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NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

Season's YPCs To Explore Legacy of the Series Through Wide-Ranging Programming, Including World Premieres

The New York Philharmonic celebrates the 100th anniversary of its famed Young People's Concerts (YPCs) throughout the 2023–24 season. The Saturday afternoon series — for children ages 6 to 12 and their families — inspires a lifelong love of music through interactive performances of music ranging from timeless classics to World Premieres. This season's four YPCs highlight the series' storied past, focus on timely themes, and look ahead to the future.

The following 2023–24 season **Young People's Concerts** — all directed and designed by Doug Fitch — take place in the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall, and begin at 2:00 p.m.:

- *Time Capsule*, conducted and hosted by Thomas Wilkins and featuring a special guest appearance by Jamie Bernstein, delves into the programs of past Young People's Concerts with works by Rossini, Elgar, Jessie Montgomery, and Leonard Bernstein, a World Premiere by Bunmi Afariogun (age 11) a participant in the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program (VYC) as well as a selection from Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, performed by Fiona Khuong-Huu (age 16) in her NY Phil debut; November 18, 2023.
- Fantasy and Imagination conducted by Jerry Hou, hosted by NY Phil Teaching Artist Justin Jay Hines, and featuring Materials for the Arts as creative partner celebrates music's power to reinvigorate the imagination with a program that includes Musorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition (in Ravel's orchestration), plus new works by VYCs; January 20, 2024.
- Composing Inclusion, conducted and hosted by Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser (in his NY Phil debut), presents new works by composers commissioned through Composing Inclusion a collaboration among the NY Phil, American Composers Forum, and The Juilliard School's Preparatory Division as well as selections from William Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony. In this concert the New York Philharmonic will be joined by students from Juilliard's Preparatory Division and Juilliard's Pre-College Orchestra in a side-by-side performance; April 20, 2024.

David Geffen Hall 10 Lincoln Center Plaza New York, NY 10023 NYPHIL.ORG

• *Celebration* — conducted and hosted by Kwamé Ryan (NY Phil debut), and with cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason as soloist — caps off the season's celebration of the YPCs' centennial by exploring how composers throughout history have used madcap sounds and humor to comment on important issues of their day; May 4, 2024.

Each Young People's Concert is preceded by **YPC Overtures** — in which children can try out orchestral instruments and families can listen to music by VYCs and engage in crafting and interactive workshops in the Kenneth C. Griffin Sidewalk Studio, on the Leon and Norma Hess Grand Promenade, and on Hearst Tier 1 — beginning at 1:00 p.m. on the day of the concert.

The NY Phil complements the performances with the following:

- Young People's Concerts for Schools, in which the NY Phil and educators guide students from grades 3–12 on an exploration of Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*; January 17–19, 2024.
- NY Phil Young People's Concerts @ 100: Inspiring Generations of Music Lovers, an archival exhibit currently on display in the Bruno Walter Gallery in David Geffen Hall.

History of YPCs

While the New York Philharmonic presented "Family Matinees" as early as the 1890s, which were renamed Young People's Concerts in 1914, the Orchestra traces the true beginning to January 26, 1924, when Ernest Schelling inaugurated an annual concert series that combined Philharmonic performances with conversation and multimedia displays curated for children. The series achieved national attention when Leonard Bernstein conducted the first televised YPC on January 18, 1958, which reached more than 2.5 million households across the United States. Over the decades the series has evolved to incorporate video elements, as well as actors and often dancers, and today features works by participants in the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program, which empowers children to express themselves by creating their own original works.

Since the program's inception the NY Phil has presented over 600 YPCs in New York City and around the world. In Manhattan alone, more than 1.4 million people have attended the Young People's Concerts. Other past conductors of YPCs have included Leopold Stokowski, Aaron Copland, Tania León, Bobby McFerrin, and Helen Quach, as well as former Music Directors Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, and Alan Gilbert. In addition to featuring prominent guests, such as George Gershwin, Burl Ives, LeVar Burton, and Yo-Yo Ma, the series has also been a launching pad for up-and-coming artists, such as André Watts (who appeared on a YPC at age 16), Gil Shaham (age 14), Sarah Chang (age 9), Michael Rabin (age 15), and future NY Phil violinists Marilyn Dubow (age 11) and Hae-Young Ham (age 17).

Biographies

<u>Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, Jamie Bernstein, Doug Fitch, Justin Jay Hines, Jerry Hou, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Fiona Khuong-Huu, Kwamé Ryan, Thomas Wilkins, New York Philharmonic </u>

Tickets

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at <u>nyphil.org</u> 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 **Welcome Center at David Geffen Hall.** The Welcome Center opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Welcome Center closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or <u>carrl@nyphil.org</u>.

Event Listing

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: TIME CAPSULE

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 2:00 p.m. *YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

Thomas Wilkins, conductor / host Jamie Bernstein, special guest Doug Fitch, director / designer Fiona Khuong-Huu*, violin

Young People's Concert: Time Capsule

The YPCs' centennial is marked with an exploration of past programs led by beloved conductors, including Leonard Bernstein, who popularized the series.

ROSSINI Fe. MENDELSSOHN ELGAR Bunmi AFARIOGUN

Jessie MONTGOMERY CHARLAP / LEIGH

BERNSTEIN

Finale from William Tell Overture
Selection from the Violin Concerto
Selections from The Wand of Youth Suite No. 1
Feel Jazz, Be Jazz, With Layers (Very Young
Composer—World Premiere)
Selection from Records from a Vanishing City
I Won't Grow Up, from Peter Pan

Overture to Candide

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: FANTASY AND IMAGINATION

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. *YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

Jerry Hou, conductor Justin Jay Hines, host Doug Fitch, director / designer Materials for the Arts, creative partner

Young People's Concert: Fantasy and Imagination

A celebration of the Young People's Concerts' centennial that explores how music, art, stories, and movement can elevate the importance of fantasy and imagination.

MUSORGSKY / Orch. Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition
Very Young Composers New works (World Premieres)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: COMPOSING INCLUSION

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. *YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser*, conductor / host Doug Fitch, director / designer The Juilliard School Pre-College Orchestra The Juilliard School Preparatory Division American Composers Forum

Young People's Concert: Composing Inclusion

Featuring students from the Juilliard Preparatory Division, a celebration of the creativity of young musicians with newly commissioned works for professional and youth orchestras. Created in partnership with the Juilliard Preparatory Division and American Composers Forum.

Andrés SOTO New work (World Premiere,

New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with The Juilliard School Preparatory Division and American Composers Forum)

Nicolás Lell BENAVIDES New work (World Premiere,

New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with The Juilliard School Preparatory Division and American Composers Forum)

William DAWSON Selections from Negro Folk Symphony

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: CELEBRATION

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m. *YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

Young People's Concert: Celebration

The concert marks the centennial of the YPCs with music by composers who have used madcap sounds, humor, and surprises to comment on important issues of their day.

Kwamé Ryan*, conductor / host Doug Fitch, director / designer Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

*New York Philharmonic debut

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Lead support for Young People's Concerts is provided by Evalyn E. and Stephen E. Milman.

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Support for Young People's Concerts is provided by **The Theodore H. Barth Foundation** and **The Brodsky Family Foundation**.

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Support for Young People's Concerts for Schools is provided by Nike.

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Major support for the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program is provided by **Susan and Elihu Rose.**

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Additional funding for the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program is provided by Muna and Basem Hishmeh; Mr. and Mrs. A. Slade Mills, Jr.; and the Billy Rose Foundation.

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Nicolás Lell Benavides's and Andrés Soto's commissions are part of Composing Inclusion, a collaboration between the New York Philharmonic, American Composers Forum, and The Juilliard School's Preparatory Division, powered by the **Sphinx Venture Fund.**

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online press room, nyphil.org/pressroom, or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or pr@nyphil.org.

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