

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 14, 2023

## **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC 2023–24 SEASON OPENING CONCERTS**

### **Jaap van Zweden’s Farewell Season Subscription Concerts Begin Plus Additional Premieres and Conducting Debuts**

In late September through October 2023, the New York Philharmonic presents six orchestral programs at the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall — five subscription programs and one *Sound On* presentation. Music Director Jaap van Zweden, in his farewell season, conducts the first two subscription programs, each featuring a premiere. The rest of October presents notable conducting debuts and premieres of works by composers from a variety of cultural traditions.

After leading the NY Phil’s Opening Gala, September 27, 2023, **Jaap van Zweden** conducts the Orchestra in the following two programs:

- The **US Premiere of *The Elements***, September 29–October 1, 2023. The piece, a collection of movements by five of today’s leading composers — Kevin Puts (*Earth*), Edgar Meyer (*Water*), Jake Heggie (*Fire*), Jennifer Higdon (*Air*), and Jessie Montgomery (*Space*) — was commissioned by violinist Joshua Bell, who performs as soloist. The program concludes with Copland’s Symphony No. 3.
- The **World Premiere of Steve Reich’s *Jacob’s Ladder***, October 5–7, 2023. The premiere — part of van Zweden’s season-long spotlighting of composers past and present whom he has championed at the Philharmonic — was co-commissioned by the NY Phil, and features the ensemble Synergy Vocals. The Reich is complemented by Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5, *Emperor*, featuring Leif Ove Andsnes as soloist, and Schubert’s Symphony in B minor, *Unfinished*.

Following those concerts, the New York Philharmonic presents four programs that each feature notable **debuts or premieres**:

- Lithuanian conductor **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla**, who previously served as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, makes her NY Phil debut, October 11–14, 2023, leading the Orchestra in Raminta Šerkšnytė’s *De profundis*, R. Schumann’s Piano Concerto — with Daniil Trifonov as soloist — and selections from Sibelius’s *Lemminkäinen Suite*.

- Yefim Bronfman returns as soloist for the **New York Premiere of Elena Firsova's Piano Concerto**, October 19–21, 2023, a work composed for him and which he premiered with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in June 2022. David Robertson conducts the program, which also begins the NY Phil's celebration of the centennial of **György Ligeti** with two of the composer's works: *Mifiso la sodo* (in its US Premiere) and *Concert Românesc*. The concerts conclude with Brahms's Serenade No. 1.
- **Jeannette Sorrell** marks her NY Phil subscription debut conducting her own version of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, October 25 and 26, 2023. The soloists are sopranos Amanda Forsythe and, in their NY Phil debuts, soprano Sonya Headlam, countertenor Cody Bowers, tenor Jacob Perry, and baritone Edward Vogel. The choir is Apollo's Singers (Chorus of Apollo's Fire), making their subscription debut with Sorrell, who serves as their artistic director.
- **Brad Lubman** makes his NY Phil debut in *Sound On*, October 27, 2023, conducting the **New York Premiere of Kinan Azmeh and Layale Chaker's Dawning for improvising musicians and orchestra**, an NY Phil co-commission in which Azmeh (clarinet) and Chaker (violin, NY Phil debut) also feature as soloists. The concerts also include *for your eyes only* by John Zorn, who is celebrating his 70th birthday this year, and *Gougalōn* by Unsuk Chin, winner of The Marie-Josée Kravis Prize for New Music.

### **Biographies**

[Leif Ove Andsnes](#), [Kinan Azmeh](#), [Joshua Bell](#), [Cody Bowers](#), [Yefim Bronfman](#), [Layale Chaker](#), [Amanda Forsythe](#), [Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla](#), [Sonya Headlam](#), [Brad Lubman](#), [Jacob Perry](#), [David Robertson](#), [Jeannette Sorrell](#), [Daniil Trifonov](#), [Jaap van Zweden](#), [Edward Vogel](#), [Apollo's Singers \(Chorus of Apollo's Fire\)](#), [Synergy Vocals](#), [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**

**JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: US PREMIERE OF *THE ELEMENTS* WITH JOSHUA BELL**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Friday, September 29, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Joshua Bell, violin

VARIOUS

*The Elements* (US Premiere—Commissioned by Joshua Bell)

Kevin PUTS

*Earth*

Edgar MEYER

*Water*

Jake HEGGIE

*Fire*

Jennifer HIGDON

*Air*

Jessie MONTGOMERY

*Space*

Kevin PUTS

*Earth* (reprise and finale)

COPLAND

Symphony No. 3

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**JAAP VAN ZWEDEN CONDUCTS: WORLD PREMIERE OF STEVE REICH'S *JACOB'S LADDER***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor

Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

Synergy Vocals, ensemble

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto No. 5, *Emperor*

Steve REICH

*Jacob's Ladder* (World Premiere—New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with BBC Radio 3, Fundação Casa da Música, Istanbul Music Festival and Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, Queen Silvia Concert Hall and O/Modernt, Radio France, and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra)

SCHUBERT

Symphony in B minor, *Unfinished*

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**MIRGA GRAŽINYTĖ-TYLA'S DEBUT, CONDUCTING  
SIBELIUS, RAMINTA ŠERKŠNYTĖ, AND R. SCHUMANN WITH DANIIL TRIFONOV**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 13, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla\*, conductor

Daniil Trifonov, piano

Raminta ŠERKŠNYTĖ

R. SCHUMANN

SIBELIUS

*De profundis*

Piano Concerto

Selections from *Lemminkäinen Suite*

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**DAVID ROBERTSON CONDUCTS LIGETI AND THE US PREMIERE OF  
ELENA FIRSOVA'S PIANO CONCERTO WITH YEFIM BRONFMAN**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 20, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

David Robertson, conductor

Yefim Bronfman, piano

LIGETI

LIGETI

Elena FIRSOVA

BRAHMS

*Mifiso la sodo* (US Premiere)

*Concert Românesc*

Piano Concerto (New York Premiere)

Serenade No. 1

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**JEANNETTE SORRELL LEADS HANDEL'S *ISRAEL IN EGYPT***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Jeannette Sorrell\*\*, conductor

Amanda Forsythe, soprano

Sonya Headlam\*, soprano

Cody Bowers\*, countertenor

Jacob Perry\*, tenor

Edward Vogel\*, baritone

Apollo's Singers (Chorus of Apollo's Fire)\*\*, choir

Jeannette Sorrell, artistic director

HANDEL

*Israel in Egypt*

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***SOUND ON: ZORN, AZMEH, CHAKER, AND CHIN***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Friday, October 27, 2023, 8:00 p.m.

Brad Lubman\*, conductor

Kinan Azmeh, clarinet

Layale Chaker\*, violin

John ZORN

Kinan AZMEH and Layale CHAKER

*for your eyes only*

*Dawning* for improvising musicians and orchestra (New York Premiere—New York Philharmonic Co-Commission with Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra)

Unsuk CHIN

*Gougalōn*

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*\*New York Philharmonic debut*

*\*\*New York Philharmonic subscription debut*

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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Generous support for Leif Ove Andsnes's, Daniil Trifonov's, and Yefim Bronfman's appearances is provided by **The Donna and Marvin Schwartz Virtuoso Piano Performance Series.**

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Generous support for Yefim Bronfman's appearances is provided by **Michael P. N. A. Hormel.**

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These performances of Steve Reich's *Jacob's Ladder* are made possible with generous support from the **Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts.**

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Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla's debut with the New York Philharmonic is made possible by the **Kurt Masur Fund for the Philharmonic**, an endowment fund created to honor the accomplishments of the Philharmonic's Music Director Emeritus, the late Kurt Masur.

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online press room, [nyphil.org/pressroom](https://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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