

2024–2025 | 125th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Tuesday, December 31, at 7:00

Marin Alsop Conductor

Himari Violin

Caleb Teicher & Company:

Nicole Barron

Steve Torres

Analía Centurión

Leonardo Sardella

Caleb Teicher

J. Strauss, Jr. Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

Kreisler "La gitana," for violin and orchestra

First Philadelphia Orchestra performance

Waxman *Carmen* Fantasy, for violin and orchestra

Bizet from Suite No. 2 from *L'Arlésienne*:

I. Pastorale

III. Menuet

IV. Farandole

Intermission

Bernstein/orch. Ramin & Kostal Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

J. Strauss, Jr. "Voices of Spring" Waltz, Op. 410

Gardel/arr. Williams "Por una cabeza"

Johnson/arr. Hersh/orch. Rimelis "Charleston"

This program runs approximately two hours.

This concert is part of the Peter A. Benoliel Violin Concerts, established in his honor by **Dr. Richard M. Klein**.

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.



Jeff Flasco

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.

Principal Guest Conductor



Ogata Photo

One of the foremost conductors of our time, **Marin Alsop** is principal guest conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, with which she made her debut in 1990. She is the first woman to serve as the head of a major orchestra in the United States, South America, Austria, and Britain. This season marks her sixth as chief conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony, her second as artistic director and chief conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony, and her second as

principal guest conductor of London's Philharmonia. She is also chief conductor of the Ravinia Festival and the first music director of the National Orchestral Institute + Festival at the University of Maryland. This season she becomes the first United States-born woman to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic. Other 2024–25 highlights include an evening devoted to Gustav and Alma Mahler with the Philharmonia, a world premiere from Nico Muhly with the New York Philharmonic, a reprise of Julia Wolfe's *Her Story* with the National Symphony, and return engagements with the Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, and San Francisco symphonies.

In 2021 Ms. Alsop assumed the title of music director laureate and OrchKids founder of the Baltimore Symphony. During her 14-year tenure as its music director, she led the orchestra on its first European tour in 13 years, released multiple award-winning recordings, and conducted more than two dozen world premieres, as well as founding OrchKids, its groundbreaking music education program for Baltimore's most disadvantaged youth. In 2019, after seven years as music director, she became conductor of honor of Brazil's São Paulo Symphony. Deeply committed to new music, she was music director of California's Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music for 25 years, leading 174 premieres. In 2024 she made her long-awaited debut at the Metropolitan Opera.

Recognized with *BBC Music's* "Album of the Year" and Emmy nominations in addition to GRAMMY, Classical BRIT, and *Gramophone* awards, Ms. Alsop's discography comprises more than 200 titles on Decca, Harmonia Mundi, Sony Classical, and Naxos. The first and only conductor to receive a MacArthur Fellowship, she has also been honored with the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award. She is director of graduate conducting at the Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute and holds Honorary Doctorates from Yale University and the Juilliard School. In 2002, to promote and nurture the careers of her fellow female conductors, she founded the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship, which was renamed in her honor as the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship in 2020. *The Conductor*, a documentary about her life, debuted at New York's 2021 Tribeca Film Festival.

Soloists

Hiroshi Wakiri



Born in 2011 in Japan, **Himari** has been described as a once-in-a-generation talent. She has captured the attention of the classical music world with her incredible technique, her playful and imaginative interpretations, and her ability to communicate an emotional depth, all from the unique and refreshing perspective of a young artist. She is one of the youngest-ever applicants at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studies with renowned

teacher Ida Kavafian. She makes her Philadelphia Orchestra debut with this performance. In the 2024–25 season she also makes her European debut with the Berlin Philharmonic, performing Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 1 with Zubin Mehta. Other season highlights include appearances with the Tokyo Philharmonic and the Yomiuri Nippon and Kyoto symphonies. She also performs Sibelius's Violin Concerto on tour with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Himari began her violin studies at the age of three and made her orchestral soloist debut at age six. She plays the 1717 "Hamma" Stradivarius violin on generous loan from Yusaku Maezawa. Her bow is on loan from the Munetsugu Collection.

Peter A. Benoliel Violin Concerts

A passionate violinist from early childhood, Peter A. Benoliel joined the Philadelphia Orchestra Board of Directors in 1980 and served as chair from 1995 to 2000. His huge contributions to the Orchestra as a leader and philanthropist are paralleled only by his deep love for the violinists who help bring the famous Philadelphia Sound to the world.



Nicole Barron is a professional ballroom dancer based in New York City. She began dancing 15 years ago while studying journalism and social and cultural analysis at New York University. She began dancing with her partner, Steve Torres, in 2012 and today they specialize in the styles of American Smooth and International Standard. They are two-time Amateur National Smooth Champions. They turned professional in 2021 and continue to compete all over the country.

Tonight's concert is her Philadelphia Orchestra debut.

Soloists



Steve Torres is a professional ballroom dancer based in Brooklyn, New York. With his wife, Nicole Barron, he has competed across the country in the styles of International Standard and American Smooth. Together, they are two-time national amateur champions and finalists in several professional competitions. Mr. Torres graduated from Indiana University where he studied piano performance and marketing, and now works his day job in advertising as

a senior art director. This is his Philadelphia Orchestra debut.



Analía Centurión is an internationally renowned Argentine tango dancer, teacher, choreographer, and author. She began her studies in piano and classical ballet at the age of six in Buenos Aires and started dancing Argentine tango in 1995. In 1997 she became a champion in the most prestigious youth competitions in the province of Buenos Aires. She has been part of the tango companies of Juan Carlos Copes, Mora Godoy, and Mariano Mores; has danced in the most famous

tango shows in Buenos Aires; and has trained with great "milongueros" like Mingo Pugliese, Puppy Castello, and Gerardo Portalea. Ms. Centurión has represented Argentine culture at international dance festivals and taught at numerous tango festivals worldwide. She has performed at the New York City and Atlanta operas, and she has served as a judge in official championships, including the World Tango Championship 2024 in Buenos Aires. She directs the first online tango academy, Tango Centurión, exclusively for women, and is also the author of the book *Shine in Your Tango*. Tonight marks her Philadelphia Orchestra debut.

Soloists



Dancer, choreographer, and teacher **Leonardo Sardella**, who is making his Philadelphia Orchestra debut, started dancing tango professionally in his hometown of Buenos Aires. He has trained with renowned tango instructors and performed with several dance companies on the best stages in Argentina, including the Colón and Cervantes theaters. In 2011 he moved to New York City where he co-founded, with Walter Perez, the Malevaje dance company and, later,

Friends of Argentine Tango, a non-profit organization that brings performances and classes to school kids. He has participated in tango festivals and performed in major cities across the globe. He was the choreographer of Male Tango (IATI Theater), which was recognized with two HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors) Awards (Outstanding Performance in Musical Theater and Outstanding Musical Production) and two Latin ACE award nominations (Best Director and Best Choreographer). He has also been part of Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing, teaching and performing with renowned Argentine electronic tango band Tanghetto and the Típica Messiez tango orchestra.



Caleb Teicher is a New York City-based dancer, choreographer, and director regarded widely in the performing arts as a leading voice in interdisciplinary collaboration. They began their career as a founding member of Michelle Dorrance's critically acclaimed tap dance company Dorrance Dance, while also freelancing as a contemporary dancer, musical theater performer, and swing dancer. In 2015 they shifted their creative focus toward concert dance work through

Caleb Teicher & Company, which led to commissions and presentations at some of America's most esteemed performing arts venues, including Lincoln Center, the Joyce Theater, New York City Center, the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and countless others. Collaborations with celebrated musicians/composers followed, including choreographing Regina Spektor's Broadway residency, dancing and singing on television with Ben Folds, and performing as a tap dance soloist with the National Symphony. Teicher is the recipient of two Bessie Awards. Tonight's concert marks their Philadelphia Orchestra debut.

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Photos: Dario Acosta, Olaf Heine, Chris Lee



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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.

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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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Assistive Listening: With the deposit of a current ID, hearing enhancement devices are available at no cost from the House Management Office in Commonwealth Plaza. Hearing devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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