

2024–2025 | 125th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Friday, January 10, at 8:00

Lunar New Year Concert

Naomi Woo Conductor
Zhang Hongyan Pipa
Maureen Kelly Soprano
Valdis Jansons Baritone

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

Various *Sisters of the Grassland*, for pipa and orchestra
First Philadelphia Orchestra performance

Boulanger *Of a Spring Morning*

Huang from Folk Songs for Orchestra:
I. Flower Drum Song from Fengyang
First Philadelphia Orchestra performance

Bates "Spring River Flowers by Moonlight"

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

Li *Spring Festival Overture*

This program runs approximately one hour, 20 minutes, and will be performed without an intermission.

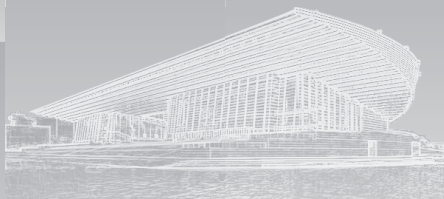
This concert is sponsored by the **China National Tourist Office New York.**

Mason Bates's "Spring River Flowers by Moonlight" was co-commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the China International Culture Association, with additional support from the US-China Cultural Institute, in memory of Shirley Young.

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.



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CHINESE
NEW YEAR
欢乐春节



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The China National Tourist Office New York
is proud to sponsor The Philadelphia Orchestra's
Lunar New Year Celebration

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CHINA
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The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music and Artistic Director



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.

Conductor

Christa Holka



Canadian conductor and pianist **Naomi Woo** is a widely sought-after symphonic and operatic conductor and educator. Assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, where her duties include assisting Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as other guest conductors and leading the Orchestra in select concerts, she is also music director of NYO Canada and artistic partner of the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal. In the 2024–25 season, Ms. Woo makes

debuts with The Philadelphia Orchestra, London's Philharmonia Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony, the Luxembourg Chamber Orchestra, and the Royal Conservatory Orchestra in Toronto. Return engagements include the Toronto Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Vancouver Symphony, and the Orchestre Métropolitain. Highlights of her 2023–24 season included her first tour and recordings with NYO Canada; conducting engagements with the Orchestre Métropolitain, the Montreal Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony, the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa, and the Chautauqua Symphony; and leading opera productions with English Touring Opera and Opera Holland Park in the United Kingdom.

Ms. Woo's previous season engagements include the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Ann Arbor Symphony, Orchestra NOW (New York), the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and Regina Symphony, and her debut at LSO St. Luke's in London with the ensemble Tangram Sound. She was assistant conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony from 2019 to 2023 and appeared with that orchestra on multiple occasions. On the opera stage, she has conducted the Canadian premiere of Du Yun's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angel's Bone* in Vancouver and the world premiere of Ellis Ludwig-Leone's *The Night Falls* in New York City. In 2022 she assisted in the world premiere of Oliver Leith's *Last Days* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and returned to assist Thomas Adès with the same work for its United States premiere with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The 2022 winner of the Canada Council's prestigious Virginia Parker Prize, Ms. Woo is a member of Tapestry Opera's Women in Musical Leadership program and was chosen by her mentor, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, as a member of the Orchestre Métropolitain's inaugural orchestral conducting academy. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She also studied mathematics, philosophy, and music at Yale College, the Yale School of Music, and the University of Montreal.

Soloists



Chinese pipa virtuoso and educator **Zhang Hongyan** is a Level II professor, a Ph.D. supervisor, and a member of the academic committee at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. She also serves as the dean of the Department of Traditional Chinese Music Instruments and director of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection and Research Center at the Central Conservatory. She is the vice chairperson of the Pipa Society of China Musicians Association and a former

visiting scholar at Columbia University. Ms. Zhang is also a disseminator of music culture who has promoted music in Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Oceania. She is a keen and devoted public music educator. In order for more people to have access to music, she launched her "Playing Whilst Talking" lecture concert series in 2008 and also offered free lectures on music culture for 10 years. Her efforts have greatly promoted the cause of social music education and contributed to the development of Chinese folk music. Tonight's concert marks her Philadelphia Orchestra debut.



Maureen Kelly, who made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2023, has appeared in Singapore's first public performance of Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* and has performed in many of the foremost concert venues across the United States and Asia, including Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Singapore Esplanade, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, and the Shanghai Grand Theatre. This past season, she made her role debut as the Queen of the Night in

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Esplanade. During the 2021–22 season, she made her Kennedy Center debut at the COAL+ICE Festival and her Lincoln Center debut in the East/West Concert with the New York City Ballet Orchestra. In 2022 she was one of the soloists with the US-China Music Institute's Sound of Spring Concert. Ms. Kelly was a leading soprano in the world premiere of Ancient Tang Poems from iSING! Suzhou to the World at the iSING! International Young Artists Festival. Recently, she has performed as Water in Portman's *The Little Prince*, Maddy in the world premiere of *All Things Shall Pass*, Diane in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and Amore and Euridice in Gluck's *Orfeo and Euridice*.

Soloist



Latvian baritone **Valdis Jansons** began his career in 2002 and made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2023. A summa cum laude graduate from the Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boiti in Parma, Italy, he is the winner of several international competitions. He has appeared in such theaters as the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Bolshoi in Moscow, the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, the Theater an der Wien, the Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro,

the Teatro Filarmonico in Verona, the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in Lisbon, and many others. His repertoire comprises over 60 roles, including the title roles in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Britten's *Billy Budd*, Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *Macbeth*, and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Mainly focused on bel canto and Italian composers, Mr. Jansons also makes incursions into contemporary and non-Western music. He has collaborated with conductors such as Fabio Luisi, Daniele Gatti, Daniel Oren, Lawrence Foster, Philippe Auguin, Asher Fisch, and Pierre Vallet, and directors Giancarlo del Monaco, Peter Stein, Davide Livermore, Gianfranco De Bosio, Emilio Sagi, Jean-Louis Grinda, Günter Krämer, Andrei Serban, and Shen Wei.

"Spring River Flowers by Moonlight"

(Zhang Ruoxu)

春江潮水连海平，
海上明月共潮生。
滟滟随波千万里，
何处春江无月明！
江流宛转绕芳甸，
月照花林皆似霰。
空里流霜不觉飞，
汀上白沙看不见。
江天一色无纤尘，
皎皎空中孤月轮。
江畔何人初见月？
江月何年初照人？
人生代代无穷已，
江月年年望相似。
不知江月待何人，
但见长江送流水。
白云一片去悠悠，
青枫浦上不胜愁。
谁家今夜扁舟子？
何处相思明月楼？
可怜楼上月徘徊，
应照离人妆镜台。
玉户帘中卷不去，
捣衣砧上拂还来。
此时相望不相闻，
愿逐月华流照君。
鸿雁长飞光不度，
鱼龙潜跃水成文。
昨夜闲潭梦落花，
可怜春半不还家。
江水流春去欲尽，
江潭落月复西斜。
斜月沉沉藏海雾，
碣石潇湘无限路。
不知乘月几人归，
落月摇情满江树。

In spring the river swells and joins the
sea;
High above the ripples a bright moon
rises.
Sparkling over the waves for thousands
of miles,
Every inch of the river falls under its
spell!
As river meanders around fields of
flowers,
Moon makes flower fields glisten like
beads.
Is that frost in the air?
Are these sands on the beach?
Sky merges into river, river merges into
sky,
All but the lone moon shines bright
and high.
Who on the riverbank first saw the
moon?
When did the moon first start to shine?
Generations come and go,
The moon keeps shining year after year.
Could the moon be waiting for
someone,
As water keeps flowing down the
Yangtze River.
Leisurely white clouds move across the
sky,
By the banks of Qingfeng
overwhelmed by sadness.
Who tonight is wandering like a boat
adrift?
Who is pining in a tower under the
moonlight?
The moon sadly paces up and down
the tower,
It should shine on my maiden's dressing
mirror.

It should linger on her jeweled curtains,
It should stay above the stone where
she washes clothes.
We may be looking at each other but
we have no news;
How I wish I could follow the moon
beam to your side.
Swan geese fly far and away but never
beyond the moon's reach;
Fish and dragons jump up and down
stirring up ripples.
Last night I dreamt of flowers falling
into a lake;
Lamenting the passage of spring and
I am still not home.
The river is sending spring almost to its
end;
The moon over the lake is about to
sink to the west,
Disappearing deep into the sea mist,
Jieshi and Xiaoxiang are far apart.
How many could make it home under
the moon;
The setting moon stirs up such sweet
sorrows among the trees.

English translation by Diana Liao