FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2023

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES 2023–24 SEASON

MUSIC DIRECTOR JAAP VAN ZWEDEN’S FAREWELL SEASON
• Spotlighting Composers He Has Championed, Including World Premieres of
  Commissions by Steve Reich and Joel Thompson
• Final Three Subscription Weeks To Feature Mozart Requiem;
  Works by Sofia Gubaidulina, Brahms, and Shostakovich;
  Plus Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*
• Six NY Phil Musicians To Appear as Soloists

ÉMIGRÉ
• US Premiere of Aaron Zigman & Mark Campbell’s *Émigré,*
  Co-Commissioned with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, An Oratorio
  Exploring Shanghai’s Role as a Haven for World War II–Era Jews
• Semi-Staged Production, Conducted by Long Yu; Directed by Mary Birnbaum

Focus on Ligeti To Mark His Centennial
• Performances of Four of His Works, Including the
  US Premiere of *Mifiso la sodo*
• Études Complemented by Works from Cultures That Inspired Them, Performed by
  Pierre-Laurent Aimard on *Artist Spotlight*

The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence HILARY HAHN
Two Orchestral Programs; *Artist Spotlight* Recital

14 WORLD, US, AND NEW YORK PREMIERES
• *Project 19* Commissions by Olga Neuwirth, Mary Kouyoumdjian, and
  Melinda Wagner
• New Works by a Wide Range of Composers, Including Kinan Azmeh and Layale
  Chaker, Katherine Balch, Bryce Dessner, Elena Firsova, Anders Hillborg, Jerod
  Impichchaachaaha' Tate, and Tan Dun
• US Premiere of a Collective Work, Conceived by and featuring Joshua Bell,
  Composed by Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Edgar Meyer, Jessie Montgomery,
  and Kevin Puts
The New York Philharmonic announces its 2023–24 season, the farewell season of Jaap van Zweden’s tenure as the Orchestra’s Music Director. Over the course of the season van Zweden leads works by composers he has championed at the NY Phil, and celebrates his relationship with the Orchestra’s musicians by collaborating with six Principal players as soloists.

Jaap van Zweden said: “As this is my final season as Music Director, I actually am not thinking of it as a farewell, but rather as a new chapter. This 2023–24 season reflects my love and respect for the musicians of the New York Philharmonic as we unite to bring you our collective best, including occasions on which our musicians will be highlighted. It’s an honor to be Music Director of this great institution, and I look forward to this season and beyond.”

In the 2023–24 season — the second season in the new David Geffen Hall — the NY Phil uses its platform to explore history and to serve as a catalyst for today’s composers. The US Premiere of Aaron Zigman & Mark Campbell’s Émigré — a semi-staged production of an oratorio co-commissioned by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic— offers the opportunity to examine Shanghai’s welcoming of Holocaust-era Jews. The Orchestra presents several works by the late György Ligeti on the occasion of his centennial and collaborates with Hilary Hahn, who, as The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence, appears in contexts that reflect the variety of her musical interests. The NY Phil performs 14 World, US, and New York Premieres, including works commissioned through Project 19, the multiyear initiative commissioning works by 19 women composers to mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment.

The NY Phil also reprises its performance on the soundtrack to the 2021 version of West Side Story as the film is screened. The Orchestra’s legacy of inspiring generations of music lovers is marked by a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the New York Philharmonic Young People’s Concerts.

Deborah Borda, Linda and Mitch Hart President and CEO, said: “Jaap van Zweden’s farewell season as Music Director invites us to reflect on his tenure, with landmarks including World Premieres of works by Julia Wolfe, David Lang, Tania León, and Ash Fure. We are grateful for his championing of the reimagined David Geffen Hall, and the remarkable concerts that he and the NY Phil gave to inaugurate our new home.”

Gary Ginstling, Executive Director, said: “The experience of attending a New York Philharmonic performance at David Geffen Hall has been completely transformed, from the Karen and Richard LeFrak Lobby to the intimate atmosphere and vibrant acoustics of the Wu

**First New York Live-to-Film Presentation of West Side Story (2021)**
- NY Phil Recreates Its Performance on the Soundtrack
- *The Art of the Score* Also Features *Black Panther* and *Vertigo*

**100TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS**
Focus on Bernstein’s Legacy, Performance by Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Reminiscence by André Watts, and World Premieres
Tsai Theater. Our 2023–24 season celebrates Jaap van Zweden and presents the Orchestra in repertoire ranging from fresh new works by a diverse group of composers to beloved cornerstones of the repertoire. It is an honor to be joining the Philharmonic as we explore the possibilities of our extraordinary new home and how we can share the experience with as many people as possible.”

MUSIC DIRECTOR JAAP VAN ZWEDEN’S FAREWELL

In the 2023–24 season — beginning with the Opening Gala, featuring Yo-Yo Ma, September 27 — the New York Philharmonic celebrates Jaap van Zweden as he concludes his tenure as the Orchestra’s Music Director.

In September 2018 van Zweden became the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. Highlights of his tenure have included presiding over the Orchestra’s return to the new David Geffen Hall; the launch of Project 19, the multiyear initiative marking the centennial of the 19th Amendment with commissions by 19 women composers, including Tania León’s Pulitzer Prize–winning Stride; and the World Premieres of Julia Wolfe’s Fire in my mouth (2019) and David Lang’s prisoner of the state (2020), both later released by Decca Gold. He helped navigate the NY Phil through challenging times, conducting concerts away from home during the accelerated renovation of David Geffen Hall. In 2022 the New York Philharmonic became the first American orchestra to perform in Europe since the onset of the pandemic when van Zweden led its first-ever residency at the Usedom Music Festival in Germany.

In 2023–24, Jaap van Zweden conducts works by composers he has championed over the course of his tenure.

He unveils new works by composers he and the NY Phil have commissioned previously:

- The World Premiere of Steve Reich’s Jacob’s Ladder, October 5–7, a New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with Radio France Paris, O/Modernt, BBC Proms, Casa da Música Porto, and Istanbul International Festival; this follows the New York Premiere of Reich’s Music for Ensemble and Orchestra, also co-commissioned by the NY Phil, which van Zweden led in December 2019.

- The World Premiere of a new work by Joel Thompson, March 21 and 23–24, a New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with the American Composers Forum, Aspen Music Festival, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; this follows the World Premiere of Thompson’s The Places We Leave, commissioned by the NY Phil, which van Zweden conducted in January 2022.
Van Zweden also leads the Orchestra in works by composers of the past whom he has championed at the NY Phil, including:

- **Copland’s Symphony No. 3, September 29–October 1**
- The Prelude to Act I of Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and Brahms’s *Symphony No. 4, January 4–7*; he reprises the Brahms at the Free Memorial Day Concert at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, May 27
- **Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5, March 13, 14, 16, and 19**
- **Mozart’s Requiem (in the Süssmayr completion), May 23–25 and 28, featuring soloists including mezzo-soprano Cecelia Hall (NY Phil subscription debut), tenor Nicholas Phan, and bass-baritone Michael Sumuel (NY Phil debut); the chorus will be announced at a later date.**
- **Shostakovich’s Concerto No. 1 for Piano, Trumpet, and Strings, May 30–31 and June 1, with pianist Igor Levit and New York Philharmonic Principal Trumpet Christopher Martin**
- **Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, Resurrection, June 6–8, with soprano Hanna-Elisabeth Müller and mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova (each making her NY Phil debut), and the New York Philharmonic Chorus, directed by Malcolm J. Merriweather**

The Music Director celebrates his partnership with the members of the New York Philharmonic, leading concertos in which six Principal players appear as soloists:

- Principal Trombone Joseph Alessi, in the New York Premiere of Tan Dun’s Trombone Concerto: *Three Muses in Video Game, March 21 and 23–24*
- Principal Associate Concertmaster Sheryl Staples and Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps, in Mozart’s Sinfonia concertante for Violin and Viola; Principal Trumpet Christopher Martin, who joins pianist Igor Levit in Shostakovich’s Concerto No. 1 for Piano, Trumpet, and Strings; and Concertmaster Frank Huang and Principal Cello Carter Brey, in Brahms’s Double Concerto for Violin and Cello, May 30–31 and June 1

**ÉMIGRÉ**

The New York Philharmonic explores an often-overlooked chapter in world history through the US Premiere of Aaron Zigman’s oratorio *Émigré*, with an original libretto by Mark Campbell and additional lyrics by Brock Walsh, which receives its US Premiere, February 29 and March 1.

During the early years of the Second World War, many European Jews fleeing the Nazis but denied entry into many countries found refuge in Shanghai, which was then under Japanese occupation, with 20,000 settling there by 1941. By 1943 Japan, under pressure from its German
allies, forced the population into a one-square-mile ghetto that came to be known as “Little Vienna.”

Émigré was co-commissioned by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Long Yu conducts, and Mary Birnbaum (the newly appointed artistic and general director of Opera Saratoga and a faculty member of The Juilliard School) directs the semi-staged production of the oratorio about two Jewish brothers who leave Berlin for Shanghai — one of whom falls in love with a Chinese woman whose family has been affected by the Nanjing Massacre — and try to find meaning and purpose amid the horrors of war. The production features an international cast of vocalists, including sopranos Meigui Zhang and Diana Newman (both NY Phil debuts), mezzo-soprano Huiling Zhu (NY Phil debut), tenors Ben Bliss and Arnold Livingston Geis (NY Phil debut), and bass-baritones Shenyang and Andrew Dwan (NY Phil debut), as well as the New York Philharmonic Chorus, directed by Malcolm J. Merriweather.

The co-commission builds on the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and Partnership, a joint endeavor of the New York Philharmonic and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra that began in 2014. The collaboration has already led to NY Phil summer performance residencies, 2015–19, and the establishment of the Shanghai Orchestra Academy, which provides graduate training to orchestral musicians. A group of Philharmonic musicians joins the Shanghai Symphony in the World Premiere of Zigman’s Émigré in Shanghai in November 2023, and a group of musicians from the Shanghai Symphony performs with the Orchestra in New York. In July 2024 the New York Philharmonic will return to Shanghai for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conjunction with the performances, the New York Philharmonic Archives presents Emigration and Music at the Philharmonic, an exhibit in David Geffen Hall in winter–spring 2024.

Focus on Ligeti To Mark His Centennial

The New York Philharmonic marks the centennial of the Hungarian-Austrian composer György Ligeti by performing four of his works.

- The US Premiere of Ligeti’s Mifiso la sodo, which David Robertson conducts on a program that also includes the composer’s Concert Românesc, inspired, in part, by Ligeti’s experience transcribing wax cylinders of Romanian folk songs while at the Folklore Institute in Bucharest, October 19–21

- Ligeti’s Piano Concerto, conducted by Susanna Mälkki, with Pierre-Laurent Aimard as soloist, November 2–4

- Ligeti’s Atmosphères, conducted by Dima Slobodenioiu, November 22, 24, and 25

Complementing the Orchestra’s performances is an Artist Spotlight presentation, November 7, that explores Ligeti’s multicultural approach to composition. Pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard
plays the complete Études alongside performances of works that reflect the various cultures and traditions that informed the cycle. The complete program will be announced at a later date.

Further, the New York Philharmonic Archives presents Ligeti and His World, an exhibit in David Geffen Hall in autumn 2023.

**The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence HILARY HAHN**

The acclaimed violinist and musical ambassador Hilary Hahn has been named The Mary and James G. Wallach Artist-in-Residence for the 2023–24 season. She performs varied repertoire in both orchestral programs and in recital.

Hahn appears as soloist in Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1, conducted by Jakub Hrůša, January 11–13, and in Ginastera’s Violin Concerto and Sarasate’s Carmen Fantasy, conducted by Juanjo Mena, April 25–27.

Hahn also takes center stage in an Artist Spotlight concert, March 2, performing three of J.S. Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin — Violin Sonatas Nos. 2 and 3 and Partita No. 3. The program builds on her Artist Spotlight appearance on March 7, 2023, where she performed Bach’s Sonata No. 1 and Partitas Nos. 1 and 2.

**14 WORLD, US, and NEW YORK PREMIERES**

Over the course of the 2023–24 season, the NY Phil gives five World Premieres, four US Premieres, and five New York Premieres.

Jaap van Zweden conducts:

- The World Premiere of Steve Reich’s Jacob’s Ladder, October 5–7, co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, Radio France Paris, O/Modernt, BBC Proms, Casa da Música Porto, and Istanbul International Festival
- The World Premiere of a work by Joel Thompson, March 21 and 23–24, co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, American Composers Forum, Aspen Music Festival, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- The US Premiere of The Elements, September 29–October 1, a collective work of movements by five composers — Jake Heggie (Fire), Jennifer Higdon (Air), Edgar Meyer (Water), Jessie Montgomery (Ether), and Kevin Puts (Earth) — a project conceived by and featuring Joshua Bell as soloist
- The New York Premiere of Tan Dun’s Trombone Concerto: Three Muses in Video Game, March 21 and 23–24, featuring Principal Trombone Joseph Alessi as soloist

The New York Philharmonic presents:

- The World Premieres of the orchestral version of Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate’s Pisachi, March 7–9, conducted by Elim Chan (NY Phil debut); the Sound On concert, conducted by Kwamé Ryan, May 10, includes the World Premieres of Melinda
Wagner’s Elegy Flywheel and a new work by Mary Kouyoumdjian, both New York Philharmonic Commissions as part of Project 19  

- The US Premieres of Ligeti’s Mifiso la sodo, October 19–21, conducted by David Robertson; Aaron Zigman’s Émigré, February 29–March 1, co-commissioned by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, featuring an original libretto by Mark Campbell and additional lyrics by Brock Walsh, conducted by Long Yu and directed by Mary Birnbaum; and Olga Neuwirth’s Keyframes for a Hippogriff — Musical Calligrams, April 18–20, a New York Philharmonic Commission as part of Project 19, conducted by Thomas Søndergård (NY Phil debut)  

- The New York Premieres of Elena Firsova’s Piano Concerto, October 19–21, conducted by David Robertson, with Yefim Bronfman as soloist; a new work composed by Kinan Azmeh and Layale Chaker, October 27, a NY Phil Co-Commission with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Brad Lubman (NY Phil debut) and featuring Azmeh on clarinet and Chaker on violin (NY Phil debut) as soloists; Bryce Dessner’s Concerto for Two Pianos, November 30–December 2, conducted by Semyon Bychkov and featuring pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque; Anders Hillborg’s new work, February 22–24, conducted by Eun Sun Kim (NY Phil debut) and featuring pianist Emanuel Ax as soloist; and Katherine Balch’s new work, April 12–14, co-commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Manfred Honeck  

First New York Live-to-Film Presentation of West Side Story (2021)  

As part of The Art of the Score — the New York Philharmonic’s series of live-to-film performances as films are screened — the Orchestra gives the first such presentation in New York of the 2021 film version of West Side Story, September 12–14 and 17. David Newman conducts the Orchestra in Bernstein’s iconic music, the first time the NY Phil has played it since the film’s recording sessions.  

The two other 2023–24 presentations in The Art of the Score — both New York Premieres — are Black Panther, with Anthony Parnther (NY Phil debut) conducting Ludwig Göransson’s music, December 20–23, and Vertigo, with a score by Herrmann, conducted by Norman Huynh (NY Phil debut), January 23–26.  

100th Anniversary of Young People’s Concerts  

In the 2023–24 season the New York Philharmonic celebrates the 100th anniversary of its Young People’s Concerts (YPCs). Since 1924 the series has offered family-friendly programming — often featuring NY Phil musicians and guest artists — to generations of music lovers. Crafted for children ages 6–12 and their families, YPCs have long been part of the fabric of the Orchestra.  

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 27, 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. 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, many of whom have no formal musical training, to express themselves by creating and even orchestrating their own original works.

To mark the centennial, the season’s first YPC is *Time Capsule*, November 18, which explores past programs, and includes a focus on Bernstein and reminiscences by pianist André Watts, who at age 16 made his NY Phil debut on a nationally televised YPC. The other concerts are *Fantasy and Imagination*, January 20, which examines how music can reinvigorate the imagination; *Composing Inclusion*, which presents premieres of works created for professional and youth orchestras, newly commissioned in partnership with Juilliard Preparatory Division and American Composers Forum, April 20; and *Celebration*, May 4, which marks the centennial with a concert conducted by Kwamé Ryan (NY Phil debut) and featuring cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason as soloist.

To further mark the centennial, the New York Philharmonic presents NY Phil Young People’s Concerts @ 100: Inspiring Generations of Music Lovers, an archival exhibit in David Geffen Hall in autumn 2023.

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC DEBUTS**


Theater and opera director Mary Birnbaum also makes her New York Philharmonic debut.
RETURNING FRIENDS

In the 2023–24 season the NY Phil welcomes back many of the leading artists of our time.


Soloists returning to the Philharmonic include pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard, pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, pianist Emanuel Ax, clarinetist Kinan Azmeh, violinist Joshua Bell, tenor Ben Bliss, pianist Yefim Bronfman, pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, soprano Amanda Forsythe, violinist Hilary Hahn, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, tenor Nicholas Phan, pianist Beatrice Rana, soprano Golda Schultz, bass-baritone Shenyang, violinist Baiba Skride, violinist Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, and pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Philharmonic players making solo appearances include Principal Trombone Joseph Alessi, Principal Cello Carter Brey, Associate Principal Percussion Daniel Druckman, Concertmaster Frank Huang, pianist Eric Huebner, Principal Trumpet Christopher Martin, Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps, Principal Associate Concertmaster Sheryl Staples, organist Kent Tritle, and Principal Oboe Liang Wang.

SERVING COMMUNITIES

The New York Philharmonic has long sought ways to serve New York City’s communities by offering free performances, such as the New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer (which return in June 2024), and the Free Memorial Day Concert at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Presented by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, conducted by Jaap van Zweden (May 25).

Because of its determination to connect more deeply with communities across New York City the NY Phil offers Phil for All: Ticket Access Program, which provides $10.00 tickets to 2023–24 NY Phil subscription concerts to qualified applicants. This engagement effort is made possible through the lead support of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

ADDITIONAL CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

- The New York Philharmonic presents three Gala events: the Opening Gala, September 27, conducted by Jaap van Zweden and featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma in Dvořák’s Cello Concerto; the annual Lunar New Year Gala, February 20; and the Spring Gala, May 15.
• Two Philharmonic holiday traditions return. Fabio Biondi, in his NY Phil debut, conducts Handel’s *Messiah, Presented by Gary W. Parr*, featuring soprano Hera Hyesang Park in her NY Phil subscription debut; alto Hannah Ludwig, tenor John Matthew Myers, and baritone Joshua Conyers in their NY Phil debuts; and the Handel and Haydn Society Chorus, with artistic director Jonathan Cohen, December 12–14 and 16. *Holiday Brass* takes place on December 16–17.

• The New York Philharmonic returns to The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater, with Jaap van Zweden conducting, September 22–24.

• In the summer Jaap van Zweden conducts the Orchestra at the Music in the Summer Air Festival as part of the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and Partnership, July 2024, and in the Orchestra’s 20th residency at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, July 2024.

For the complete chronological listing of concerts — including performance dates, times, and venues; artists; and repertoire — visit nyphil.org/2324chron.

For the full listing of the 2023–24 season’s conductors, soloists, premieres, and more, visit nyphil.org/2324glance.

For the full listing of the 2023–24 season’s education programs, chamber music performances, ticket information, and more, visit nyphil.org/2324addendum.

ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE

* * *

Programs for Families at the New York Philharmonic are presented by Daria and Eric Wallach.

* * *

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

* * *

Starr International Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of the Lunar New Year Gala and the Shanghai Orchestra Academy and Partnership.

* * *

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

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

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

* * *
Lead support for the Phil for All: Ticket Access Program is provided by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, with major support provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

***

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

***

Contacts

Adam Crane, Vice President, External Affairs
(347) 654-1787; cranea@nyphil.org

Dinah Lu, Director, Public Relations
(347) 289-5180; lud@nyphil.org

Caroline Heaney, Publicist
(301) 318-1926; heaneyc@nyphil.org

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.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and What’s New.

###