Center has been the ensemble's

home since 2001, and in 2024 Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center was officially rededicated as Marian Anderson Hall in honor of the legendary contralto, civil rights icon, and Philadelphian. The Orchestra's award-winning education and community initiatives engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members of all ages through programs such as PlayINs; side-by-sides; PopUP concerts; Our City, Your Orchestra Live; the free annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concert; School Concerts; sensory-friendly concerts; open rehearsals; the School Partnership Program and School Ensemble Program; All-City Orchestra Fellowships; and residency work in Philadelphia and abroad.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador and one of our nation's greatest exports. It performs annually at Carnegie Hall, the Mann Center, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. The Orchestra also has a rich touring history, having first performed outside Philadelphia in its earliest days. In 1973 it was the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, launching a now-five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange.

Under Yannick's leadership, the Orchestra returned to recording with 14 celebrated releases on the Deutsche Grammophon label, including the GRAMMY® Award-winning *Florence Price Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3*. The Orchestra also reaches thousands of radio listeners with weekly broadcasts on WRTI-FM and SiriusXM. For more information, please visit [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

# Conductor



Conductor and pianist **William Eddins** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in April 2002 and his subscription debut in October 2022. Other recent engagements include conducting The Philadelphia Orchestra with cellist Yo-Yo Ma in Saratoga and collaborations with Wynton Marsalis's Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with both the Detroit Symphony and the Minnesota Orchestra. Mr. Eddins is music director emeritus of the Edmonton Symphony, where he served

as music director from 2004 to 2017, and a frequent guest conductor of major orchestras throughout the world. In the United States he has led the New York, Los Angeles, and Buffalo philharmonics and the San Francisco, St. Louis, Boston, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Dallas, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Houston symphonies. Internationally he was principal guest conductor of the RTÉ National Symphony in Ireland from 2001 to 2006. He has also conducted the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Berlin Radio Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Adelaide and Barcelona symphonies, and the Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra.

Mr. Eddins's career highlights include taking the Edmonton Symphony to Carnegie Hall in May 2012, conducting the RAI National Symphony on Italian television, and leading the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic on tour in South Africa with soprano Renée Fleming. Equally at home on opera stages, he conducted Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with Opera de Lyon both in France and at the Edinburgh Festival. He is an accomplished pianist and chamber musician and regularly conducts from the keyboard in works by Mozart, Beethoven, Gershwin, and Ravel. Recently he has been performing Enrique Granados's seminal solo piano work *Goyescas*, with recitals in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Houston in 2023. He has performed at the Ravinia Festival with both the Chicago Symphony and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra and has also conducted the orchestras of the Aspen Music Festival, the Hollywood Bowl, the Chautauqua Festival, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Mr. Eddins attended the Eastman School of Music, studying with David Effron and graduating at age 18. He also studied conducting with Daniel Lewis at the University of Southern California and was a founding member of the New World Symphony in Miami. He is a co-founder of MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul, a socially missioned brewery established in the wake of the public unrest during the summer of 2020 with the objective of Nurturing Outstanding Music Education. Proceeds provide musical instruments, lessons, and education for underprivileged youth in the Twin Cities metro area.

# Soloist



Baritone **Benjamin Taylor** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut with these performances. His 2024–25 season also includes debuts at Arizona Opera as Marcello in Puccini's *La bohème*, Madison Opera as Figaro in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Charleston Opera Theater as Schaunard in *La bohème*, and Washington National Opera as Jake in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. On the concert stage he debuts at the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé*, the

Charleston Symphony and Buffalo Philharmonic in Moravec's *Sanctuary Road*, the Dayton Philharmonic in Fauré's Requiem, and Opera Omaha for its Opera Outdoors concert. He also returns to North Carolina Opera for its Opera in the Park concert.

In the 2023–24 season Mr. Taylor returned to Opera Philadelphia as Paolo in Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. Other season engagements included debuts with Austin Opera as Silvio in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and at the Princeton Festival as Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and returns to the Metropolitan Opera as Moralès in Bizet's *Carmen*, Detroit Opera as Jan in Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves*, and the Bavarian State Opera as Bello in Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West*. He also debuted with Symphoria (now the Syracuse Orchestra) and the Northwest Florida Symphony in Orff's *Carmina burana*, at Boston Lyric Opera as Schaunard followed by debuts with Opera Delaware and Opera Baltimore as Germont in Verdi's *La traviata* and Opera Philadelphia as Schaunard. He returned to the Met as Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and the Berkshire Opera Festival as Marcello. He made his Met debut in Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*.

Mr. Taylor is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program where some of his assignments included Schaunard, Older Thompson in Cipullo's *Glory Denied*, and Sciarone in Puccini's *Tosca*. He debuted at Madison Opera as Silvio and was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, where his assignments included covering Zurga in Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*. As a Gerdine Young Artist and Richard Gaddes Festival Artist at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, he was seen as Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*, the Cowardly Giant in Perla's *Shalimar the Clown*, and Prince Yamadori in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Additional performances have included Marcello with the Crested Butte Festival and Prince Yamadori for Berkshire Opera's inaugural season.

# Narrator



**Charlotte Blake Alston** is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, narrator, and librettist. In July 2021 she was named The Philadelphia Orchestra's Imasogie Storyteller, Narrator, and Host. She has appeared as host and narrator on the Orchestra's School and Family concerts since 1991 and was the host of Sound All Around, the Orchestra's preschool concert series, from 1994 to 2024. She has also appeared on each of the Orchestra's Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concerts since 2003.

Committed to keeping alive African and African-American oral traditions, Ms. Alston has performed on national and regional stages including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has been a featured artist at the National Storytelling Festival; the National Festival of Black Storytelling; and festivals in Ireland, Switzerland, South Africa, and Brazil. She has performed at Presidential inaugural festivities in Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Children's Inaugural Celebrations in Harrisburg. She was also one of two storytellers selected to present at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. She has been guest narrator for several orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. During a 20-year association with Carnegie Hall, she was the featured preconcert artist, host, and narrator on the Family, School, and Global Encounters concert series and represented the Hall in Miyazaki, Japan. She has also performed as a touring artist for Lincoln Center Institute.

Ms. Alston has produced several commissioned texts for orchestras and choirs including original narration for Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*. Her honors include two honorary Ph.Ds, a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association. She is the recipient of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Artist of the Year Award and the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the highest award bestowed by the National Association of Black Storytellers. In 2023 she received the Distinguished Artist Award at the New Jersey Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts in Education. In May 2024 she was inducted into her alma mater South Philadelphia High School's Cultural Hall of Fame, joining the ranks of such artists as Marian Anderson.

# Chorus



**Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia** stands as one of America's most enduring musical institutions. Now performing its 151st season and led by Artistic Director and Conductor Dominick DiOrio, Mendelssohn Chorus includes over 150 voices and has consistently balanced tradition with innovation, presenting beloved classics while championing new works. Throughout its illustrious history, Mendelssohn Chorus has collaborated with world-renowned conductors and maintained a

longstanding partnership with The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning with a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in 1904. Along with the Orchestra, the Chorus has been instrumental in introducing groundbreaking works to American audiences, including the 1908 Philadelphia premiere of Brahms's *A German Requiem* and the 1916 American premiere of Mahler's monumental "Symphony of a Thousand" with Leopold Stokowski conducting.

Mendelssohn Chorus has gained recognition for its innovative, cross-genre performances and commitment to contemporary music. With over 100 commissions from composers like Jennifer Higdon and Caroline Shaw, Mendelssohn Chorus continues to push boundaries in choral music. The Chorus's excellence has been recognized with prestigious accolades, including a GRAMMY nomination and two ASCAP/Chorus America Awards for Adventurous Programming. Its 2014 commission of Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields* received the Pulitzer Prize in Music. Beyond performances, Mendelssohn Chorus nurtures emerging talent through its section leader and apprenticeship programs, enriching Philadelphia's cultural landscape.

Mr. DiOrio is a composer and conductor who has won widespread acclaim for his contributions to American music, and he has been recognized with the American Prizes in both Choral Composition (2014) and Choral Performance (2019, with NOTUS). He has conducted ensembles around the world, from the Houston Chamber Choir and Choral Arts Initiative in the United States to Allmänna Sängen and Ars Veritas abroad. His over 50 published works have appeared at major venues around the world including the Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. Since 2012 he has been a member of the conducting faculty at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he is professor of music and chair of the choral conducting department. He leads the internationally renowned new music chamber chorus NOTUS and teaches and mentors masters and doctoral students in conducting. Now in his fifth season, he is the 14th artistic director and conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia. For more information about Mendelssohn Chorus, please visit [mcchorus.org](http://mcchorus.org).

## Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

**Paul Rardin** Director

### Sopranos

Maryl Apadula  
Barbara Berry  
Mia Castro-Diephouse  
Rachel Castro-Diephouse  
Courtney Comar  
Shiloh Cooper  
Amanda Leah Davis  
Kelsey DeJesus  
Sarah Fiordaliso  
Roberta Fischer  
Caroline Fitch  
Teri Gemberling-Johnson  
Lauren Gilmore  
Miriam Goldberg  
Lilah Gosman  
Elizabeth Hohwieler  
Anna Juliar  
Emily Grace Kane  
Kelsey Lewis\*  
Carolyn Linarello  
Rachael Lipson\*  
Fay Manicke  
Natalie Martell  
Juliana Melara  
Ilene Miller  
Andrea Nestman  
Kate Philips-Kaiser  
Gabrielle Rinkus  
Roberta Rote  
Sophia Santiago\*  
Mary Kate Suhy  
Marie Tavianini  
Laura Temoyan  
Jessica Vega  
Kathryn Wadsworth  
Deanda Wilson  
Lisa Wooldridge

### Altos

Ariel Alvarado\*  
Rachele Armstrong  
Jenna Camacho  
Christine Chaapel  
Hannah Davis  
Erin Donovan  
Robin Eaton  
Abigail Ehret  
Eloise Flood  
Shannon Foley  
Rebecca Fülöp  
Anne Gold

Katherine Haas  
Jody Hagler  
Jennifer Hay  
Mari Kawakatsu  
Sharon Kempin  
Katie Kershaw  
Deborah Laird  
Susan Lin  
Priscilla Lo  
Deborah McIntosh  
Heather Mitchell\*  
Florence Moyer  
Margaret Oravetz  
Gina Polite  
Jennifer Rafferty\*  
Shannon Rafferty  
Rebecca Rendsburg  
Sharon Rhinesmith\*  
Rebecca Roberts  
Alana Schreibman  
Julia Scott  
Maria Sisto  
Jane Uptegrove  
Samantha Will  
Heather Wismer

### Tenors

Shawn Anderson§  
Louis Bartholomew  
Michael Cabán  
Christopher Carriero  
Kyle Conner  
Mark Davidson  
Dominick DiOrio\*  
Rich Galassini  
Campbell Holder  
Frank Kanther  
Viv Kaye  
Jim Light  
John Luttenberger  
Ian Martin\*  
Daniel Ojserkis  
John Padden  
Mark Pinzur  
Eric Rodriguez-Lopez  
Cameron Santiago  
Roy Schmidt  
Jeffrey Schwartz  
Kyle Sheehan  
D'quan Tyson\*  
Steve Ullman

### Basses

Patrick Beck  
Evan Birnholz  
Will Budreau  
Paul Burgmayer  
Michael Carson  
Tyler Cudia  
Lucas DeJesus\*\*  
Brendan Fullam  
Steven Glasser  
Lowell Hoyt  
Jon Kochavi  
John Kohlhas  
George Leone  
Martin Levitas  
Jacob Lynn-Palevsky  
Matthew McConnell  
Sean Martin  
Michael Moore  
Erik Potteiger\*  
Cleveland Rea  
Matthew Reese  
Daniel Rosen  
Daniel Simpson  
Erik Stenswold\*  
Thomas Sutton  
William Thomas  
Richard Tolsma  
Alexander Varghese

### Collaborative Pianist and Senior Artist in Residence

Ting Ting Wong

\*Section Leader

\*\*Senior Vocal Artist and Section Leader

§Conducting Apprentice

†Artistic Staff

# Sing-Along Text

## **"Deck the Halls"**

Deck the halls with boughs of holly: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
'Tis the season to be jolly! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
See the blazing yule before us! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Strike the harp and join the chorus! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Follow me in merry measure, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

## **"Jingle Bells"**

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,  
O'er the hills we go, laughing all the way!  
Bells on bobtails ring, making spirits bright;  
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight.  
Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way; oh, what fun it is to ride in a  
one-horse open sleigh!

## **"Silent Night"**

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

## **"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"**

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy new year!  
Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin:  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy new year!