

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2019

PROJECT 19
19 Commissions by Women To Celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment

Launching in February 2020
World Premieres by NINA C. YOUNG, TANIA LEÓN, and ELLEN REID
Conducted by Music Director JAAP VAN ZWEDEN

Sound ON: “Leading Voices” Featuring World Premieres by
JOAN LA BARBARA, NICOLE LIZÉE, and PAOLA PRESTINI

Virgil Thomson’s *THE MOTHER OF US ALL*
New, Site-Specific Staging Co-Presented with
The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s MetLiveArts and The Juilliard School

ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS
Co-Commissions of 19 New Works by Women Poets

MULTIMEDIA ARCHIVAL INSTALLATION
The Case of the New York Philharmonic’s First Woman: Steffy Goldner’s Untold Story

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
To Host Voter Registration at *Project 19* Performances

Jaap van Zweden and the New York Philharmonic will mark the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted equal voting rights to women, by commissioning and premiering works by 19 women composers. The multi-season initiative — the single largest women-only commissioning initiative in history — will launch in February 2020 with the first six World Premieres. Two more World Premieres will follow in May–June 2020. The eleven remaining commissions will be premiered in future seasons. The commissioned composers are Unsuk Chin, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Joan La Barbara, Tania León, Nicole Lizée, Caroline Mallonee, Jessie Montgomery, Angélica Negrón, Olga Neuwirth, Paola Prestini, Ellen Reid, Maria Schneider, Caroline Shaw, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Joan Tower, Melinda Wagner, Nina C. Young, and Du Yun.

Music Director Jaap van Zweden said: “As one of the leading orchestras in America, it is the New York Philharmonic’s responsibility, and our joy, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of American women’s right to vote with this vast commissioning project.”

President and CEO Deborah Borda said: “*Project 19* was born of our conviction that an orchestra can — and must — participate in conversations about social imperatives and even change the status quo. Through *Project 19*, the Philharmonic can mark a tectonic shift in American culture by giving a platform to women composers — and by catalyzing representation in our field and society at large.”

LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY 2020

Jaap van Zweden will conduct the New York Philharmonic in the first three *Project 19* World Premieres: Rome Prize winner **Nina C. Young’s *Tread softly*** (February 5–6, 8, and 11, 2020), Pulitzer Prize nominee **Tania León’s *Stride*** (February 13, 15, and 18, 2020), and the commission by 2019 Pulitzer Prize winner and Luna Composition Lab co-founder **Ellen Reid** (February 20–22, 2020).

Philharmonic musicians will premiere the *Project 19* commissions by **Joan La Barbara**, titled *Ears of an Eagle; Eyes of a Hawk: In the Vortex*; **Nicole Lizée**; and **Paola Prestini**, titled *Thrush Song* (on Rachel Carson before *Silent Spring*), at “Leading Voices,” the season’s second **Sound ON** concert at The Appel Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center, February 10, 2020. “Leading Voices” has multiple meanings: all of the works on the program feature vocalists or electronic vocal elements, and three of the works are premieres by women, whose compositional voices have historically been marginalized. The GROW @ Annenberg *Sound ON* series — three evening chamber concerts at The Appel Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center — presents contemporary chamber repertoire performed by Philharmonic musicians. Host and curator Nadia Sirota — The Marie-Josée Kravis Creative Partner — leads conversations with the musicians.

Tania León will curate a **Nightcap** concert exploring her Latin and jazz influences at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse on February 15, 2020. The Kravis *Nightcap* series presents seven late-night, cabaret-style concerts curated by contemporary composers who engage in conversation about the music with host Nadia Sirota.

The New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s MetLiveArts performance series, and The Juilliard School will co-present a new, site-specific staging of Virgil Thomson’s ***The Mother of Us All*** — an opera on the life of Susan B. Anthony with a libretto by Gertrude Stein — in The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s American Wing Courtyard, February 8, 11–12, and 14, 2020. Conducted by Daniela Candillari and directed by Louisa Proske, the production will feature soprano Felicia Moore as Susan B. Anthony, musicians from the Philharmonic, and vocalists from Juilliard’s Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts.

The **New York Philharmonic Archives** will present *The Case of the New York Philharmonic’s First Woman: Steffy Goldner’s Untold Story*, a multimedia installation by artist Nives Widauer examining the challenges women faced during the universal suffrage movement, focusing on the first woman to become a member of the Philharmonic, harpist Stephanie “Steffy” Goldner (1896–1962), among other pioneering women of the Philharmonic. Still and moving images of letters, recordings, home movies, and family memorabilia will be projected onto the inside of the harp case she used for touring. The installation will be on display at David Geffen Hall, February 5–22, 2020.

PARTNERS

The New York Philharmonic will partner with the Academy of American Poets, Catalyst, The Juilliard School, Kaufman Music Center’s Special Music School High School (M. 859), League of Women Voters of the City of New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s MetLiveArts performance series, and New-York Historical Society to extend the reach of *Project 19* and further conversations about representation in classical music and beyond. Activities include:

- The Academy of American Poets, the nation’s leading champion of poets and poetry, and the Philharmonic will co-commission 19 new works by award-winning women poets, including

Pulitzer Prize nominee Evie Shockley, MacArthur “Genius Grant” winner Natalie Diaz, former US Poet Laureate Rita Dove, and New York’s State Poet Alicia Ostriker.

- The League of Women Voters of the City of New York will host voter registration and provide information on civic engagement at *Project 19* performances.
- Students at Kaufman Music Center’s Special Music School High School (M. 859) are studying the music of all 19 composers as well as the historical context of the 19th Amendment and its impact on music history. Many of the composers will work directly with the students in this public school.
- The Philharmonic will co-present a site-specific production of Virgil Thomson’s *The Mother of Us All* with The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s MetLiveArts performance series and The Juilliard School.
- New York Philharmonic President & CEO Deborah Borda and Lorraine Hariton, President & CEO of Catalyst — a global nonprofit aiming to build workplaces that work for women — will lead a free webinar on January 15, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

MAY–JUNE 2020 PREMIERES AND EVENTS

The New York Philharmonic will give the World Premieres of the *Project 19* commissions by Olga Neuwirth and Sarah Kirkland Snider as part of *hotspots* festival, which spotlights Berlin, Reykjavík, and New York as global hotspots of classical music innovation. *hotspots* will open with the World Premiere of the *Project 19* commission by Berlin-based composer **Olga Neuwirth**, May 28 and 30 and June 2, 2020, conducted by John Adams and featuring countertenor Andrew Watts in his Philharmonic debut and the Brooklyn Youth Chorus directed by Dianne Berkun Menaker. *hotspots* will close with the World Premiere of the *Project 19* commission by New York–based composer **Sarah Kirkland Snider**, conducted by Jaap van Zweden, June 11–13, 2020.

Olga Neuwirth will curate a *Nightcap* concert on May 30, 2020, and Sarah Kirkland Snider will curate a *Nightcap* concert on June 13, 2020, both at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse.

The season’s final **Young People’s Concert**, *The Woman’s Voice*, on May 30, 2020, will feature music by women who spotlight women’s rights and by women who helped pave the way, conducted by Mei-Ann Chen in her Philharmonic debut. More information will be announced.

FUTURE SEASONS

The *Project 19* commissions by Unsuk Chin, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Caroline Mallonee, Jessie Montgomery, Angélica Negrón, Maria Schneider, Caroline Shaw, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Joan Tower, Melinda Wagner, and Du Yun will be premiered in future seasons.

More information on *Project 19* available at nyphil.org/project19.

Biographies

Composers: [Unsuk Chin](#), [Mary Kouyoumdjian](#), [Joan La Barbara](#), [Tania León](#), [Nicole Lizée](#), [Caroline Mallonee](#), [Jessie Montgomery](#), [Angélica Negrón](#), [Olga Neuwirth](#), [Paola Prestini](#), [Ellen Reid](#), [Maria Schneider](#), [Caroline Shaw](#), [Sarah Kirkland Snider](#), [Anna Thorvaldsdottir](#), [Joan Tower](#), [Melinda Wagner](#), [Nina C. Young](#), [Du Yun](#)

Artists: [Jaap van Zweden](#), [John Adams](#), [New York Philharmonic](#), [Andrew Watts](#), [Brooklyn Youth Chorus](#)
The Mother of Us All: [Daniela Candillari](#), [Louisa Proske](#), [Felicia Moore](#)

Sound ON and *Nightcap*: [Nadia Sirota](#), [Tania León](#)
Young People's Concert: [Mei-Ann Chen](#)

Tickets

Single tickets start at \$34. A limited number of \$18 tickets may be available to **students** within 10 days of the performance at [nyphil.org/rush](#), or in person the day of (valid identification required). Tickets for **Open Rehearsals** are \$22. The New York Philharmonic is offering an allotment of free tickets to young people ages 13–26 for the concerts on February 14, February 21, and June 12 as part of **Philharmonic Free Fridays** ([nyphil.org/freefridays](#)). Single tickets to *Sound ON* start at \$45. Single tickets to *The Mother of Us All* start at \$115. Single tickets to *Nightcap* start at \$25. Single tickets to **Young People's Concerts** start at \$16; all tickets include admission to YPC Overtures. (Ticket prices subject to change.)

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 **David Geffen 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.

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

Event Listing

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: WORLD PREMIERE BY NINA C. YOUNG

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Carter Brey, cello
Miah Persson, soprano
Amanda Majeski*, soprano
Nicholas Phan, tenor
Andrew Foster-Williams, bass-baritone
Concert Chorale of New York
James Bagwell, director

Nina C. YOUNG

*Tread softly*¹⁹ (World Premiere—New York Philharmonic
Commission)

HAYDN

Cello Concerto in C major

MOZART

Mass in C minor, *Great*

* *New York Philharmonic debut*

¹⁹ *Project 19* commission

VIRGIL THOMSON'S *THE MOTHER OF US ALL*

**A Co-Presentation of the New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Museum of Art's
MetLiveArts, and The Juilliard School**

The Charles Engelhard Court, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Daniela Candillari, conductor

Felicia Moore, soprano (Susan B. Anthony)

Louisa Proske, director

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Vocalists from The Juilliard School's Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts

THOMSON

The Mother of Us All

GRoW @ ANNENBERG SOUND ON SERIES: "LEADING VOICES"

The Appel Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center

Broadway at 60th Street

Monday, February 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Nadia Sirota, host / curator

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Nicole LIZÉE

*Tears / Pillow*¹⁹ (World Premiere—New York
Philharmonic Commission)

George CRUMB

Night of the Four Moons

Joan LA BARBARA

*Ears of an Eagle; Eyes of a Hawk: In the Vortex*¹⁹
(World Premiere—New York
Philharmonic Commission)

Paola PRESTINI

Thrush Song (on Rachel Carson before *Silent Spring*)¹⁹
(World Premiere—New York
Philharmonic Commission)

BERIO

Folk Songs

¹⁹ *Project 19* commission

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: WORLD PREMIERE BY TANIA LEÓN

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Janine Jansen, violin

BRAHMS
Tania LEÓN

Violin Concerto
*Stride*¹⁹ (World Premiere—New York Philharmonic
Commission)

R. STRAUSS

Der Rosenkavalier Suite

KRAVIS NIGHTCAP SERIES CURATED BY TANIA LEÓN

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse
165 West 65th Street, 10th Floor

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:30 p.m.

Tania León, curator

Nadia Sirota, host

Composer Tania León will curate a program exploring her Latin and jazz influences following a performance of *Stride*, commissioned by the Philharmonic and receiving its World Premiere that week as part of *Project 19*.

¹⁹ *Project 19* commission

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: WORLD PREMIERE BY ELLEN REID

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 21, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Renée Fleming, soprano

Eliza Bagg**, Martha Cluver*, Estelí Gomez, soprano (Reid)

Ellen REID

*When the World as You've Known It Doesn't Exist*¹⁹
(World Premiere–New York
Philharmonic Commission)

Anders HILLBORG

Dark Harbor XXXV and *Dark Harbor XI*, from
The Strand Settings

BJÖRK / Orch. H. Ek

Virus and *All Is Full of Love*

BRUCKNER

Symphony No. 4

JOHN ADAMS CONDUCTS WORLD PREMIERE BY OLGA NEUWIRTH

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, May 28, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

John Adams, conductor

Andrew Watts*, countertenor

Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Dianne Berkun Menaker, director

Timothy McAllister*, saxophone

PROKOFIEV

The Love for Three Oranges Suite

Olga NEUWIRTH

New work¹⁹ (World Premiere–New York
Philharmonic Commission)

John ADAMS

City Noir

** New York Philharmonic subscription debut

* New York Philharmonic debut

¹⁹ *Project 19* commission

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Mei-Ann Chen*, conductor

Host tba

The Woman's Voice

Program tba

KRAVIS NIGHTCAP SERIES CURATED BY OLGA NEUWIRTH

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse

165 West 65th Street, 10th Floor

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 10:30 p.m.

Olga Neuwirth, curator

Nadia Sirota, host

Composer Olga Neuwirth will curate a program following a performance of her new work, commissioned by the Philharmonic and receiving its World Premiere that week as part of *Project 19*.

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: WORLD PREMIERE BY SARAH KIRKLAND SNIDER

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Friday, June 12, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Yuja Wang, piano

Christopher Martin, trumpet

Concert Chorale of New York

James Bagwell, director

Sarah Kirkland SNIDER

*Forward Into Light*¹⁹ (World Premiere—New York
Philharmonic Commission)

SHOSTAKOVICH

Concerto No. 1 for Piano, Trumpet, and Strings

John ADAMS

Harmonium

* *New York Philharmonic debut*

¹⁹ *Project 19* commission

KRAVIS NIGHTCAP SERIES CURATED BY SARAH KIRKLAND SNIDER

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse
165 West 65th Street, 10th Floor

Saturday, June 13, 2020, 10:30 p.m.

Sarah Kirkland Snider, curator
Nadia Sirota, host

Composer Sarah Kirkland Snider will curate a program following a performance of her new work, commissioned by the Philharmonic and receiving its World Premiere that week as part of *Project 19*.

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Lead support for *Project 19* is provided by the **Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust** and **Dr. Agnes Hsu-Tang and Mr. Oscar L. Tang**.

Generous support is also provided by **The Hauser Foundation; Margaret Morgan and Wesley Phoa; Kimberly V. Strauss, The Strauss Foundation;** the **Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation;** and an **anonymous donor**.

Project 19 and *hotspots* are supported in part by a generous grant from the **American Orchestras' Futures Fund**, a program of the League of American Orchestras made possible by funding from the **Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation**.

hotspots is made possible by generous support from **The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation**.

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Nadia Sirota is **The Marie-Josée Kravis Creative Partner**.

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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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The Donna and Marvin Schwartz Virtuoso Piano Performance Series has provided major support for Yuja Wang's appearances during the New York Philharmonic's 2019–20 season.

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Major support for Philharmonic Free Fridays is provided by an **Anonymous Donor**. Additional funding is provided by **Muna and Basem Hishmeh**.

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Programs are made possible, in part, by the **New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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