New York Philharmonic Presents

Artist Spotlight

Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

Hilary Hahn, Violin

Wu Tsai Theater
David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center
Home of the New York Philharmonic

This program will last approximately one and one-half hours, which includes one intermission.

Hilary Hahn is The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence.
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J.S. BACH
(1685–1750)

Sonata No. 2 in A minor for Violin,
**BWV 1003** (ca. 1720)
Grave
Fuga
Andante
Allegro

Partita No. 3 in E major for Violin,
**BWV 1006** (ca. 1720)
Preludio
Loure
Gavotte en rondeau
Menuet I
Menuet II
Bourrée
Gigue

Intermission
Sonata No. 3 in C major for Violin, BWV 1005 (ca. 1720)
Adagio
Fuga
Largo
Allegro assai

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It was at Lincoln Center a few years ago, during my first solo Bach recital tour, when I had an epiphany about performing that changed my approach to interpreting everything. I realized that if I stay in each note as long as it wants to be heard on that particular day, my mind is freer to be creative in the music. I’ll never forget the feeling of bliss that this setting of music gave me on that evening. I look forward to each solo Bach concert as a cathartic exploration. I’m particularly jazzed about this recital being part of my residency, since I’m developing an even closer connection to this hall, the New York Philharmonic’s traditions, and this audience during this concert season.

All three of these pieces contain some of my favorite encores and standalone movements in the repertoire. I do love playing the pieces in their entirety, because I can explore different aspects of these same movements, ideas that are tied to larger arcs of concept. I often play Partita No. 3 when I’m doing my BYOBaby concerts. For me, every experience that I have with a piece stays embedded in the piece, strengthening my foundational relationship to it.

In my duo with New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Tiler Peck in our Kravis Nightcap concert in January, we performed the Andante from the A-minor sonata. Being on stage at David Geffen Hall with Tiler’s world premiere choreography, her performance presence expressing the piece in the spotlight, is something I’ll never forget. It was another one of those perspective-changing moments.

Sonata No. 3 has the longest fugue of all of the solo violin works. In a way, it’s within these compositional structures — fugue, dance forms, standard harmonic practices — that the fight against preconceived boundaries creates the greatest transcendence. As an interpreter, this requires you to stay patient and alert. The music knows where it’s going, but you still have to be ready to steer the ship.

— Hilary Hahn

The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence
The Artist

Three-time Grammy Award–winning violinist Hilary Hahn mels expressive musicality and technical expertise with a repertoire guided by artistic curiosity. In the 2023–24 season she serves as the New York Philharmonic’s Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, performing works by Prokofiev, Ginastera, and Sarasate; giving an all-Bach recital; and appearing in a Kravis Nightcap event she curated. She is also in her third season as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s first artist-in-residence, visiting artist at The Juilliard School, and curating artist of the Dortmund Festival.

This season Hahn performs concertos by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Korngold, and Ginastera, as well as Sarasate’s Carmen Fantasy. Her small-ensemble performances include solo recitals, recitals with pianist Iveta Apkalna and cellist Seth Parker Woods, and chamber concerts in Dortmund and Chicago.

Hahn has related to her fans naturally from the start of her career, committing to signings after concerts and maintaining a collection of fan art. Her Bring Your Own Baby concerts create a welcoming environment for parents of infants to share their enjoyment of classical music with their children. Her social media initiative #100daysofpractice has transformed practice into a community-building celebration of artistic development, with almost one million posts from fellow performers and students.

Hilary Hahn is a prolific recording artist and commissioner of new works; her 23 feature recordings — on the Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, and Sony labels — have all opened in the top ten of the Billboard charts, and three have won Grammys. She is the recipient of numerous honors. Most recently, she received the 2024 Avery Fisher Prize; was named Musical America’s 2023 Artist of the Year; delivered the keynote speech of the Women in Classical Music Symposium; and received the 2021 Herbert von Karajan Award and the Glasshütte Original Music Festival Award, which she donated to the music education nonprofit Project 440.
Jaap van Zweden became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in 2018. In 2023–24, his farewell season celebrates his connection with the Orchestra's musicians as he leads performances in which six Principal players appear as concerto soloists. He also revisits composers he has championed at the Philharmonic, from Steve Reich and Joel Thompson to Mozart and Mahler. He is also Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, since 2012, and became Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic in 2024. He has appeared as guest with the Orchestre de Paris; Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestras; Vienna, Berlin, and Los Angeles philharmonic orchestras; and London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Cleveland orchestras.

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). He conducted the first performances in Hong Kong of Wagner’s Ring Cycle, the Naxos recording of which led the Hong Kong Philharmonic to be named the 2019 Gramophone Orchestra of the Year. His performance of Wagner’s Parsifal received the Edison Award for Best Opera Recording in 2012.

Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden became the youngest-ever concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra at age 19 and began his conducting career almost 20 years later. He was named Musical America’s 2012 Conductor of the Year, was profiled by CBS 60 Minutes on arriving at the NY Phil, and in the spring of 2023 received the prestigious Concertgebouw Prize. In 1997 he and his wife, Aaltje, established the Papageno Foundation to support families of children with autism.

The New York Philharmonic connects with millions of music lovers each season through live concerts in New York and around the world, broadcasts, streaming, education programs, and more. In the 2023–24 season — which builds on the Orchestra’s transformation reflected in the new David Geffen Hall — the NY Phil honors Jaap van Zweden in his farewell season as Music Director, premieres 14 works by a wide range of composers including some whom van Zweden has championed, marks György Ligeti’s centennial, and celebrates the 100th birthday of the beloved Young People’s Concerts.

The Philharmonic has commissioned and/or premiered important works, from Dvořák’s New World Symphony to Tania León’s Pulitzer Prize–winning Stride. The NY Phil has released more than 2,000 recordings since 1917, and in 2023 announced a partnership with Apple Music Classical, the new streaming app designed to deliver classical music lovers the optimal listening experience. The Orchestra builds on a longstanding commitment to serving its communities — which has led to annual free concerts across New York City and the free online New York Philharmonic Shelby White & Leon Levy Digital Archives — through a new ticket access program.

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States, and one of the oldest in the world. Jaap van Zweden became Music Director in 2018–19, following titans including Bernstein, Toscanini, and Mahler. Gustavo Dudamel will become Music and Artistic Director beginning in 2026 after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025–26.
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New York Philharmonic Guide

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Latecomers and patrons who leave the hall will be seated only after the completion of a work.

Silence all cell phones and other electronic devices throughout the performance.

Photography, sound recording, or videotaping of performances is prohibited.

Accessibility
David Geffen Hall
All gender restrooms with accessible stalls are in the Karen and Richard LeFrak Lobby. Accessible men’s, women’s, and companion restrooms are available on all levels. Infant changing tables are in all restrooms.

Braille & Large-Print versions of print programs are available at Guest Experience on the Leon and Norma Hess Grand Promenade. Tactile maps of the Karen and Richard LeFrak Lobby, with seating chart of the Wu Tsai Theater, are available in the Welcome Center.

Induction loops are available in all performance spaces and at commerce points including the Welcome Center, Coat Check, and select bars. Receivers with headsets and neck loops are available for guests who do not have t-coil accessible hearing devices.

Noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, and earplugs are available to borrow.

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Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and First Aid kits are available if needed during an emergency.
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