

2024–2025 | 125th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00

Pride Concert

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Martha Graham Cracker Host and Vocalist
Freddie Ballentine Tenor
Stuart Skelton Tenor
Brian Mulligan Baritone
Tareq Nazmi Bass
ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir
Miriam Davidson Artistic Director
Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus
Michael Semancik Artistic Director
Philadelphia Voices of Pride
Daniel Schwartz Artistic Director
Transcendent Choir of Philadelphia
Maya Kociba Artistic Director

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

This program runs approximately one hour, 30 minutes, and will be performed without an intermission.

This concert is supported by a lead gift from **Dr. James F. Dougherty and George Condos**.

Additional support is given by **Donald E. Barb, Esq., and the Rev. Bruce H. Davidson; Christos Coutifaris and Deborah Driscoll**, in memory of Woody Driscoll; **MaryAnn Edwards; Alan Schimmel; and Jennifer and Ralph Watts**.

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 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, around the community, 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 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.

Music and Artistic Director



London Neudeman

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is currently in his 13th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. An inspired leader, Yannick, who holds the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair, is both an evolutionary and a revolutionary, developing the mighty “Philadelphia Sound” in new ways. His collaborative style, deeply rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm have been heralded by critics and audiences alike. The *New York Times* has called him “phenomenal,” adding that “the ensemble, famous for its glowing strings and homogenous richness, has never sounded better.”

Yannick has established himself as a musical leader of the highest caliber and one of the most thrilling and sought-after talents of his generation. He became the third music director of New York’s Metropolitan Opera in 2018. In addition, he has been artistic director and principal conductor of Montreal’s Orchestre Métropolitain since 2000. In 2017 he became the third-ever honorary member of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He served as music director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic from 2008 to 2018 (he is now honorary conductor) and was principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic from 2008 to 2014. He has made wildly successful appearances with the world’s most revered ensembles and at many of the leading opera houses.

Yannick has shown a deep commitment to expanding the repertoire by embracing an ever-growing and diverse group of today’s composers and by performing the music of under-appreciated composers of the past. In 2018 he signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. Under his leadership The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to recording with 14 releases on that label, including *Florence Price Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3*, which won a GRAMMY® Award for Best Orchestral Performance in 2022.

A native of Montreal, Yannick studied piano, conducting, composition, and chamber music at Montreal’s Conservatory of Music and continued his studies with renowned conductors, most notably Carlo Maria Giulini; he also studied choral conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt at Westminster Choir College. Among Yannick’s honors are an appointment as Companion of the Order of Canada; Companion to the Order of Arts and Letters of Quebec; an Officer of the Order of Quebec; an Officer of the Order of Montreal; an Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; *Musical America*’s 2016 Artist of the Year; ECHO KLASSIK’s 2014 Conductor of the Year; a Royal Philharmonic Society Award; Canada’s National Arts Centre Award; the Prix Denise-Pelletier; the Oskar Morawetz Award; and honorary doctorates from the University of Quebec, the Curtis Institute of Music, Westminster Choir College of Rider University, McGill University, the University of Montreal, the University of Pennsylvania, Laval University, and Drexel University.

To read Yannick’s full bio, please visit philorch.org/conductor.

Soloists

Kate Rames



Martha Graham Cracker is famously “the tallest, hairiest drag queen in the world,” and she performs regularly in Philadelphia and at Joe’s Pub in New York with her very tight band. She has also performed at the Guthrie Theater, the Afterglow Festival in Provincetown, and the Oberon in Boston. She made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the 2022 Pride Concert. Her album of original songs, *Lashed but Not Leashed*, is available on all platforms. Her alter-ego, Dito van Reigersberg, is a co-founder of Pig Iron Theatre Company

and has performed in almost all of Pig Iron’s productions since its founding, including the OBIE-winning original pieces *Hell Meets Henry Halfway* and *Chekhov Lizardbrain*. He also dreamed up Pig Iron’s most recent endeavor, *Poor Judge*, a dance-theater cabaret based on the songs of Aimee Mann.

Daniel Welch



Tenor **Freddie Ballentine** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut earlier this week. He was the 2021 recipient of the Kennedy Center’s Marian Anderson Award and is an alumnus of both the Cafritz Young Artists of Washington National Opera and the Los Angeles Opera’s Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program. Highlights of the 2024–25 season include debuts with the New World Symphony and the Austin, Utah, and Detroit operas. He returns to Dutch National Opera for the world premiere of Philip Venables’s

We Are the Lucky Ones, gives recitals with pianist Kunal Lahiry in Berlin and Seattle, and appears in concert with the Pacific Vocal Series in California. Next season he returns to the Metropolitan Opera as Sportin’ Life in Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* and makes his Bavarian State Opera debut as the Third Jew in Strauss’s *Salome*.

Guomundur Ingolfsson



Tenor **Stuart Skelton** is one of the finest heldentenors on the stage today. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut this past Sunday as the title role in Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde*, which he also sings with Marek Janowski and the Dresden Philharmonic this season. Other highlights include the title role in Wagner’s *Parsifal* and Beethoven’s *Missa solemnis* with Tokyo’s NHK Symphony, Wagner’s *Die Walküre* with the Sydney Symphony, and the first act of *Die Walküre* at the Teatro Comunale Bologna. His first solo album, *Shining*

Knight, presents works by Wagner, Griffes, and Barber with Asher Fisch and the West Australian Symphony. His recording catalogue also includes *Tristan and Isolde* with Mr. Fisch and the West Australian Symphony and Janáček’s *Glagolitic Mass* with Edward Gardner and the Bergen Philharmonic.

Soloists

Dario Acosta



Baritone **Brian Mulligan** is renowned as an interpreter of classic works by Wagner and Strauss as well as the most challenging 20th- and 21st-century operas. He began his 2024–25 season in the title role of Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* with the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, returned to the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Don Pizarro in Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, and made his role debut as the Wanderer in Wagner’s *Siegfried* with the Hangzhou Philharmonic. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut earlier this week as Kurwenal

in Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde*. Other recent performance highlights include Wotan in Wagner’s *Die Walküre* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Mr. Mulligan was awarded a Richard Tucker Career Grant, a Sara Tucker Study Grant, and the George London Award.

Marco Borggreve



Bass **Tareq Nazmi** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut as King Marke in Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde* earlier this week; he also sings the role at the Grand Théâtre de Genève this season. Other season highlights include a house and role debut as Gremin in Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin* at the Dresden Semperoper; a return as Gurnemanz in Wagner’s *Parsifal* at the Tokyo Spring Festival; Verdi’s Requiem with the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; and Pater Profundus in Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 with the

Vienna Symphony. As a lieder singer he recently performed with pianist Gerold Huber at the Schubertiade Hohenems, in Munich and Cologne, and at London’s Wigmore Hall. Mr. Nazmi began his career at the Opera Studio of the Bavarian State Opera, where he was a member of the Munich ensemble until 2016.

Choir



ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir is a trailblazing ensemble with a proud 50-year legacy as the longest-running feminist choir in the United States. Renowned for its powerful social justice-focused repertoire celebrating LGBTQ+ and marginalized communities, ANNA's diverse membership raises vibrant voices in solidarity. This acclaimed choir has graced stages across the tri-state area and as far as Cuba, performing alongside esteemed artists like Demi Lovato and Hugh Jackman. As founding members of both GALA

Choruses and the Sister Singers Network, ANNA amplifies the transformative impact of feminist and LGBTQ+ choral movements worldwide. ANNA's unwavering commitment to amplify underrepresented perspectives continues to inspire audiences and foster greater understanding through the universal language of song. Miriam Davidson has served as artistic director since 2012. In 2024 she was named an LGBTQ+ Power Player by *Metro Philadelphia*. The Choir made its Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the 2023 Pride Concert. For more information visit www.annacrusis.org.

Soprano I

Maria Bottiglieri
Juliette Dade
Ann Deinhardt
Sue Hoffman
Judith Palmer
Anna Schneider
Lea Williams

Soprano II

Jacquie Baker
Sarah Crofts
Sarah Darrow
Susan Gueye
Mindy Gummingier
Donna Harris
Suzanne Harris
Caitlin McLaughlin
Kiva Nice-Webb
Zahra Rice
Julie Sheetz
Julianna E Shinnick

Alto I

Amy Alfred
Sandra Berger
Leona Busulas
Rachel D'Agostino
Sue Levi Elwell
Gertz
Marlis Kraft
Julianna Ohnjec
Rebecca Prosser
Tanya Rosenberg
Rochelle Tuzman Sauber
Kim Singleton
Noah Strauss
Barbara Stuehling
Camille Williams

Alto II

Ellie Alpern
Parcel Caldwell
Kristy Crocetto
Beth Ann Fox
Mabel Gonzalez
Troi Graves
Lauren Gutstein
Christa Levko

Choir



The **Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus** (PGMC), which made its Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the 2022 Pride Concert, is a dynamic member of GALA Choruses. Since its inception, PGMC has remained dedicated to entertaining audiences, supporting communities, and fostering acceptance through powerful and engaging musical performances. The Chorus has performed both locally and internationally, including meaningful collaborations with LGBTQ+ choruses around the world. Beyond the stage, PGMC is deeply committed

to community outreach, offering youth engagement programs and building partnerships with local schools to educate and inspire. Its performances serve as a platform to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ awareness. Michael Semancik, who is in his first season as artistic director, brings a rich and diverse choral background, with experience in both high school and collegiate teaching, as well as conducting numerous honor choirs throughout the region.

Tenor I

Daniel Boulos
Todd Curry
Jose Mendez
Kieran Mosley
Mark Schrader
Vann Ou
Cory Tschinkel

Jason Tock
Sean Toczydlowski
Joseph Wanlund
Alex White
Caleb Wilson
Bryon Yoder

Baritone

Jeffrey Carson
José Colón
Aaron Dewey
Bert Dizon
Howard Frankel

Andrew Monath
Craig Nuel
Matthew O'Brien
Stephen Quinn
Michael Quinnan
Phil Romansky
Dan Sloane
Mark Stambaugh
Edward Stash
T.J. Wilson
Thomas Wolfinger
Ian Zhao

Leland Kimball
David Kirby
Eric Knechtges
Eric Manas
Charles Merk
Jeff Newman
Nathan Osburn
Christopher Pinto
Philippe Poirier
Owen Sacco
Mike Semancik

Tenor II

Patrick Agagni
Glenn Brown
Mark Clark
Michael George
Austin Halliday
Patrick Hamilton
Andrew Lowrey
Andrew Marku
Andrew Mercier
Enweani Okaro
Charles Price
Richie Sklar
Davis Taylor

John Giugliano
John Hair
Steve Herd
Deryl Johnson
Steve Kolbo
Robert Landi
Michael Liddick
Alan Margolis
Jasper McQueen
Robert Miller

Bass

Khal Almalouli
Michael Bareham
Michael Brantley
Michael Cartledge
Tim Chen
Robert D'Errico
Jim Fitzpatrick
Paul Foster
Joel Huether

Choir



Philadelphia Voices of Pride is Philadelphia's premier mixed-voice LGBTQ+ and ally ensemble. Our mission is twofold: to foster a safe home for those who may not feel comfortable being themselves in other choral environments, and to provide both Philadelphia's queer community and our supporters with first-rate performances of varied repertoire, much of which they may have never before experienced. Through these performances we hope to create important dialogue between the many diverse segments of our singers

and audience members, and unite in our love of singing, compassion, and justice. The chorus made its Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the 2023 Pride Concert. Daniel Schwartz received his bachelor's degree (studying percussion and voice) and his master's in choral conducting, both from Temple University. After graduating in 2011, he became artistic director of Philadelphia Voices of Pride. He also serves as a singer with Variant 6 and the Crossing and vocal instructor at Haverford College.

Sopranos

Katie Baden
Emily Browning
Tobiann Corbin-Reinhard
Molly Frohsin
Maya Hanson
Devin Kempson
Elaina King
Jahnavi Kishore
Izzy López
Katie Pflaumer
Victoria Sun
Alissa Vandenbark

Altos

Regan Ables
Fulani Bah
Torie Berke
Rinnie Hewlett
Diane Michon
Sarah Lipiecki
Arlene Mand
Emily Pratt
Mikaela Scantland

Alex Vest

Michaela Williams
Hailey Wolff

Tenors

Christopher Hatfield
Rachel Newman
Renata Aurora Rodriguez
Sig Tomaskovic-Moore
Alexander White

Basses

Gershon Cattán
Roland Dunbrack
Peter Graham
Lucas Gramig
Doron Henkin
Elias Kenworthy
Joe Reiter
Rodney Simmons
Aaron Smith
Fern Tatum

Choir



The **Transcendent Choir of Philadelphia** (TCP) is Philadelphia’s first and only transgender and gender-expansive community choir. Focused on uplifting and empowering transgender and gender-expansive musicians through high-quality choral music experiences, this is TCP’s inaugural season. Having spent the 2024–25 season performing works by Craig Hella-Johnson, Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell, Eric Whitacre, Brandi Carlile, and many others, TCP is honored and thrilled to be celebrating Pride with other

wonderful LGBTQIA2S+ musicians! TCP was co-founded by its artistic director, Maya Kociba (she/they), who attended the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music, where their passion for choral music and accessible music education began. You can learn more about TCP and its journey on Facebook, Instagram (@transchoirphilly), and at www.transchoirphilly.org.

Sopranos

Kay Bug
Lindsey Scott

Altos

Lanie Altmiller
Heather Aylesworth
Alana Hoskins
Tamarah Lee
Yuxin Wang
Sage Wile

Tenors

Chase Howell
Azra Huq
Zack Levy-Dyer
Katie Mauro
Mae Milano
Celena Spain-Frank, co-founder
Maxwell Staley

Basses

Miles Collins-Sibley
Simon Herz
Mickey Laffitte
René Meade
Christy Randazzo
Neil Steinglass

This performance, which combines Samuel Barber’s choral setting of “Sure on This Shining Night” with the instrumental accompaniment of his setting for solo voice is performed with the permission of G. Schirmer, Inc., Copyright holder.