

# MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Thomas Søndergård, conductor

Maria Dively, American Sign Language interpreter

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 2PM | Orchestra Hall

*This afternoon's concert lasts approximately one hour and is performed without an intermission.*

Gabriela Ortiz	<i>Kauyumari</i>	CA. 7'
Benjamin Britten	<i>Storm</i> , from Four Sea Interludes from <i>Peter Grimes</i>	CA. 5'
Lili Boulanger	<i>D'un matin de printemps (Of a Spring Morning)</i>	CA. 5'
Jessie Montgomery	<i>Starburst</i>	CA. 4'
Edward Elgar	<i>Nimrod</i> , from <i>Enigma Variations</i>	CA. 4'
Florence Price	<i>Juba</i> , from Symphony No. 3 in C minor	CA. 5'
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Selections from <i>The Nutcracker</i> Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy Dance of the Mirlitons Trepak	CA. 5'
Modest Mussorgsky/ orch. Maurice Ravel	<i>The Great Gate of Kiev</i> , from <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i>	CA. 5'

## PRE- AND POST-CONCERT

Arrive early and stay after the concert to try instruments, make art, dance and meet Minnesota Orchestra musicians.

## THANK YOU

The Relaxed Family Concert series is made possible by PNC.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



## THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD, CONDUCTOR

Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who this past fall began his tenure as the 11th music director of the Minnesota Orchestra, is a highly regarded conductor in both the orchestral and opera spheres. He has earned a reputation for incisive interpretations of works by composers from his native Denmark, a great versatility in a broad range of standard and modern repertoire, and a collaborative approach with the musicians he leads. Søndergård first conducted the Minnesota Orchestra in December 2021 performances, establishing an immediate rapport with musicians and audiences; he was quickly reengaged for an April 2022 concert and then announced as the next music director in July 2022. His inaugural season began this fall with two weeks of historic concerts highlighted by Richard Strauss' *Alpine Symphony* and, with the Minnesota Chorale, Ravel's complete ballet score *Daphnis and Chloe*. In recent weeks he has led the Orchestra's New Year's concerts as well as a program with violinist Augustin Hadelich.

Since 2018 Søndergård has been music director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), a role he will continue alongside his Minnesota appointment. Prior to joining the RSNO, he served as principal conductor and musical advisor to the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and then as principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (BBC NOW). As a guest conductor he

has led major European and North American orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Gewandhaus Orchestra, Houston Symphony, London Philharmonic, and the symphonies of London, Montreal and Toronto. Søndergård began his music career as a timpanist, joining the Royal Danish Orchestra after graduating from the Royal Danish Academy of Music. He made his conducting debut in 2005, leading the Royal Danish Opera in the premiere of Poul Ruders' *Kafka's Trial* to wide acclaim; he has returned subsequently many times to the Royal Danish Opera. His discography on the EMI, Dacapo, Bridge Records, Pentatone and Linn Records labels includes Vilde Frang's debut recording of violin concertos by Sibelius and Prokofiev with the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne; numerous works by Poul Ruders; the Lutosławski and Dutilleux concertos with cellist Johannes Moser and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra; Sibelius symphonies and tone poems with BBC NOW; and works by Prokofiev and Strauss with RSNO.

After launching the Minnesota Orchestra's 2023–24 season in September, Søndergård opened the RSNO's season the following month with piano soloist Lise da la Salle performing concertos by Grieg and Beethoven. His busy slate with both ensembles is complemented by guest engagements with major orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Aalborg Symfoniorkester, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Iceland Symphony Orchestra. He is the 2023 recipient of the prestigious honorary award from the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Foundation in Denmark. For more information, visit [minnesotaorchestra.org](https://minnesotaorchestra.org).



## MARIA DIVELY, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Maria Dively has been an American Sign Language interpreter for nine years in Minnesota and California. A NIC/Trilingual Interpreter, she is a graduate of North Central University in Minneapolis. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico and has been involved personally and professionally in the Deaf community since college. From a young age, she has been involved with music as a woodwind player, percussionist and steel drums player, among other roles.

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## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



### THE SPHINX VIRTUOSI WITH CONDUCTOR TITO MUÑOZ AND THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

THU FEB 1 11AM  
FRI FEB 2 8PM  
SAT FEB 3 7PM

The Sphinx Virtuosi shares the stage with the Minnesota Orchestra in a program featuring Carlos Simon's meditative *Breathe* and Angélica Negrón's immersive *Marejada*.



### LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA SAT FEB 17 7PM

Hear traditional Chinese favorites and more recent Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Chinese works including a newly commissioned work featuring the traditional Peking Opera instruments Yue Qin and Jing Hu.



### PROKOFIEV'S ROMEO AND JULIET

FRI FEB 9 8PM  
SAT FEB 10 7PM

Conductor Ruth Reinhardt and saxophonist Steven Banks, a 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, make their debuts with the Minnesota Orchestra to showcase Billy Childs' recent work *Diaspora*, a concerto for saxophone and orchestra.



### OSMO VÄNSKÄ RETURNS

THU FEB 22 11AM  
FRI FEB 23 8PM  
SAT FEB 24 7PM

Conductor Laureate Osmo Vänskä leads a compelling program celebrating the future of orchestral music. Hear new commissioned works by Anders Hillborg and Kevin Puts. Plus, 2022 FRIENDS Young Artist Competition winner Nina Bernat performs two bass concertos.

*Buy your tickets now for the best seats!*

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