

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJSO presents 2020 Winter Festival, ‘In the Spotlight’

Xian Zhang conducts three weeks of concerts featuring ballet and opera music

Week I: Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Clara Schumann’s Piano Concerto with Inon Barnatan

Week II: Scenes from Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro* featuring singers from Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Week III: NJSO premiere of Wagner’s *The Ring Without Words* arranged by Maazel, Liszt’s Second Piano Concerto with Simon Trpčeski

Jan 3–19 in six New Jersey venues

NEWARK, NJ—Music Director Xian Zhang’s love of opera and ballet inspires three weeks of epic works from the stage in the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s 2020 Winter Festival, January 3–19 in six New Jersey venues. The Orchestra’s signature artistic event features music from Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro* and Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, all conducted by Zhang.

The festival’s opening weekend features selections from Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet* ballet, paired with the NJSO premiere of Clara Schumann’s Piano Concerto—featuring returning pianist Inon Barnatan—and “The Moldau” from Smetana’s *Má vlast* (January 3–5 in Newark, Red Bank and Morristown). The January 3 concert opens with the annual featured showcase performance by the NJSO Youth Orchestras’ Academy Orchestra.

In a new collaboration, the NJSO welcomes singers from the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program for scenes from Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. The all-Mozart program also features Concertmaster Eric Wyrick’s annual solo appearance with the Orchestra (in the composer’s Fourth Violin Concerto); it opens with *Exsultate, jubilate*, a church solo from Mozart’s teenage years (January 9–12 in Englewood, Newark and New Brunswick).

The NJSO premiere of Wagner’s *The Ring Without Words*, arranged by the late American conductor Lorin Maazel, anchors the festival’s closing weekend. Simon Trpčeski, who made his NJSO debut on Xian Zhang’s first program as music director, returns to New Jersey stages for Liszt’s Second Piano Concerto on a program that opens with the Prelude to Act I of Wagner’s *Lohengrin* (January 17–19 in Princeton, New Brunswick and Newark).

NJSO Accent events include Classical Conversations, talkbacks with Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program singers, a Prelude Performance by young musicians from the NJSO Academy and a closer look at Wagner’s *Ring* cycle with pianist and musicologist Jeffrey Swann. More information is available at njsymphony.org/accents.

Tickets start at \$20 and are available for purchase at njsymphony.org or 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). Student tickets are \$10, available at njsymphony.org/students one month in advance.

More information on the Winter Festival and related events is available at njsymphony.org/winterfestival.

WEEK I: Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*

Fri, Jan 3, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark*

Sat, Jan 4, at 8 pm | Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

Sun, Jan 5, at 3 pm | Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor

INON BARNATAN piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SMETANA "The Moldau" from *Má vlast*

CLARA SCHUMANN Piano Concerto (NJSO Premiere)

PROKOFIEV Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

* The Jan 3 concert opens with a performance by the NJSO Youth Orchestras' Academy Orchestra.

NJSO Accents

Classical Conversation – Jan 4 at 7 pm & Jan 5 at 2 pm

Enjoy a lively 30-minute Classical Conversation before the performance. Learn more about the music from NJSO musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders.

Inon Barnatan's performances this week are supported by a gift from Audrey Bartner.

WEEK II: Mozart's *Don Giovanni & Figaro*

Thu, Jan 9, at 7:30 pm | bergenPAC in Englewood

Sat, Jan 11, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Jan 12, at 3 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

XIAN ZHANG conductor

ERIC WYRICK violin

Singers from the METROPOLITAN OPERA'S LINDEMANN YOUNG ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MOZART *Exsultate, jubilate*

MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4

MOZART Scenes from *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro*

NJSO Accents

Talkback – Jan 9 & Jan 12 after the concert

Hear from the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program singers who take center stage for Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

WEEK III: Wagner's *The Ring Without Words*

Fri, Jan 17, at 8 pm | Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

Sat, Jan 18, at 8 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

Sun, Jan 19, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor

SIMON TRPČESKI piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WAGNER Prelude to Act I of *Lohengrin*

LISZT Piano Concerto No. 2

WAGNER/arr. Maazel *The Ring Without Words* (NJSO Premiere)

NJSO Accents

Prelude Performance – Jan 18 at 7 pm

Hear captivating young musicians from the NJSO Academy perform in State Theatre New Jersey’s Heldrich Room.

The Ring: A Closer Look – Jan 19 at 1:30 pm

Pianist and musicologist Jeffrey Swann explores Wagner’s epic opera cycle on stage before the NJSO performs *The Ring Without Words*.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra’s superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang—a “dynamic podium presence” *The New York Times* has praised for her “technical abilities, musicianship and maturity”—continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra’s statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People and the NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez. NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners program.

Tickets are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or at njsymphony.org.

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