

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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

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

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

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 Slobodeniouk, 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 Impichchachaaha’ 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 Parnter (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

The conductors making their New York Philharmonic debuts are **Fabio Biondi**, **Karina Canellakis**, **Elim Chan**, **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla**, **Norman Huynh**, **Eun Sun Kim**, **Brad Lubman**, **Andrés Orozco-Estrada**, **Anthony Parnter**, **Kwamé Ryan**, and **Thomas Søndergård**. **Jeannette Sorrell** makes her New York Philharmonic subscription debut.

Soloists making their Philharmonic debuts are violinist **Alena Baeva**, countertenor **Cody Bowers**, violinist **Layale Chaker**, baritone **Joshua Conyers**, bass-baritone **Andrew Dwan**, cellist **Sol Gabetta**, tenor **Arnold Livingston Geis**, mezzo-soprano **Ekaterina Gubanova**, soprano **Sonya Headlam**, cimbalom player **Jenő Lisztes**, pianist **Bruce Liu**, alto **Hannah Ludwig**, soprano **Hanna-Elisabeth Müller**, tenor **John Matthew Myers**, soprano **Diana Newman**, pianist **Alice Sara Ott**, tenor **Jacob Perry**, pianist **Francesco Piemontesi**, soprano **Karen Slack**, bass-baritone **Michael Sumuel**, violist **Antoine Tamestit**, baritone **Edward Vogel**, countertenor **Andrew Watts**, soprano **Meigui Zhang**, and mezzo-soprano **Huilong Zhu**. Mezzo-soprano **J'Nai Bridges**, mezzo-soprano **Cecelia Hall**, pianist **Igor Levit**, soprano **Hera Hyesang Park**, and pianist **Conrad Tao** mark their New York Philharmonic subscription 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.

Returning conductors include **Semyon Bychkov, Stéphane Denève, Jane Glover, Manfred Honeck, Jakub Hrůša, Paavo Järvi, Susanna Mälkki, Juanjo Mena, David Newman, Gianandrea Noseda, David Robertson, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Dima Slobodeniouk, and Long Yu.**

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

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

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