JUNE 14–19
2022

Concerts in
the Parks

PRESENTED BY
DIDI AND OSCAR SCHAER

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN MUSICT DIRECTOR

PLAYBILL
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC FREE INDOOR CONCERT
Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer

Sunday, June 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
St. George Theatre, Staten Island

Rev. Rhonda Akanke McLean-Nur, Griot
Elder Mahalet Susann Miles, Griot
Susan Wagner High School Jazz Combo
  Paul Corn, Director
Laquita Mitchell, Soprano
Noah Stewart, Tenor
Tito Muñoz, Conductor
Mahogany L. Browne, Narrator
Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Concerts in the Parks are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Activities are supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

This program will last approximately one and one-half hours; there will be no intermission.
Rev. Rhonda Akanke McLean-Nur, Griot
Elder Mahalet Susann Miles, Griot
Susan Wagner High School Jazz Combo
   Paul Corn, Director
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Noah Stewart, Tenor
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Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Libation Ceremony
REV. RHONDA AKANKE McLEAN-NUR,
ELDER MAHALET SUSANN MILES, Griot

J.R. JOHNSON (1873–1954) &
J.W. JOHNSON (1871–1938) /
Arr. M. Merriweather

Lift Every Voice and Sing (1905)
QUAN GE, KUAN CHENG LU, Violins
CONG WU, Viola
NATHAN VICKERY, Cello
NANCY ALLEN, Harp

VARIOUS

Jazz Selections
SUSAN WAGNER HIGH SCHOOL
JAZZ COMBO
VARIOUS / Arr. M. Merriweather
PRICE (1887–1953)
H.T. BURLEIGH (1866–1949)
H.T. BURLEIGH
BONDS (1913–72)
BONDS

Art Songs and Spirituals (2022)
My Soul’s Been Anchored in Lord
Deep River
Give Me Jesus
The Negro Speaks of Rivers
He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

LAQUITA MITCHELL, Soprano
NOAH STEWART, Tenor
QUAN GE, KUAN CHENG LU, Violins
CONG WU, Viola
NATHAN VICKERY, Cello
NANCY ALLEN, Harp

WYNTON MARSALIS (b. 1961)

A Fiddler’s Tale Suite
(with the World Premiere of text by Mahogany L. BROWNE commissioned by the New York Philharmonic)
Fiddler’s March
Fiddler’s Soul
Pastorale
Happy March
Little Concert Piece
Tango
Waltz
Ragtime
Devil’s Dance
The Great Chorale
The Blues on Top

TITO MUÑOZ, Conductor
MAHOGANY L. BROWNE, Narrator
ANDI ZHANG, Violin
TIMOTHY COBB, Bass
DANNY MUI*, Clarinet
MARK TIMMERMAN*, Bassoon
MATTHEW MUCKEY, Trumpet
MARSHALL GILKES*, Trombone
CHRISTOPHER S. LAMB, Percussion
J.R. JOHNSON &
J.W. JOHNSON / Arr. M. Merriweather

Lift Every Voice and Sing
(sing-along)

LAQUITA MITCHELL, Soprano
NOAH STEWART, Tenor
QUAN GE, KUAN CHENG LU, Violins
CONG WU, Viola
NATHAN VICKERY, Cello
NANCY ALLEN, Harp

THIS CONCERT WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION.

SARA GRIFFIN, Librarian

* Denotes guest artist

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Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
    Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
    Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
    God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

— James Weldon Johnson
**Rev. Rhonda Akanke McLean-Nur** is an actress, griot, storyteller, arts educator, interfaith minister, and priestess in the Yoruba cultural tradition. She is a graduate of Howard University, with a BFA in theater, and attended graduate school at New York University and George Washington University, where she studied drama therapy. Rev. Rhonda also attended One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in New York City, where she was ordained as an interfaith minister and spiritual counselor. She has traveled around the world as a performer and motivational speaker. Rev. Rhonda served as the director of Cultural Arts Programs for families living in temporary housing at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and as an arts administrator and professional development facilitator and trainer at HAI and YAI. She works as a consultant with Blackberry Productions, Yaffa Arts, and her own company, Mama Akanke Arts and Consulting Services LLC. Her greatest joy is building community and access to healing through culture and the arts.

**Elder Mahalet Susann Miles** is a community-development and financial professional with a unique blend of business and creative acumen. She is a high-energy, effective relationship builder with more than 25 years of management experience. Miles is an ordained Deacon at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, where she has also served as the director of the Blue Nile Rites of Passage Program and as a mentor and curriculum instructor. As a vocalist she sings and performs with various groups and choirs around the world; has appeared with Ray Charles, Patti LaBelle, Barry Manilow, Carol King, Diana Ross, John Legend, and Jazz at Lincoln Center; and can be heard on a number of CDs. She is part of the Gospel of Colonus ensemble, which performs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Susann Miles holds true to her Pan-African spirit and performs libations and African-centered ceremonies. She is an event planner who has executed major events, film presentations, and other galas. Her most rewarding work is being a mother and grandmother who lives with her family in the Harlem Community.

**The Susan Wagner High School Jazz Band** has been a premier performance ensemble in the New York City Department of Education for the past 15 years. Under the direction of Paul Corn, the ensemble has won numerous First Place awards in the Heritage Festival Competitions in Williamsburg, Boston, and Washington, DC, as well as at Festival Disney in Orlando, Florida. The band has also participated in the New York State School Music Association Adjudication Festival and received the grade of Gold with Distinction on Level Six repertoire. It performs numerous concerts throughout New York City each year, both at school and throughout the community. In recent years, the band has enjoyed collaborating with Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra in yearly joint performances in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

**Today’s Combo:**

Paul Corn, Director
Jaylin Rosado, Vocals
Kevin McGetrick, Trombone
Joseph Maniscalco, Guitar
Dominic Carnival, Bass
Antonio Toro Quinones, Drums
Soprano Laquita Mitchell consistently earns acclaim on eminent international opera and concert stages, leading performances with Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, Washington National Opera, Opéra Comique in Paris, Boston Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Tanglewood Festival, The Cleveland Orchestra, and Musicians from the New York Philharmonic, among many others. She was the soprano soloist in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize–winning composer Paul Moravec’s Sanctuary Road at Carnegie Hall with Oratorio Society of New York, a work nominated for a 2021 Grammy for Best Choral Performance. Born in Brooklyn, Mitchell makes her debut with the Spoleto Festival, Caramoor Festival, and the Chautauqua Symphony in the summer of 2022.

Tenor Noah Stewart has performed as a guest artist with many of the most distinguished opera companies, both in the United States and Europe. His roles include Cavaradossi (in Puccini’s Tosca), Don Alvaro (Purcell’s Indian Queen), Don José (Bizet’s Carmen), Faust (Gounod’s Faust), Hoffmann (Offenbach’s The Tales of Hoffmann), Ismaele (Verdi’s Nabucco), Luigi (Puccini’s Il tabarro), Nadir (Bizet’s The Pearl Fishers), Pinkerton (Puccini’s Madama Butterfly), Radamès (Verdi’s Aida), Rodolfo (Puccini’s La bohème), Romeo (Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette), Samson (Saint-Saëns’s Samson and Delilah), and Tamino (Mozart’s The Magic Flute). He has appeared with Atlanta Opera, Bolshoi Opera, Bregenz Festival, English National Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, Göteborg Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Nederlandse Reisopera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Holland Park, Opera Perm, San Francisco Opera, Scottish Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Wexford Festival, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Stewart trained at The Juilliard School and the Academy of Vocal Arts, and is an alumnus of the San Francisco Opera’s Merola Program. He is a Decca recording artist and appears on the Sony DVD of The Indian Queen. In 2013 his solo album, Noah, was nominated for two Classical Brit Awards.

Tito Muñoz is in his eighth season as the Virginia G. Piper music director of The Phoenix Symphony, having previously served as music director of France’s Opéra national de Lorraine and Orchestre symphonique et lyrique de Nancy. His other prior posts include assistant conductor positions with The Cleveland Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinatti Symphony Orchestra, and the Aspen Music Festival. Muñoz has appeared with many leading North American ensembles, including the Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, and National symphony orchestras, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra of St. Luke’s. He conducted the New York Philharmonic in a concert streamed on NYPhil+. His strong international presence includes engagements with Frankfurt Radio, SWR, BBC, Sydney, and São Paolo State symphony orchestras; the Mahler and Danish National Chamber Orchestras; and Orchestre national d’Île de France, Opéra Orchestre National Montpellier, Opéra de Rennes, and Auckland Philharmonia. Born in Queens, New York, Tito Muñoz began his musical training as a violinist. He attended LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts, The Juilliard School’s Music Advancement Program, and Manhattan School of Music’s Pre-College Division.
Mahogany L. Browne, selected as one of the Kennedy Center’s Next 50, is the executive director of JustMedia, artistic director of Urban Word, and a writer, playwright, organizer, and educator. She has received fellowships from Arts for Justice, Air Serenbe, Cave Canem, Poets House, Mellon Research, and Rauschenberg. She is the author of recent works that include Vinyl Moon, Chlorine Sky, Woke: A Young Poet’s Call to Justice, Woke Baby, and Black Girl Magic. Founder of the diverse lit initiative Woke Baby Book Fair, Browne’s latest poetry collection, Chrome Valley (Norton), due in the spring of 2023, is a promissory note to survival. A Brooklyn resident and Lincoln Center’s first-ever poet-in-residence, she collaborated on NY Phil Bandwagon and appeared on the Orchestra’s subscription series.

Nancy Allen joined the New York Philharmonic in 1999 as Principal Harp. She heads the harp departments of The Juilliard School and the Aspen Music Festival and School, teaches at Stony Brook University, and performs regularly with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Her most recent featured Philharmonic appearance was in Schoenberg’s Erwartung from Four Songs, Op. 2, alongside soprano Nina Stemme in September 2019. Allen has performed as soloist at major international festivals; has collaborated with soprano Kathleen Battle, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, and guitarist Manuel Barrueco; and has formed a trio, Les Amies, with flutist Carol Wincenc and Philharmonic Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps. Allen has appeared on Live From Lincoln Center on PBS, and has performed in recital for “Music at the Supreme Court” in Washington, DC. Her recording of Ravel’s Introduction and Allegro was nominated for a Grammy Award; she can also be heard on the Sony Classical, Deutsche Grammophon, and CRI labels. A native New Yorker, she won the Fifth International Harp Competition in Israel in 1973, and was later awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Solo Recitalist Award.

Principal Bass Timothy Cobb joined the New York Philharmonic in May 2014, after serving in that role at The Metropolitan Opera and Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestras. His international chamber music festival appearances have included the Marlboro Music Festival, including on tour. Cobb is a UNESCO Artist for Peace, an honor achieved through his role as principal bass for the World Orchestra for Peace, an invited group of musicians who donate their time to promote international harmony. He has an ongoing collaboration with actor Stephen Lang, including performing the solo bass soundtrack for the animated short film The Wheatfield. Cobb can be heard on Metropolitan Opera recordings, and performing Giovanni Bottesini’s duo bass music with bassist Thomas Martin (Naxos). A native of Albany, New York, and a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Timothy Cobb serves as chair of the bass department at The Juilliard School and on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, Purchase College, and Rutgers University, and he is a faculty member of the Sarasota Music Festival and the Killington (Vermont) Music Festival.

Violinist Quan Ge joined the New York Philharmonic in June 2009. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she worked with Yumi Scott, Ida Kavafian, and Jaime Laredo,
Ge was a native of Huai Nan, China, and received a Fu Chen Xian Scholarship and won top prizes in both the China National Competition and the Jeunesses Music Competition (Romania). While a student at Curtis, she played as a substitute with The Philadelphia Orchestra. Ge is an active chamber musician and recitalist, and has worked with pianist Robert McDonald and the Borromeo String Quartet at the Taos School of Music.

Multiple Grammy Award–nominated trombonist / composer Marshall Gilkes integrates myriad influences into a singular and distinctive voice, combining the spontaneous invention of jazz with the elegant architecture of classical composition and virtuosic technique with passionate emotion. His sound can be heard in the lush impressionism of the Maria Schneider Orchestra, the unique Slide Monsters Trombone Quartet, and on Monday nights at the world-famous Village Vanguard as lead trombonist with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. He has conducted his music with the WDR Big Band, UMO Jazz Orchestra, Airmen of Note, and Army Blues. A finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in 2003, Gilkes has released six albums as a leader. The latest, Waiting to Continue, showcases his playing and writing in a trio setting. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School and is an S.E. Shires Artist.

Christopher S. Lamb joined the Philharmonic as Principal Percussion, The Constance R. Hoguet Friends of the Philharmonic Chair, in 1985. He made his NY Phil solo debut in the World Premiere of Joseph Schwantner’s Percussion Concerto, commissioned by the Orchestra. He has since performed the work throughout the United States and won a 2011 Grammy for Best Classical Instrumental Soloist for his recording with the Nashville Symphony. Lamb has given the World Premieres of two other Philharmonic commissions: Tan Dun’s Concerto for Water Percussion and Susan Botti’s EchoTempo. In 1999 he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Award to lecture and conduct research in Australia. On the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music since 1989, he has given clinics and master classes worldwide. He has designed his own line of concert snare drumsticks and is frequently consulted on instrument design concepts by leading percussion equipment manufacturers. Lamb has recorded chamber works on the New World, Cala, and CRI labels. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

Sara Griffin joined the New York Philharmonic as Assistant Principal Librarian in September 2009. A native of Springfield, Missouri, she earned bachelor of music and doctor of musical arts degrees in oboe from the University of Missouri–Kansas City, and a master of music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. Before she joined the Philharmonic Griffin’s orchestra library associations included positions with the National Symphony Orchestra, Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, and Kansas City Symphony. Other notable projects include music preparation for NASA’s 50th anniversary celebration during the 2006 Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, and the 2009 Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, featuring the world premiere of Stevie Wonder’s Sketches of a Life.

Violinist Kuan Cheng Lu joined the New York Philharmonic in the 2004–05 season.
A native of Taiwan, he has received numerous awards, including the top prize in the Taiwan National Violin Competition, First Prize in the American String Teachers Association competition, the Raphael Bronstein Award, and Taiwan Chi-Mei Corporation’s Outstanding Young Artist award. He received his bachelor’s degree from Oberlin College, master’s from the Manhattan School of Music, and doctorate in musical arts from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Lu studied with former New York Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow; his other teachers included Roland and Almita Vamos, Julia Bushkova, and his father, Chung Chih Lu. He has served as concertmaster of the Verbier Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, Oberlin Orchestra, Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Manhattan Chamber Sinfonia, Manhattan Symphony, and Manhattan Philharmonia. Lu teaches at the Manhattan School of Music in the graduate program for orchestra performance.

Matthew Muckey joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Trumpet in June 2006, soon after graduating from Northwestern University with a bachelor’s degree in music, having studied with Charles Geyer and Barbara Butler. He made his NY Phil solo debut with performances of J.S. Bach’s Cantata No. 51 and “Let the Bright Seraphim” from Handel’s Samson in November 2013. A native of Sacramento, California, Muckey has appeared as soloist with the Omaha Symphony, Sacramento Philharmonic, California Wind Orchestra, and Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, and on NPR’s program From the Top. He has also played with the Boston Pops Orchestra, New World Symphony, and Chicago Civic Orchestra. Matthew Muckey was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center during the summers of 2003 to 2005 and was the recipient of the Roger Voisin Trumpet Award in 2004 and 2005.

Danny Mui is the second clarinet and bass clarinet of the New York City Ballet Orchestra at Lincoln Center. Prior to joining that ensemble, he served as principal clarinet of the Baton Rouge Symphony and third clarinet and utility clarinet in the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Mui has won prizes and received awards in numerous solo and chamber competitions, such as The Fisch-off National Music Competition, National Arts and Letters Mid-Michigan Wind Competition, American Opera Society of Chicago Competition, Chicago Chamber Winds Competition, Evanston Music Club Competition, Jacqueline Event Concerto Competition, and Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition.

Mark Timmerman is a bassoonist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra who previously served as principal bassoon of The Metropolitan Opera for one season. A native of Davenport, Iowa, he is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music; he also studied at Temple University and the University of Michigan. An accomplished orchestral player, Timmerman has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, and Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. He has performed in music festivals in Japan, the former Soviet Union, Italy, and Brazil, and has participated in the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, including several Music from Marlboro US tours. He has appeared on American Public Media’s Saint Paul Sunday radio program.
Cellist Nathan Vickery joined the New York Philharmonic in September 2013. He has appeared as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and as a recitalist and chamber musician at festivals including the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival, Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, and the Chamber Music Workshop at the Perlman Music Festival, as well as throughout Europe with Curtis on Tour. As a chamber musician he has collaborated with violinists Joshua Bell, Pamela Frank, and Miriam Fried; pianist Jonathan Biss; and the contemporary music ensemble Eighth Blackbird, among others. Vickery has appeared on NPR’s From the Top and WFMT in Chicago. He has won numerous competitions, including the Second International David Popper Cello Competition (Hungary) and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s Maurer Young Musicians Contest. He received his bachelor’s degree from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Peter Wiley. Nathan Vickery has served on the faculty of the Indiana University Summer String Academy.

Cong Wu joined the New York Philharmonic as Assistant Principal Viola, The Norma and Lloyd Chazen Chair, in September 2018, while pursuing his doctoral degree at Manhattan School of Music. Winner of the Third Prize and the Chamber Music Prize in the 14th Primrose International Viola Competition and the Special Prize in the 12th Tertis International Viola Competition, he has performed as a soloist throughout North America and Asia. An avid chamber musician, Wu has collaborated with Christoph Eschenbach, David Finckel, Itzhak Perlman, Peter Wiley, Pinchas Zukerman, the American String Quartet, and many Philharmonic musicians. He has performed at festivals including Marlboro, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Chamber Music Encounters, Music@Menlo, Perlman Music Program, Lake Champlain Chamber Music, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik. He also regularly appears with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, and New York Classical Players. Born in Jinan, China, Cong Wu moved to New York in 2010 after graduating from the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. He holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music.

Violinist Andi Zhang joined the New York Philharmonic in January 2019 while studying at the Manhattan School of Music with Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec. She has appeared as soloist with the Beijing, Qingdao, Harbin, and Hong Kong symphony orchestras; Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra; and Munich Radio Orchestra. She has performed in recital in the US, Canada, Germany, and Austria; recorded for film and television, CDs, and the China Central Television program Music Tells You; and led master classes. Zhang’s honors and awards include both First Prize and the award for outstanding performance of a new Chinese piece at the 2016 Alice & Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition; Second Place in the 2010 Stradivarius International Violin Competition; and First Place in the 2009 National Chinese Violin Competition. Born in Dandong, China, Andi Zhang was admitted to the middle school of the China Central Conservatory of Music in 2005 and, that same year, performed as soloist with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra. She pursued her bachelor’s degree from the China Central Conservatory of Music and received her master of music degree from The Juilliard School.
Jaap van Zweden became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2018. He also serves as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, a post he has held since 2012. He has appeared as guest with leading orchestras such as the Orchestre de Paris and Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland, and Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestras.

In October 2022 Jaap van Zweden and the NY Phil reopen the renovated David Geffen Hall with HOME, a monthlong housewarming for the Orchestra and its audiences. Season highlights include musical explorations of SPIRIT, featuring Messiaen’s Turangalîla–symphonie and J.S. Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, and EARTH, featuring Julia Wolfe’s unEarth and John Luther Adams’s Become Desert. He conducts repertoire ranging from Beethoven and Bruckner to premieres by Marcos Balter, Etienne Charles, Caroline Shaw, and Carlos Simon.

In February 2020 van Zweden premiered the first three works commissioned through Project 19 — which marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment with new works by 19 women composers, including Tania León’s Pulitzer Prize–winning Stride. In the 2021–22 season, during the David Geffen Hall renovation, the Music Director led the Orchestra at venues across New York City, including his first-ever Philharmonic appearances at Carnegie Hall.

Jaap van Zweden’s NY Phil recordings include David Lang’s prisoner of the state and Julia Wolfe’s Grammy-nominated Fire in my mouth (Decca Gold). Other recordings include the first-ever performances in Hong Kong of Wagner’s Ring Cycle (Naxos) and Wagner’s Parsifal, which received the 2012 Edison Award for Best Opera Recording.

Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden was appointed the youngest-ever concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra at age 19. He began his conducting career almost 20 years later, in 1996. Recently named Conductor Emeritus of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, he is Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, where he was Chief Conductor (2005–13); served as Chief Conductor of the Royal Flanders Orchestra (2008–11); and was Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (2008–18), where he is now Conductor Laureate. He was named Musical America’s 2012 Conductor of the Year and in 2018 was the subject of a CBS 60 Minutes profile. In 2020 he was awarded the prestigious Concertgebouw Prize.

In 1997 Jaap van Zweden and his wife, Aaltje, established the Papageno Foundation to support families of children with autism. In 1995 the Foundation opened Papageno House — with Her Majesty Queen Maxima in attendance — where young adults with autism live, work, and participate in the community. The Foundation aids the development of autistic children and young adults by providing in–home music therapy; cultivating funding opportunities to support autism programs; and creating a research center for early diagnosis and treatment of autism and analyzing the benefits of music therapy. The Foundation app TEAMPapageno allows children with autism to communicate with each other through composition.
The New York Philharmonic plays a leading cultural role in New York City, the United States, and the world. Each season the Orchestra connects with up to 50 million music lovers through live concerts in New York and around the world, as well as broadcasts, recordings, and education programs.

The 2022–23 season marks a new chapter in the life of America’s longest living orchestra with the opening of the reimagined David Geffen Hall and programming that engages with today’s cultural conversations. The NY Phil explores its newly renovated home’s potential through repertoire that activates the new performance spaces and by launching new presentations, including at the intimate Sidewalk Studio. The season begins with HOME, a monthlong festival introducing the hall and its new spaces. Later, the Philharmonic examines LIBERATION, a response to cries for social justice; SPIRIT, a reflection on humanity’s relationship with the cosmos; and EARTH, which reflects on the climate crisis. Over the season the Orchestra gives the World, US, and New York Premieres of 16 works and collaborates with Community Partners-in-Residence, building on impactful collaborations forged over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic through the launch of NY Phil Bandwagon — free, outdoor, “pull-up” concerts that brought live music back to New York City.

In the 2021–22 season the NY Phil presented concerts at Alice Tully Hall and the Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Frederick P. Rose Hall; gave the the World, US, and New York premieres of ten commissions; explored The Schumann Connection, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel; and examined questions of identity with The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence Anthony Roth Costanzo in Authentic Selves: The Beauty Within.

The New York Philharmonic has commissioned and/or premiered works by leading composers from every era since its founding in 1842, from Dvořák’s New World Symphony and Gershwin’s Concerto in F to two Pulitzer Prize winners: John Adams’s On the Transmigration of Souls and Tania León’s Stride, the last of these commissioned through Project 19, which marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment with commissions by 19 women composers. The Orchestra has made more than 2,000 recordings since 1917; the most recent include Julia Wolfe’s Grammy-nominated Fire in my mouth and David Lang’s prisoner of the state. Concerts are available on NYPhil+, a state-of-the-art streaming platform, and the Orchestra’s extensive history is available free online through the New York Philharmonic Shelby White & Leon Levy Digital Archives.

A resource for its community and the world, the NY Phil complements annual free concerts across the city with education projects, including the famed Young People’s Concerts and Very Young Composers Program. The Orchestra has appeared in 436 cities in 63 countries, including Pyongyang, DPRK, in 2008, the first visit there by an American orchestra.

Founded in 1842 by local musicians, the New York Philharmonic is one of the oldest orchestras in the world. Notable figures who have conducted the Philharmonic include Tchaikovsky, Richard Strauss, Stravinsky, and Copland. Jaap van Zweden became Music Director in 2018–19, succeeding musical leaders including Bernstein, Toscanini, and Mahler.
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Our staff can help you determine the best options.

Please email us at plannedgiving@nyphil.org.