

## **NJSO and DreamPlay Films present *Still & Dvořák: An NJSO Concert Film* Jan 14 at 7:30 pm**

- Premieres Jan 14 at 7:30 pm at [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org) and on YouTube and Facebook
- Music Director Xian Zhang conducts
- Concert program features Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings*, Still's *Mother and Child*, Puccini's *I Crisantemi* and Coleridge-Taylor's *Deep River*
- Zhang and Concertmaster Eric Wyrick perform *Deep River* piano/violin duet
- Film directed by Yuri Alves
- Produced by DreamPlay Films
- Available on demand after premiere

NEWARK, NJ—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and DreamPlay Films present *Still & Dvořák: An NJSO Concert Film*, premiering January 14. Music Director Xian Zhang conducts. The film is directed by award-winning, Newark-raised filmmaker Yuri Alves and produced by DreamPlay Films, part of Newark-based DreamPlay Media.

The film premieres on January 14 at 7:30 pm at [njsymphony.org/dvorak](http://njsymphony.org/dvorak) and on the NJSO's YouTube and Facebook channels.

The program pairs Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings* with Still's *Mother and Child* and Puccini's *I Crisantemi*. In an NJSO concert first, Zhang will take to the piano for an intimate performance of Coleridge-Taylor's arrangement of the spiritual *Deep River* with Concertmaster Eric Wyrick on violin.

Zhang says: "William Grant Still was an American trailblazer, and I loved sharing his beautiful and poignant work *Mother and Child* with the NJSO. Its songful sense of nostalgia and tenderness pairs perfectly with works of Puccini and Dvořák. And it's a special treat to make my NJSO debut as a pianist alongside Concertmaster Eric Wyrick for Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's magnificent arrangement of the spiritual *Deep River*."

To provide a high-quality video and audio experience on audiences' televisions and speakers, DreamPlay Films filmed the performance with cinema cameras. Longtime NJSO audio engineer and multiple Grammy Award winner Tim Martyn recorded and mixed the audio for the concert, recorded on stage at NJPAC in Newark in October.

Director Yuri Alves says: "It was an honor to direct this project, which features a superior NJSO performance of some of the most beautiful music ever. My aim was to match the visual quality to that of the splendid music, which meant reimagining both the presentation of the stage performance and fusing it with the lived experience of local residents, who are living through an exceptionally challenging time."

Producer Igor Alves says: "I think this work is a revelation, both in concept and in process, as it shows the fruitful potential of uniting talented artists from different disciplines to create special work together. I'm grateful for NJSO's trust and leadership, as it expands beyond the expectations of what a classical orchestra is and what it can do."

NJSO President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst says: "Yuri Alves and DreamPlay Films continue to powerfully capture the NJSO concert experience with our fabulous musicians and Xian Zhang's dynamic conducting. Audiences will love being immersed in this great orchestral music with cinematic visuals from the NJPAC stage and beyond."

This film, which will be available on demand after the premiere, is part of NJSO Virtual 20–21, the Orchestra’s digital season. For more information, visit [njsymphony.org/virtual](https://njsymphony.org/virtual).

## **STILL & DVOŘÁK: AN NJSO CONCERT FILM**

Thu, Jan 14, at 7:30 pm

Xian Zhang, conductor & piano  
Eric Wyrick, violin  
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Yuri Alves, director  
Igor Alves, producer  
DreamPlay Films  
Tim Martyn, audio producer

**STILL** *Mother and Child*  
**PUCCINI** *I Crisantemi*  
**COLERIDGE-TAYLOR** *Deep River*  
**DVOŘÁK** *Serenade for Strings*

### **Yuri Alves**

Filmmaker Yuri Alves has written and directed films, primetime television programs and commercial projects in the US and Europe. Alves’ films have screened at over 100 film festivals worldwide, earning 20 awards. Alves’ projects include *Grind*, *On the Cusp* and *Exit Road* and the European primetime television series “Tempo Final” and “Filha da Lei.” Alves is the co-founder and creative director of DreamPlay Media and served as head of production at Fox Digital Studios. Alves is represented by the agency Brawler Los Angeles. Alves was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Portuguese parents, and raised in Newark, New Jersey. For more, visit [yurialves.com](https://yurialves.com) | Instagram: [@yurialvescinema](https://www.instagram.com/yurialvescinema).

### **DreamPlay Films**

DreamPlay Films develops and produces narrative and documentary films, television programming and more. DreamPlay Films is a division of DreamPlay Media, an original and creative media company, based in Newark, NJ. For more, visit [dreamplayfilms.com](https://dreamplayfilms.com) | [dreamplaymedia.com](https://dreamplaymedia.com).

### **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.

The Orchestra's online hub for free NJSO Virtual 20–21 content is [njsymphony.org/virtual](https://njsymphony.org/virtual).

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YouTube: [@NewJerseySymphony](https://www.youtube.com/@NewJerseySymphony)

Email: [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

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