

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2021

AUTHENTIC SELVES: THE BEAUTY WITHIN

Featuring and Created with Countertenor ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO
The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence

World Premieres by JOEL THOMPSON and GREGORY SPEARS
With Texts by 22nd US Poet Laureate TRACY K. SMITH
Led by Music Director JAAP VAN ZWEDEN
January 27–29 at the Rose Theater and February 3 and 5 at Alice Tully Hall

Selections from *ONLY AN OCTAVE APART*
Performed by ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO and JUSTIN VIVIAN BOND
Featuring World Premiere of Orchestral Arrangement by NICO MUHLY
Directed by ZACK WINOKUR
January 27–29

Additional *Authentic Selves* Programming To Include
BEAUTY IN THE ABYSS
with National Black Theatre and Anthony Roth Costanzo
An Evening of Performance and Conversation
Conceived and Directed by DOMINIQUE RIDER
February 4 at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse

Activities Across New York City Produced in Partnership With
El Puente, Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education,
A Better Jamaica, Flushing Town Hall, French Institute Alliance Française,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Lincoln Center, Metrograph, and
The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The New York Philharmonic announces details of *Authentic Selves: The Beauty Within*, a festival exploring the complexities of identity through orchestral and small-ensemble concerts, panel discussions, educational initiatives, and additional events. *Authentic Selves* was created with the Philharmonic's 2021–22 Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, who also performs.

Music Director Jaap van Zweden leads two orchestral programs, January 27–29, 2022, at the Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall, and February 3 and 5, 2022, at Alice Tully Hall. Each week includes the World Premiere of Philharmonic-commissioned vocal works, each a setting of text by 22nd US Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, with Costanzo as soloist: *The Places We Leave* by Joel Thompson (January 27–29), and *Love Story* by Gregory Spears (February 3 and 5).

The first week of orchestral programming includes the World Premiere of the concert adaptation of *Only an Octave Apart*, the collaboration between Costanzo and trans-genre artist Justin Vivian Bond, co-created and directed by Zack Winokur. Originally premiered as a stage show at St. Ann’s Warehouse in the fall of 2021, the Philharmonic presentation features inventive combinations of songs spanning centuries in all-new orchestral arrangements by Nico Muhly. The album version of *Only an Octave Apart*, produced by Thomas Bartlett, will be released on Decca Gold on January 28, the same weekend as the Philharmonic performances. This program also includes Joan Tower’s *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* and Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1, *Classical*, as well as the Thompson premiere.

The following week’s program opens with Beethoven’s *Leonore Overture No. 3*, followed by two vocal works sung by Costanzo: Spears’s *Love Story* and Berlioz’s *Les Nuits d’été*, the latter of which is rarely performed by countertenor. The orchestral finale of *Authentic Selves* comes in the form of Julius Eastman’s Symphony No. II — *The Faithful Friend: The Lover Friend’s Love for the Beloved*, in its first-ever performances by a professional orchestra.

“I look different from the way I sound — how can I find truth in the dissonance between perception and expression?” said Anthony Roth Costanzo. “As I give voice to my authentic self, I’m thrilled to continue partnering with the Philharmonic to create musical, dramatic, and intellectual explorations of identity. After 79 concerts on a pick-up truck during NY Phil Bandwagon in the fall of 2020, I got to know so many members of the Orchestra intimately, both as musical partners and friends. I simply can’t wait to join them on stage and make music all together, ignited by Jaap’s baton. I’m equally excited to deepen and expand the creative partnerships we formed throughout Bandwagon, working with artists from different disciplines and milieus, and organizations that lead us to embody the link between community and communication.”

The orchestral concerts are complemented by numerous programs presented in partnership with New York organizations, each offering additional perspectives on issues of identity. Many of these partnerships build upon collaborations forged through the Philharmonic and Anthony Roth Costanzo’s NY Phil Bandwagon and NY Phil Bandwagon 2 initiatives. Chronologically, these events include:

- ***En avant la musique***: An evening of song and conversation at the French Institute Alliance Française’s Florence Gould Hall, produced in partnership with A Better Jamaica. Connected with the Philharmonic’s performances of Berlioz’s *Les Nuits d’été*, the musical performances will be followed by a Q&A exploring how French language has influenced musical traditions. The event is hosted by Costanzo, who also performs;

other performers include Pauline Jean, Paul Beaubrun, Malika Zarra, and New York Philharmonic musicians. (January 19, 2022)

- ***The Authentic Self: Black Body & Identity Now!***: A symposium at The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, featuring artists and collaborators from National Black Theatre in conversation about art, identity, and issues of beauty. (January 20, 2022)
- A **release party** at the arthouse cinema Metrograph for Costanzo and Bond's *Only an Octave Apart* album, to be released on Decca Gold on January 28, 2022. The event will include live performances, the World Premiere of a music video connected with the album, and a behind-the-scenes look into the making of the album. From February to June, Metrograph will also present an ongoing series *Authentic Selves On Film*, hosted by Costanzo and Bond, screening films that explore the themes of *Authentic Selves*. (January 24, 2022)
- Two installments in the Philharmonic's new discussion series ***The Unanswered Questions***, created in partnership with John Jay College of Criminal Justice and launched in October 2021. The discussions will be livestreamed on the Philharmonic's Facebook page. (January 28, 2022 and March 18, 2022)
- ***Beauty in the Abyss***: An evening of performance and conversation curated by National Black Theatre, conceived and directed by Dominique Rider, and held at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse. The event examines how perceptions of beauty and desirability shape one's existence and asks the question, "What does it mean to be beautiful?" The program will include works by playwright Nissy Aya, poets Mahogany L. Browne and Diane Exavier, vocalist and librettist Joshua Banbury, and performance artist Nia Farrell. (February 4, 2022)
- **Workshops and discussions**, led by Costanzo, at Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education in the South Bronx, for their middle and high school program participants. In conjunction with Casita Maria's Hip Hop and Storytelling curriculum, these events will explore how opera and classical music can be vessels for understanding and connecting to emotions and the inner self. (March 2022; dates tba)
- ***An Evening with Flushing Town Hall and El Puente***: Performances by a lineup of artists curated by Flushing Town Hall and El Puente, held at Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein Atrium. (May 26, 2022)
- **In process: *Recital No. 2: ANCESTORS***: An intimate recital by bass-baritone Davóne Tines and pianist Adam Tandler. Tines's work-in-progress *Recital No. 2: ANCESTORS* spans the music of Sam Cooke, Julius Eastman, Paul Robeson, and others to explore the notion of personal lineage as a means to finding one's identity. (Date and venue tba)

Additional programming may be announced; all programs subject to change.

Biographies

[Jaap van Zweden](#), [Anthony Roth Costanzo](#), [Justin Vivian Bond](#), [Joel Thompson](#), [Tracy K. Smith](#), [Nico Muhly](#), [Gregory Spears](#), [New York Philharmonic](#)

Health and Safety Protocols

All audience members attending New York Philharmonic concerts will be required to show proof that they have received a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the World Health Organization or the Food and Drug Administration. The final dose of the vaccine must have been administered at least 14 days before entry. In addition, as of August 9, all guests attending Philharmonic performances must maintain appropriate face coverings in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Anyone who is unable to be vaccinated due to disability or religious reasons and those under 5 years of age will receive a ticket refund. For more information, visit nyphil.org/safety.

Tickets

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at nyphil.org or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Alice Tully Hall Box Office**. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m. Tickets to *Beauty in the Abyss* will go on sale on January 7, 2022.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or carrl@nyphil.org. Due to smaller venue capacities, press tickets for the 2021–22 season are limited.

Tickets to *En avant la musique* at French Institute Alliance Française on January 19, 2022, are \$35 general admission and \$25 for FIAF members; tickets will be available at a later date at fiaf.org.

The Authentic Self: Black Body & Identity Now! at The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture on January 20, 2022, is free to the public with advance registration required. Registration through the Schomburg Center's Eventbrite page will begin on January 6, 2022.

Limited tickets to the *Only an Octave Apart* album release party at Metrograph on January 24, 2022, will be made available at a later date; details to be announced.

An Evening with Flushing Town Hall and El Puente at Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein Atrium on May 26, 2022, is free and open to the public.

Event Listing

EN AVANT LA MUSIQUE

Florence Gould Hall at French Institute Alliance Française

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Anthony Roth Costanzo, countertenor

Pauline Jean, vocalist

Paul Beaubrun, vocalist

Malika Zarra, vocalist

New York Philharmonic musicians

An evening of song and conversation exploring how different musical traditions shape the use of French-based languages and vice versa; connected with the Philharmonic's performances of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*.

THE AUTHENTIC SELF: BLACK BODY & IDENTITY NOW!

The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

A symposium featuring artists and collaborators from National Black Theatre in conversation about art, identity, and issues of beauty.

ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

Metrograph

Monday, January 24, 2022, time tba

A release party for Anthony Roth Costanzo and Justin Vivian Bond's *Only an Octave Apart* album, to be released on Decca Gold, January 28, 2022. The event will include live performances, the World Premiere of a music video connected with the album, and a behind-the-scenes look into the making of the album.

**JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO,
WORLD PREMIERE BY JOEL THOMPSON, AND JUSTIN VIVIAN BOND IN THEIR DEBUT**

Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center

Thursday, January 27, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 28, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 29, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Anthony Roth Costanzo, countertenor

Justin Vivian Bond*, vocalist (*Only an Octave Apart*)

Zack Winokur, director (*Only an Octave Apart*)

Joan TOWER

Joel THOMPSON & Tracy K. SMITH

PROKOFIEV

VARIOUS / Arr. Nico MUHLY

Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1

The Places We Leave (World Premiere—
New York Philharmonic Commission)

Symphony No. 1, *Classical*

Selections from *Only an Octave Apart*

Only an Octave Apart was originally staged by St. Ann's Warehouse, written by Anthony Roth Costanzo and Justin Vivian Bond, co-created and directed by Zack Winokur, and music directed by Thomas Bartlett.

* *New York Philharmonic debut*

THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Friday, January 28, 2022, 1:40 p.m.

Friday, March 18, 2022, 1:40 p.m.

Two installments in the Philharmonic's new discussion series, created in partnership with John Jay College of Criminal Justice and launched in October 2021. Livestreamed on the Philharmonic's Facebook page.

**JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO
IN BERLIOZ AND WORLD PREMIERE BY GREGORY SPEARS**

Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, February 3, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 5, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Anthony Roth Costanzo, countertenor

BEETHOVEN

BERLIOZ

Gregory SPEARS & Tracy K. SMITH

EASTMAN / Ed. Luciano CHESSA

Leonore Overture No. 3

Les Nuits d'été

Love Story (World Premiere—New York
Philharmonic Commission)

Symphony No. II — *The Faithful Friend:*

The Lover Friend's Love for the Beloved

***BEAUTY IN THE ABYSS: AN EVENING WITH NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE AND
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO***

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse

Friday, February 4, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

National Black Theatre, curator

Dominique Rider, director

Anthony Roth Costanzo, artistic partner

Nissy Aya, playwright

Joshua Banbury, vocalist

Mahogany L. Browne, poet

Diane Exavier, poet

Nia Farrell, performance artist

Examines how perceptions of beauty and desirability shape one's existence and asks the question, "What does it mean to be beautiful?"

WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSIONS

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education

Throughout March 2022

Anthony Roth Costanzo, teaching artist

In conjunction with Casita Maria's Hip Hop and Storytelling curriculum, these workshops and discussions, led by Costanzo, will explore how opera and classical music can be vessels for understanding and connecting to emotions and the inner self.

AN EVENING WITH FLUSHING TOWN HALL AND EL PUENTE

David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center

Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring a lineup of performers curated by Flushing Town Hall and El Puente.

Anthony Roth Costanzo is **The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence.**

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The February 3 and 5 concerts are made possible with support from the
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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online newsroom, nyphil.org/newsroom, or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or pr@nyphil.org.

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