

2025–2026 | 126th Season
Marian Anderson Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Friday, January 2, at 7:30

Saturday, January 3, at 2:00

Sunday, January 4, at 2:00

Aram Demirjian Conductor



The logo features the word "Disney" in its signature script font at the top. Below it, the word "FANTASIA" is written in a large, tall, black, serif font. Underneath "FANTASIA", the words "IN CONCERT LIVE TO FILM" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

This program runs approximately 2 hours.



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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.

Disney's *Fantasia* in Concert Live to Film features highlights from two of Disney's most extraordinary and groundbreaking animated features, *Fantasia* (1940), and its sequel *Fantasia 2000* (1999).

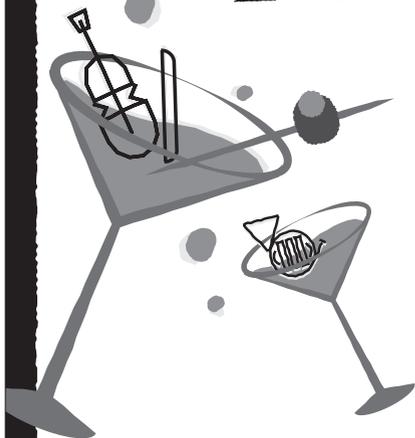
Classical selections include Beethoven's Fifth and Sixth symphonies, Debussy's "Clair de lune," Ponchielli's "Dance of the Hours," Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

Released to great acclaim in 1940, Walt Disney's *Fantasia* was his boldest experiment at the time and culminated in the creative visionary's desire to blend animated imagery with classical music. The original recording of the film's score was conducted by Leopold Stokowski with The Philadelphia Orchestra, captured in stereophonic sound, which was still an experimental medium at the time. What had begun as a vehicle to develop Mickey Mouse's career with an animation short titled *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* went on to become a genuine cinema classic.

Walt's dream in 1941 was to turn *Fantasia* into an ongoing event with new segments. This was finally realized in 1999 with *Fantasia 2000*, a spectacular follow-up spearheaded by Walt's nephew, Roy E. Disney. The recorded score from *Fantasia 2000* was conducted by James Levine and performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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Photo: Margo Reed

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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. 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 14th 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 esteemed 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, throughout 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 programs connect, uplift, and celebrate nearly 40,000 Philadelphians and 250 schools from diverse communities annually, through inclusive arts education and vibrant engagement that reflect our city's voices and expand access to creative opportunities. Students, families, and other community members can enjoy free and discounted experiences with The Philadelphia Orchestra through programs such as the Jane H. Kesson School Concerts, Family Concerts, Open Rehearsals, PlayINs, and Our City, Your Orchestra community concerts.

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 became the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, launching a now-five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange through music.

Under Yannick's leadership, the Orchestra returned to recording with 15 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.

PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA / 125

Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music & Artistic Director

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Photo: PeteChechia

Conductor

Lisa-Marie Mazzucco



Winner of the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., conductor **Aram Demirjian** has built a reputation as an insightful interpreter of the symphonic repertoire and drawn praise for his leadership as music director of the Knoxville Symphony (KSO). Widely considered an engaging presence on the podium, he is sought after for his dynamic programs that broaden the idea of what one can expect to see on the symphonic stage, and his distinctive ability to speak to, cultivate, and connect with audiences. As the eighth music director of the KSO, he has

led the orchestra to new artistic heights and national distinction for its achievements. A devoted champion of American music, he has grown the ensemble's repertoire through bold programming with broad audience appeal, particularly emphasizing music by living composers, artists from underrepresented groups, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. He also is increasingly in demand as a guest conductor; particularly for his interpretation of Handel's *Messiah*, which he has led in recent years with the Kansas City, Nashville, and Seattle symphonies. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in October 2016. This season he debuts with the Rochester Philharmonic. Other recent highlights include a debut with the San Diego Symphony as well as appearances with the Colorado, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, North Carolina, Omaha, St. Louis, Tucson, and Utah symphonies; the Louisiana, Orlando, and Rhode Island philharmonics; the Florida, Minnesota, and Sarasota orchestras; plus appearances at the Oregon Bach Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center. Internationally, he has conducted the Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, and Montreal's Orchestre Métropolitain.

In 2020 the KSO was selected as one of four orchestras to be featured at SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras, presented by the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts. Under Mr. Demirjian's leadership, the KSO has executed several ambitious commissions including Michael Schachter's violin concerto, *Cycle of Life*, a joint commission by the KSO and Knoxville Museum of Art inspired by the work of East Tennessee glass artist Richard Jolley; Derrick Skye's *Between Sums: Concerto for West African Drums and Orchestra* in collaboration with Knoxville-based drum ensemble Indigenous Vibes; and #KSOx1, a set of 24 digitally premiered micro-commissions for solo KSO musicians. Notable KSO projects in the 2025–26 season include performances of Wynton Marsalis's *Swing Symphony* with the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra; Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Midori; and 9 for 90, a celebration of the KSO's 90th season comprising nine world premieres including works by Jennifer Higdon, Jonathan Leshnoff, and Robert Paterson.

The proud child of an immigrant family, Mr. Demirjian is American-born and of Armenian descent. He holds a joint Bachelor of Arts in music and government from Harvard University, and a Master of Music in orchestral conducting from the New England Conservatory. A native of the Boston area, he currently resides in Knoxville with his wife, Caraline; their baby daughter, Ani; and their goldendoodle, Kermit. For more information, please visit www.aramdemirjian.com.

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On concert dates (two hours before concert time and through intermission), the Box Office will be located at:

The Kimmel Center

Broad and Spruce Streets

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Web Site: For information about The Philadelphia Orchestra and its upcoming concerts or events, please visit philorch.org.

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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.

Accessible Seating: Accessible seating is available for every performance. Please visit philorch.org/patron-services/plan-your-visit/accessibility for more information.

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.

Large-Print Programs: Large-print programs for every subscription concert are available in the House Management Office in Commonwealth Plaza. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Fire Notice: The exit indicated by a red light nearest your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do not run. Walk to that exit.

No Smoking: All public space in Ensemble Arts Philly venues is smoke-free.

Cameras and Recorders: The taking of photographs or the recording of Philadelphia Orchestra concerts is strictly prohibited, but photographs are allowed before and after concerts and during bows. By attending this Philadelphia Orchestra concert you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded for any purpose in connection with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

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