

2024–2025 | 125th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00
Thursday, December 19, at 7:00

Constantine Kitsopoulos Conductor



PRESENTATION LICENSED BY



The Muppet Christmas Carol

Directed by
Brian Henson

Produced by
Brian Henson and Martin G. Baker

Co-Producer
Jerry Juhl

Executive Producer
Frank Oz

Screenplay by
Jerry Juhl

From the Novel by
Charles Dickens

Original Score by
Miles Goodman

Songs by
Paul Williams

STARRING

Michael Caine | Steven Macintosh | Meredith Braun | Robin Weaver

FEATURED MUPPET PERFORMERS

**Dave Goelz | Steve Whitmire | Jerry Nelson | Frank Oz | David Rudman
Louise Gold | Mike Quinn | Karen Prell | Rob Tygner**

Today's performance lasts approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, including intermission. The performance is a presentation of the complete film *The Muppet Christmas Carol* with a live performance of the film's entire score. Out of respect for the musicians and your fellow audience members, please remain seated until the conclusion of the end credits.

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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 to listen live or for more details.



The
Philadelphia
Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music and Artistic Director

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Photo: Jeff Fusco



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.



The
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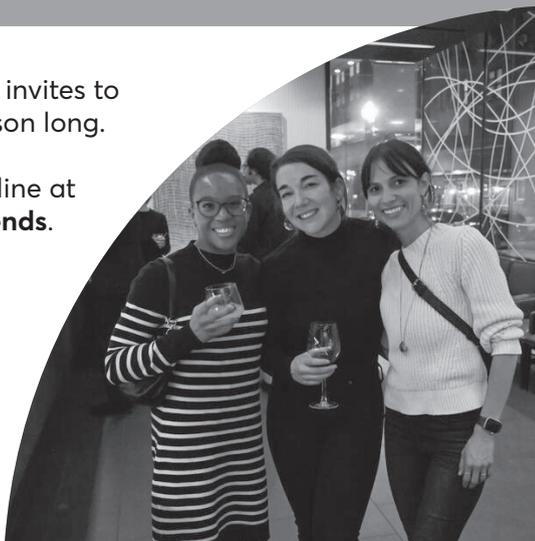
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Photos: Allie Ippolito, Jessica Griffin,
Jeff Fusco, Pete Checchia



Conductor

Xanthe Ebrick



Constantine Kitsopoulos has established himself as a dynamic conductor known for his ability to work in many different genres and settings. He is equally at home with opera, symphonic repertoire, film with live orchestra, musical theater, and composition. His work has taken him all over the world, where he has conducted the major orchestras of North America as well as the Hong Kong and Tokyo philharmonics. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in Saratoga

in 2011 conducting *Casablanca* with film and most recently appeared with the ensemble in the 2023–24 season conducting Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* with film. In addition to these current performances, highlights of his 2024–25 season include return engagements with the Vancouver, San Francisco, New Jersey, Detroit, and Seattle symphonies, among others.

Last season Mr. Kitsopoulos returned to the New York Philharmonic and the Pacific, New Jersey, Toronto, Detroit, Chicago, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco symphonies. Highlights of previous seasons included return engagements with the Dallas, Phoenix, Houston, and Vancouver symphonies. He also conducted Leonard Bernstein's *MASS* and *Candide* at Indiana University Opera Theater. In addition to his engagements as guest conductor, he was music director of the Festival of the Arts Boca from 2010 until 2023 and general director of Chatham Opera from 2005 to 2015. He was assistant chorus master at New York City Opera from 1984 to 1989. He has developed semi-staged productions of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, for which he has written a new translation; Mozart's *Don Giovanni*; and Puccini's *La bohème*. He has conducted IU Opera Theater's productions of Verdi's *Falstaff*, J. Strauss, Jr.'s *Die Fledermaus*, Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge*, Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, Rodgers's *South Pacific* and *Oklahoma*, Willson's *The Music Man*, Menotti's *The Last Savage*, and Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*.

On Broadway Mr. Kitsopoulos has been music director of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (cast album on PS Classics), Bucchino's *A Catered Affair* (cast album on PS Classics), *Coram Boy* (with music by Adrian Sutton), Baz Luhrmann's production of *La bohème* (cast album on DreamWorks Records), *Swan Lake*, and *Les Misérables*. He was music director of ACT's production of Weill's *Happy End* and made the only English-language recording of the work for Sh-K-Boom Records. Mr. Kitsopoulos studied piano with Marienka Michna, Chandler Gregg, Edward Edson, and Sophia Rosoff and conducting with Semyon Bychkov, Sergiu Commissiona, Gustav Meier, and his principal teacher, Vincent La Selva.



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The
Philadelphia
Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music and Artistic Director

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Photos: Concertmaster David Kim in front of the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel at the Please Touch Museum. Photo by Neal Santos. Principal Harp Elizabeth Hainen on Broad Street. Photo by Neal Santos.

The Student Circle program is funded in part by the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust and an anonymous donor. *Must be 14 years of age to register



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PreConcert Conversations: PreConcert Conversations are held prior to most Philadelphia Orchestra subscription

concerts, beginning one hour before the performance. Conversations are free to ticket holders, feature discussions of the season's music and music-makers, and are supported in part by the Hirschberg-Goodfriend Fund in memory of Adolf Hirschberg, established by Juliet J. Goodfriend.

Lost and Found: Please call 215.670.2321.

Late Seating: Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members. If you arrive after the concert begins, you will be seated only when appropriate breaks in the program allow.

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Electronic Devices: All watch alarms should be turned off while in the concert hall and all cellular phones should be switched to silent mode.