



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES DETAILS FOR 2024–25 SEASON’S YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS and VERY YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS**

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The New York Philharmonic announces details for the 2024–25 season’s family and educational programs: Young People’s Concerts (YPCs, which marked their centennial last season), Young People’s Concerts for Schools (YPCs for Schools, presented exclusively to local school groups), and Very Young People’s Concerts (VYPCs, founded in 2005).

### **Young People’s Concerts (Ages 6–12)**

The 2024–25 season’s four YPCs bear titles beginning with “The Future Is ...,” reflecting how music can be a lens through which to explore how pioneering ideas and events from the past lead to an understanding of the world today — and point to a brighter tomorrow. Each of the concerts takes place at the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall, and begins at 2:00 p.m.

- ***The Future Is Unity***, conducted by Thomas Wilkins, examines how the many experiences of the African diaspora inform how we move forward collectively. The program, part of the NY Phil’s exploration of [Afromodernism](#), includes selections from Carlos Simon’s *Four Black American Dances*; Sowande’s African Suite; Price’s Symphony No. 1; a selection from Still’s Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*; as well as NY Phil Very Young Composer Program alumnus Isai Rabiú’s *Aye Ni Ilu*, which the Philharmonic premiered in 2017. In addition to conducting, Wilkins also co-hosts the concert along with Gary A. Padmore, the NY Phil’s Vice President, Education and Community Engagement, The Sue B. Mercy Chair. The concert is directed by Jonathan McCrory, executive artistic director of National Black Theatre, which serves as a creative partner for this YPC; October 19, 2024.
- ***The Future Is Orchestra***, conducted by Keri-Lynn Wilson (who makes her NY Phil debut in subscription concerts, December 5–7, 2024), presents a series of musical portraits exploring how orchestral music can be a catalyst for freedom and humanity. The program includes the Overture to Lysenko’s *Taras Bulba*; a selection from Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*; *Nimrod*, from Elgar’s *Enigma* Variations; the World Premiere of a new work by NY Phil Very Young Composer Emilia Epstein; and selections from Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 10. Marcus Stevens serves as the concert’s scriptwriter and director, and the host will be announced at a future date; December 7, 2024.

- ***The Future Is Innovation***, conducted by Jerry Hou — who also co-hosts along with Justin Jay Hines — investigates the impact of experimental and innovative orchestral compositions throughout history. The program includes selections from Beethoven’s Fifth and Sixth Symphonies; *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)* by Missy Mazzoli, who also appears as a speaker during the concert; and World Premieres of orchestral versions of NY Phil Very Young Composer works to be announced. Doug Fitch serves as the director and designer for the concert; February 8, 2025.
- ***The Future Is Female***, conducted by Lina González-Granados, presents a concert recognizing women who create and perform orchestral music in the past and present, and into the future. The program includes Lili Boulanger’s *D’un matin de printemps*; selections from Brahms’s *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*; Gabriela Ortiz’s *My Response*, from *Clara* (which the NY Phil commissioned and premiered in 2022); Martines’s *Allegro spiritoso*, from *Sinfonia in C major*; a new work by an alum of the Luna Composition Lab (which serves as a creative partner for the concert); and Gabriela Lena Frank’s *The Mestizo Waltz*, from *Three Latin-American Dances*. Kirya Traber is the concert’s scriptwriter and director, and the host will be announced at a later date; March 8, 2025.

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 also dedicates a week to **Young People’s Concerts for Schools: *The Future Is Innovation***, events held for local students in grades 3 to 12 from around 130 schools in the New York Metropolitan area, whose experiences are enriched through a guided yet flexible curriculum. The NY Phil and educators guide these students on an exploration of how musical innovations have impacted the orchestral tradition and future generations of composers. These concerts — which comprise the same program and artists as the February 8 YPC of the same name — take place at the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall; February 5–7, 2025.

### **Very Young People’s Concerts (Ages 3–6)**

Each installment of the 2024–25 season’s Very Young People’s Concerts (VYPCs), which focus on the idea of ***Philharmonic Playground***, explores essential elements of music and composition:

- ***Allegro and Adagio*** explores the use of tempo through selections from Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake*; February 22, 2025.
- ***Forte and Piano*** examines the use of dynamics through music from Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* Suite; March 22, 2025.
- ***Treble and Bass*** looks at high and low sounds in music through selections from J.S. Bach’s *Orchestral Suite No. 2*; June 7, 2025.

Hosted by Philharmonic Associate Principal Viola Rebecca Young since its inception, and directed and designed by Doug Fitch, the series features performances by Musicians from the New York Philharmonic. Each program will be performed twice at Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., with pre-concert activities beginning an hour before each performance, at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

### **Relaxed Performances**

The February 5–7 YPCs for Schools, February 8 YPC, and the season’s three VYPCs will be presented as **relaxed performances** — concerts open to all that feature additional elements designed to support and welcome neurodiverse audiences. Further details will be announced at a later date.

### **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. The NY Phil celebrated the centennial of the series throughout the 2023–24 season.

### **Biographies**

[Doug Fitch](#), [Lina González-Granados](#), [Jerry Hou](#), [Thomas Wilkins](#), [Keri-Lynn Wilson](#), [Rebecca Young](#), [New York Philharmonic](#)

### **Tickets**

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at [nyphil.org](https://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 **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 [carrl@nyphil.org](mailto:carrl@nyphil.org).

### **Event Listing**

**EXPLORING AFROMODERNISM:  
YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT: *THE FUTURE IS UNITY***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, October 19, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
*YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

*The Future Is Unity*

Thomas Wilkins, conductor / co-host  
Gary A. Padmore, co-host  
Jonathan McCrory, director  
National Black Theatre, creative partner

Carlos SIMON  
SOWANDE  
PRICE  
STILL

*Ring Shout*, from *Four Black American Dances*  
Selections from African Suite  
*Juba Dance: Allegro*, from Symphony No. 1  
*Slowly and reverently*, from  
Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*

NY Phil Very Young Composer  
Isai RABIU  
Carlos SIMON

*Aye Ni Ilu*  
*Holy Dance*, from *Four Black American Dances*

This concert explores the African diaspora's influence on reimagining a unified future.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: *THE FUTURE IS ORCHESTRA***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
*YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

*The Future Is Orchestra*

Keri-Lynn Wilson, conductor  
Host to be announced  
Marcus Stevens, scriptwriter / director

LYSENKO  
BEETHOVEN  
ELGAR  
NY Phil Very Young Composer  
Emilia Epstein  
SHOSTAKOVICH

Overture to *Taras Bulba*  
Selection from Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*  
*Nimrod*, from *Enigma Variations*

New work (World Premiere of orchestral version)  
Selections from Symphony No. 10

Through a series of musical portraits, this concert explores how orchestral music can become a catalyst for freedom and humanity, and asks what musical messages and ideals still resonate with us today and inspire us to fight for a brighter tomorrow.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS FOR SCHOOLS: *THE FUTURE IS INNOVATION***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Friday, February 7, 2025, 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

*The Future Is Innovation*

Jerry Hou, conductor / co-host  
Justin Jay Hines, co-host  
Missy Mazzoli, speaker  
Doug Fitch, director / designer

BEETHOVEN  
Missy MAZZOLI  
NY Phil Very Young Composers

Selections from Symphony No. 5  
*Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*  
New works (World Premieres of  
orchestral versions)

BEETHOVEN

Selections from Symphony No. 6, *Pastoral*

These concerts examine the impact of innovative orchestral compositions; these concerts are open only to school groups.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT: *THE FUTURE IS INNOVATION***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, February 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

*YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

*The Future Is Innovation*

Jerry Hou, conductor / co-host  
Justin Jay Hines, co-host  
Missy Mazzoli, speaker  
Doug Fitch, director / designer

BEETHOVEN  
Missy MAZZOLI

Selections from Symphony No. 5  
*Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*

NY Phil Very Young Composers

New works (World Premieres of  
orchestral versions)

BEETHOVEN

Selections from Symphony No. 6, *Pastoral*

This concert examines the impact of innovative orchestral compositions.

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**VERY YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS: *ALLEGRO AND ADAGIO***

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center  
129 West 67th Street

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

*Pre-concert activities begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.*

*Philharmonic Playground: “Allegro and Adagio”*

Rebecca Young, host

Doug Fitch, director / designer

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

These concerts explore how tempo makes music fun through selections from Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake*.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT: *THE FUTURE IS FEMALE***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

*YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

*The Future Is Female*

Lina González-Granados, conductor

Host to be announced

Kirya Traber, scriptwriter / director

Luna Composition Lab, creative partner

L. BOULANGER

BRAHMS

Gabriela ORTIZ

MARTINES

Luna Composition Lab Alum

Gabriela Lena FRANK

*D’un matin de printemps*

Selections from *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*

*My Response*, from *Clara*

*Allegro spiritoso*, from *Sinfonia in C major*

New work

*The Mestizo Waltz*, from

Three Latin-American Dances

This concert recognizes women who create and perform orchestral music in the past and present, and into the future.

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**VERY YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS: *FORTE AND PIANO***

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center  
129 West 67th Street

*Philharmonic Playground*: “Forte and Piano”

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
*Pre-concert activities begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.*

Rebecca Young, host  
Doug Fitch, director / designer  
Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

These concerts explore how dynamics make music fun through music from Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* Suite.

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**VERY YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS: *TREBLE AND BASS***

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center  
129 West 67th Street

*Philharmonic Playground*: “Treble and Bass”

Saturday, June 7, 2025, 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
*Pre-concert activities begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.*

Rebecca Young, host  
Doug Fitch, director / designer  
Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

These concerts explore how high and low sounds make music fun through selections from J.S. Bach’s *Orchestral Suite No. 2*.

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**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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Support for the New York Philharmonic’s Young People’s Concerts and Very Young People’s Concerts is provided by the **Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin Music Education Endowment**.

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

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