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: Mifisco 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 Gougalôn 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 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.
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

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

The Elements (US Premiere–Commissioned by Joshua Bell)

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

Steve REICH
    Piano Concerto No. 5, Emperor
    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
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

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
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

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 for your eyes only
Kinan AZMEH and Layale CHAKER 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

*New York Philharmonic debut
**New York Philharmonic subscription debut

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
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.

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

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

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, or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or pr@nyphil.org.

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