

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra: 2016–17 Season Concert Listing

Opening Weekend with Sarah Chang

Fri, Sep 23 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Sep 24 at 8 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Sep 25 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

TEDDY ABRAMS conductor

SARAH CHANG violin

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Start the season in style! NJSO favorite Sarah Chang brings her “characteristic athleticism and firepower” (*The Star-Ledger*) to a sparkling pair of showpieces.

BERNSTEIN *On the Town: Three Dance Episodes*

A brash yet irresistible love note to the composer’s adopted hometown of New York.

PIAZZOLLA *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*

Irreverently witty; a Latin American reply to the Vivaldi favorite.

RAVEL *Tzigane*

Rhapsodic and virtuosic; Ravel’s dazzling take on Gypsy fiddling.

COPLAND *Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes*

High-spirited fun! This score for a buckaroo ballet contains the most famous hoedown ever written.

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Grieg Piano Concerto with Stewart Goodyear

Thu, Oct 6 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Oct 7 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Oct 8 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Oct 9 at 3 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick

GEMMA NEW conductor

STEWART GOODYEAR piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Honor three fathers of nationalistic music. Pianist Stewart Goodyear, called “a phenomenon” by the *The Los Angeles Times*, teams up with NJSO favorite Gemma New.

LILBURN *Aotearoa Overture*

By turns serene and propulsive; title is the Maori name for New Zealand’s islands.

GRIEG Piano Concerto

Passionate, with folkish touches; made the composer’s reputation.

SIBELIUS Symphony No. 2

Dramatic and rousing; often connected to Finland's struggle for independence.

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Xian Zhang Debuts as Music Director

Thu, Oct 27 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Oct 28 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Oct 29 at 8 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Oct 30 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor

SIMON TRPČESKI piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Don't miss this! Xian Zhang arrives with a bouquet of Tchaikovsky scores, sure to showcase her "dynamic presence" (*The Cincinnati Enquirer*) and the Orchestra's artistry.

TCHAIKOVSKY Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*

Darker currents lie beneath the surface of this charming dance.

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

Russian and Ukrainian folk songs lend a dash of Slavic soul to this hugely popular concerto. Majestic, with flashes of triumphant energy.

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5

Regally tempestuous. Tchaikovsky considered it a failure, but history has judged it a masterpiece.

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Zhang Conducts Beethoven & Haydn

Thu, Nov 3 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Nov 5 at 7:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 6 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor

PEDJA MUZIJEVIC piano

ERIC WYRICK violin

JONATHAN SPITZ cello

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A captivating program of intriguing textures, from chamber music to full symphony! Beethoven's Triple Concerto showcases the talents of NJSO Concertmaster Eric Wyrick, Principal Cello Jonathan Spitz and pianist Pedja Muzijevic.

HAYDN Adagio from Piano Trio No. 40

In private, the composer and his musically inclined mistress played this tender piece together. Haydn included it in his Symphony No. 102 as a secret message of devotion.

BEETHOVEN Triple Concerto

A most distinctive concerto: piano trio and orchestra. Intimate interplay, grand statements.

HAYDN Symphony No. 102

One of his noblest creations. Filled with vitality, tenderness and wit.

STRAUSS Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Vibrant waltzes interspersed with the music of a lover's ardor make *Der Rosenkavalier* a listener's dream and a splendid showcase for the gifts of Xian Zhang.

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POPS: Michael Cavanaugh with the NJSO: Greatest Hits of Elton John & More

Sat, Nov 12 at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Nov 13 at 3 pm

State Theatre in New Brunswick

MICHAEL CAVANAUGH vocalist and keyboard

From classic Elton John hits "Tiny Dancer," "Bennie and the Jets" and "Rocket Man" to classic rock favorites like "Hotel California" and "American Pie," Broadway star Michael Cavanaugh entertains with a high-energy show that will have you singing along! *Maryland Theatre Guide* says, "For those of us that remember the classic versions of these songs, Cavanaugh has reinvented them into something that improves upon the originals."

The November 13 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

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FAMILY: Pirates on the High Seas

Sat, Nov 26 at 2 pm & 3:30 pm

Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark

JEFFREY GROGAN conductor

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ahoy, matey! Join the NJSO as we set sail on a swashbuckling, sea-faring odyssey, navigating uncharted waters from dawn 'til dusk. We'll keep our eyes peeled for sea monsters, brewing storms and pilfering pirates as we explore Hans Zimmer's *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Richard Rodgers' *Victory at Sea*, so come armed with a spirit of adventure—and maybe an eye patch!

NJSO Family Series presented by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

Pre-Concert Adventure – one hour before the concert

Come early for arts and crafts, an instrument petting zoo and other special activities in the lobby.

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Thanksgiving Feast with Mozart & Schumann

Sat, Nov 26 at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Nov 27 at 3 pm

State Theatre in New Brunswick

HANS GRAF conductor

INON BARNATAN piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A hearty helping of European charm awaits! The *Chicago Tribune* has called pianist Inon Barnatan "one of the rarest things nowadays, an intellectual virtuoso who is also a poet."

SMETANA *The Bartered Bride* Overture

From this great Czech composer, a comic opera overture laced with joyous bursts of energy.

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21

Imbued with characteristic elegance and grace; renowned for its gorgeous Adagio.

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 2

Fiery and triumphant, this symphony is ultimately a valentine to the composer's wife, Clara.

* * *

Handel's Messiah

Fri, Dec 16 at 7:30 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

Sun, Dec 18 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

GEORGE MANAHAN conductor

PATRICIA SCHUMAN soprano

MARY PHILLIPS mezzo-soprano

RYAN MACPHERSON tenor

DAVID PITTSINGER bass-baritone

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS Heather J. Buchanan, director

Members of the NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HANDEL *Messiah*

One of the most magnificent achievements in music, Handel's *Messiah* is an annual holiday season must-go for music lovers everywhere.

These performances are approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes in length, including intermission.

Presented in collaboration with McCarter Theatre (Dec 16) and New Jersey Performing Arts Center (Dec 18).

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POPS: Raiders of the Lost Ark with NJSO

Fri, Jan 6 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank

Sat, Jan 7 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Jan 8 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Indiana Jones is heading for New Jersey in January with his whip, his hat and a live orchestra! John Williams' epic score—performed live by the NJSO—enhances the on-screen action as Indy (Harrison Ford) goes on a quest to recover the legendary Ark of the Covenant and save the world in this timeless classic from Steven Spielberg.

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Performance on Jan 8 presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

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Winter Festival: Pinchas Zukerman—Performer. Mentor. Legend.

This year's Winter Festival focuses on the pure and glorious musicianship of the legendary Pinchas Zukerman. Serving as the Festival's Artistic Director, Zukerman solos in some of the repertoire's most prized works and also conducts the Orchestra. Offstage, his devotion to mentoring young musicians is personified by an innovative residency with the NJSO's education and community engagement programs.

Winter Festival: Zukerman Plays Tchaikovsky

Fri, Jan 13 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Jan 14 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Jan 15 at 3 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN conductor and violin soloist
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This year's Winter Festival stars multiple Grammy-winning maestro/violinist Pinchas Zukerman. He captivates with both bow and baton in this richly melodic program.

TCHAIKOVSKY "Melodie" from *Souvenir d'un Lieu Cher*

Lyrical and sentimental, recalling the beauty of the "cherished place" where Tchaikovsky wrote it.

TCHAIKOVSKY *Sérénade Mélancolique*

Tchaikovsky places a soulfully yearning violin tune in a burnished orchestral frame.

TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings

A lively homage to Mozart, yet unmistakably Russian.

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

Despite its great popularity, Mendelssohn couldn't resist tinkering with this exuberant piece—he revised it twice.

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Winter Festival: Zukerman & Beethoven's Violin Concerto

Fri, Jan 20 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Jan 21 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 22 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

CHRISTIAN VÁSQUEZ conductor

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN violin

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Few can surpass Pinchas Zukerman in Beethoven's sole violin concerto: he imbues every phrase with singing tone and heartfelt expression.

BARBER *The School for Scandal* Overture

Kinetic and youthful; Barber's first piece for orchestra draws its tart flavor from Richard Brinsley Sheridan's satirical play.

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

Only performed once during Beethoven's lifetime, his Violin Concerto spins effortless melody.

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3, "Organ"

Though the organ only appears in two movements, its magnificent sound shakes the rafters in this tribute to Liszt.

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Winter Festival: Zukerman Performs Bach

Thu, Jan 26 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Jan 28 at 8 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Jan 29 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN conductor and violin soloist
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A thread of bold innovation runs through these remarkable works, bridging three musical eras. Pinchas Zukerman is the soloist in Bach's brilliant concerto.

BACH Violin Concerto No. 2

Touched with divine inspiration. Like many composers of the time, Bach loved to "recycle" and used much of this music in his Harpsichord Concerto in D Major.

SCHOENBERG *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*)

Brooding and wildly expressive, Schoenberg's late Romantic masterpiece recalls Wagnerian drama through its gorgeous melodies.

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

This powerful work was initially dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte. Upon learning that Napoleon had crowned himself Emperor, Beethoven angrily tore off the title page and rededicated it to "the memory of a great man."

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POPS: Dancing & Romancing

Fri, Feb 10 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Feb 11 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Feb 12 at 3 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick

GEMMA NEW conductor
JOAN HESS vocalist and dancer
KIRBY WARD vocalist and dancer
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The timeless elegance and romance of the golden age of Hollywood musicals will sweep you off your feet with song and dance standards inspired by Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly and "the queen of tap dancing" herself, Eleanor Powell. You'll be dancing cheek to cheek by the time the concert is over!

Performance on Feb 12 presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

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FAMILY: Peter & the Wolf

Sat, Feb 11 at 2 pm & 3:30 pm	Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark
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GEMMA NEW conductor
Musicians of the NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Introduce your family to all the characters of Prokofiev's classic tale! The duck, bird, cat, wolf, hunters, Peter and his Grandfather are each represented by a specific theme and instrument, making this a wonderful introduction to the instruments of the orchestra, as well as a charming story.

NJSO Family Series presented by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

Pre-Concert Adventure – one hour before the concert

Come early for arts and crafts, an instrument petting zoo and other special activities in the lobby.

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Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto

Thu, Feb 23 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Fri, Feb 24 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Feb 25 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Feb 26 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor

KIRILL GERSTEIN piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Praised as “alarmingly gifted” by *Classical Review*, Kirill Gerstein scales the towering peak of the “Rach 2,” one of the most loved concertos in the repertoire.

VERDI *Nabucco* Overture

Verdi himself said that “*Nabucco* was born under a lucky star,” and his rousing overture remains as popular today as ever.

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2

Keyboard pyrotechnics and expressive melodies. Completed as Rachmaninoff overcame depression and writer’s block via hypnotherapy.

ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

At once jovial and sincere. Each variation is an homage to a family member or friend, but Elgar hinted at a secret “enigmatic” theme that links the variations.

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Zhang Conducts Beethoven's Seventh

Thu, Mar 23 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Mar 24 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Mar 25 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Mar 26 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor

LUKÁŠ VONDRÁČEK piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lukáš Vondráček, called “one of the greatest pianistic talents of our times” (*Stuttgarter Zeitung*), takes on Shostakovich’s intense, brilliant concerto. Prokofiev’s clever First and Beethoven’s stirring Seventh make sparkling companions.

PROKOFIEV Classical Symphony

This playful debut symphony looks back toward Haydn with affection—and more than a hint of irony.

SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto No. 1

Grippingly dramatic, and technically daunting for the soloist. Originally conceived as a double concerto with trumpet, which often acts as a sardonic foil to the piano.

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7

Profound and cascading; the second movement underscores the powerful and emotional apex of Oscar-winning film *The King's Speech*.

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Ravel's Boléro

Fri, Apr 7 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Apr 8 at 8 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Apr 9 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor
DEREK FENSTERMACHER tuba
YING LI and **ZITONG WANG** piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A pair of delightful and familiar works headline this light-hearted program that also shines the spotlight on NJSO Principal Tuba Derek Fenstermacher.

TAN DUN Internet Symphony No. 1, "Eroica"

Known for his score to *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, Tan Dun surprisingly quotes Beethoven's "Eroica" in this this engaging piece written for the first YouTube Orchestra.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Tuba Concerto

An affectionate ode to one of the orchestra's lowest-pitched instruments: the tuba. The first concerto for the instrument written by a major composer.

SAINT-SAËNS *Carnival of the Animals*

Witty and rollicking. Kids and adults alike will enjoy a romp through the animal kingdom with Saint-Saëns' classic for duo piano and orchestra.

RAVEL *Boléro*

With its poised, relentless pulse, this sensual work memorably formed the soundtrack to Dudley Moore's reveries in the movie *10*.

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POPS: Ella & Louis

Fri, Apr 21 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Apr 22 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 23 at 3 pm	State Theatre in New Brunswick

LEE MUSIKER conductor
BYRON STRIPLING trumpet
MARVA HICKS vocalist
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Byron Stripling and Marva Hicks' chemistry lights up the stage as they take you through the most famous duets and solos recorded by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. From "Love is Here to Stay" to "Just One of Those Things" and highlights from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, they recreate one of the most memorable collaborations in music history while capturing everyone's hearts along the way.

The April 23 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

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Dvořák's Cheerful Eighth Symphony

Thu, Apr 27 at 7:30 pm bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Apr 29 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 30 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

DAVID DANZMAYR conductor

STEFAN JACKIW violin

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A sense of place—that elusive quality comes through in all three pieces on this appealing program. Featuring violinist Stefan Jackiw, hailed by the *Boston Post* for playing that is “striking for its intelligence and sensitivity.”

PISTON *The Incredible Flutist*

Witty and charming, Piston's captivating ballet score tells the story of a colorful circus—complete with star flutist—arriving in a small village.

PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2

Graceful, lyrical and angular: Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto was written during a European tour, accounting for its multitude of national styles.

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Dvořák drew inspiration from the moods, songs and rhythms of country life for this proud ode to his native Bohemia.

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Schubert's "Great" Symphony

Thu, May 11 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Fri, May 12 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, May 13 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, May 14 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

XIAN ZHANG conductor

JENNIFER KOH violin

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violinist Jennifer Koh “combines a questing spirit with tonal refinement and a kind of fearless virtuosity” (*San Jose Mercury News*). She's sure to shine under the baton of Xian Zhang in Sibelius' lofty yet visceral concerto.

MOZART *Così fan tutte* Overture

Vivacious and sly, this overture completely embodies the opera's effervescent spirit.

SIBELIUS Violin Concerto

Glistening, ominous, symphonic. Koh's fiery technique serves her well in this concerto, which confounded violinists in Sibelius' day.

SCHUBERT Symphony No. 9, “Great”

Schubert conjured a robust heir to Beethoven's masterpiece with his splendid Ninth, written only a year after its predecessor.

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POPS: WARNER BROS. presents BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY

Conducted by George Daugherty

Created by George Daugherty and David Ka Lik Wong

Sat, June 3 at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sun, June 4 at 3 pm

State Theatre in New Brunswick

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Bugs Bunny is back and better than ever! Celebrate **Looney Tunes** and its legendary stars, including *Daffy Duck*, *Elmer Fudd*, *Sylvester*, *Wile E. Coyote*, *Road Runner* and, of course, our very favorite “*wascally wabbit*.” Enjoy classics including *Long-Haired Hare* (in its first East Coast concert appearance on the big screen), *What’s Opera, Doc?* and *Baton Bunny*, alongside new Warner Bros. 3D theatrical shorts *Coyote Falls* and *Rabid Rider*. Kids of all ages will enjoy hearing the extraordinary musical scores performed live and perfectly in-sync with all the on-screen action.

LOONEY TUNES and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s16)

The June 3 concert is generously sponsored by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. The June 4 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

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Season Finale with Zhang & Bronfman

Thu, June 8 at 1:30 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Fri, June 9 at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sat, June 10 at 8 pm

Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank

Sun, June 11 at 3 pm

NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor

YEFIM BRONFMAN piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Two stellar artists close the season: Xian Zhang joins forces with pianist Yefim Bronfman, described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “a marvel of digital dexterity, warmly romantic sentiment and jaw-dropping bravura.”

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2

Brilliant, unequaled. It was the last of his own piano compositions that Brahms would perform in public.

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 5

At the premiere of this spellbinding, transcendent work, the composer received an ovation lasting longer than half an hour.

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