

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2015–16 SEASON

MUSIC DIRECTOR JACQUES LACOMBE LEADS A SEASON OF
GREAT ORCHESTRAL WORKS AND COMPELLING PROGRAMS



SECOND ‘SOUNDS OF SHAKESPEARE’ WINTER FESTIVAL TO FEATURE BARD-INSPIRED MUSIC

OPENING NIGHT WELCOMES BRANFORD MARSALIS FOR CELEBRATORY PROGRAM

**NJSO GIVES WORLD PREMIERE OF RICHARD DANIELPOUR’S PERCUSSION CONCERTO,
PERFORMS WORKS BY LIVING AMERICAN COMPOSERS INCLUDING JENNIFER HIGDON**

SOPRANO JESSYE NORMAN JOINS NJSO FOR PERFORMANCE IN COLLABORATION WITH NJPAC

**GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET, AUGUSTIN HADELICH, JONATHAN BISS,
XIAN ZHANG, CHRISTOPH KÖNIG, MEGAN HILTY, CHEYENNE JACKSON**

**ORCHESTRA EXPANDS POPS SERIES TO FIVE PROGRAMS IN NEWARK AND NEW BRUNSWICK,
INTRODUCES TWO PROGRAMS IN RED BANK**

**NJSO EDWARD T. CONE COMPOSITION INSTITUTE CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP
WITH PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, EDWARD T. CONE FOUNDATION**

NJSO PRESENTS PROGRAMS IN SIX VENUES ACROSS THE STATE

NEWARK, NJ (January 24, 2015)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) today announced its programs for the 2015–16 concert season, Jacques Lacombe’s sixth and final season as the Orchestra’s music director. Fulfilling its mission as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO brings subscription programs to venues in Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, Morristown, Red Bank and Englewood, with 14 weeks of subscription classical programs, five pops programs and three family concerts, as well as several special concerts.

Lacombe says: “I am excited to lead another season that features the hallmarks of the NJSO’s performances and mission. We present great works of the repertoire and new discoveries, including music from important living American composers, with fantastic guest artists in communities across the state.”

The Orchestra increases the number of concerts it will perform in the 2015–16 season. The NJSO expands its pops offerings, adding a fifth concert to its series at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark and in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick; it introduces two pops concerts at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank. The Orchestra also increases its Thursday-matinee classical series at NJPAC to five concerts.

“The NJSO has seen growth in ticket sales and attendance across our offerings this season, and we are thrilled to expand the number of concerts the Orchestra will present next year,” President & CEO James Roe says. “For his final season as music director, Jacques has crafted another slate of compelling programs with dynamic guest artists. Collaborations with arts organizations from across New Jersey celebrate the wealth of talent within the Garden State and further underscore the Orchestra’s mission to bring great orchestral works and performers to communities across the state.”

WINTER FESTIVAL

January features the finale of a two-year “Sounds of Shakespeare” Winter Festival celebrating music inspired by the Bard. The festival’s opener pairs Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique*, which conjures the Witches’ Sabbath from *Macbeth*, and the *Tempest*-inspired *Lélio*; Lacombe will step from the podium to play the piano accompaniment for a brief portion of the latter work. For the festival’s finale, the NJSO welcomes back actors from The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey for a special presentation of Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Lacombe says: “As we close a two-year Winter Festival cycle, we partner with two of our state’s great cultural institutions—The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and the Montclair State University Chorale—and welcome a new collaborator, the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus, for unique programs dedicated to the wealth of music Shakespeare has inspired.”

WORLD PREMIERE & LIVING AMERICAN COMPOSERS

The NJSO gives the world premiere of Richard Danielpour’s Percussion Concerto, “The Wounded Healer,” with soloist Lisa Pegher on a program with Beethoven’s First and Fourth Symphonies; the premiere marks the third time the Orchestra has presented Danielpour’s work during Lacombe’s tenure.

Danielpour says: “My Percussion Concerto, ‘The Wounded Healer,’ uses the role of the solo percussionist to portray the many versions and guises of healers that are in our lives. I have always seen music as a catalyst for healing. A great example of the catalytic ability of an orchestra was when the NJSO premiered my Clarinet Concerto, a work that was written in tribute to and in memory of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, with Anthony McGill last year. It is my hope that this new work, with soloist Lisa Pegher under the baton of Jacques Lacombe, will be another wonderful collaboration in which we all rededicate ourselves to the inherent power of music.”

In another pairing of contemporary works with the music of Beethoven, the Orchestra presents Jennifer Higdon’s *blue cathedral* and Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.

The Orchestra performs *Night in the City* by Chris Rogerson—a member of the inaugural NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute class of composers. The NJSO gave the world premiere of the work in Princeton in July 2014. In July, the NJSO continues the Composition Institute in an ongoing partnership between the Edward T. Cone Foundation, Princeton University and the NJSO; the Cone Foundation has committed to supporting the Institute for the next four years. On the strength of the Institute’s 2014 sessions, the NEA has awarded the NJSO an ArtWorks grant to support the 2015 Institute.

OPENING & CLOSING WEEKENDS

For the season’s opening weekend, Lacombe and the Orchestra welcome saxophonist Branford Marsalis for Milhaud’s *Scaramouche* and “Escapades” from John Williams’ score to *Catch Me If You Can*, as well as the featured saxophone part in Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*, on a program that also includes Ravel’s *Valses nobles et sentimentales*.

The season finale features Ravel’s *Daphnis and Chloé* Suite No. 2 and *La Valse*, Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 with

pianist Joyce Yang and Rogerson's *Night in the City*.

GUEST ARTISTS

Legendary soprano Jessye Norman joins Lacombe and the NJSO for a program of songs of American life, from the Great American Songbook to Spirituals. The NJSO presents this special concert in collaboration with longtime artistic partner NJPAC.

Other outstanding guest artists include pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Jonathan Biss and violinists Augustin Hadelich and Jennifer Frautschi. The Orchestra welcomes a diverse array of guest conductors: Xian Zhang, Miguel-Harth Bedoya and Christoph König return, and Jérémie Rhorer, Perry So and Christian Arming take the podium for their NJSO debuts. Continuing the Orchestra's tradition of highlighting its own musicians, Concertmaster Eric Wyrick leads and solos in a program featuring Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*; Associate Principal Cello Stephen Fang performs Dvořák's *Silent Woods* and Popper's Hungarian Rhapsody.

POPS

The NJSO's five-concert pops series in Newark and New Brunswick includes a holiday screening of *Home Alone* with live orchestral accompaniment, Broadway and television stars Megan Hilty and Cheyenne Jackson (the former in a Valentine's Day-weekend program of music from the American Songbook and the latter in a program featuring music of the "Mad Men" era), a retrospective of five decades of music from the films of James Bond and the return of Cirque de la Symphonie's troupe of acrobatic performers. The new two-concert series in Red Bank includes the programs Hilty and Jackson will headline.

FAMILY

NJSO Education & Community Engagement Conductor Jeffrey Grogan and Associate Conductor Gemma New lead the Orchestra's three-concert family series at NJPAC in Newark; each concert features special pre- and post-concert events designed to bring young concertgoers closer to the music and music makers.

COLLABORATIONS

The NJSO partners with several New Jersey arts institutions and performs with New Jersey artists, including the Westminster Symphonic Choir, Montclair State University Singers, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and New Jersey Youth Chorus. The NJSO presents programs in collaboration with NJPAC, the State Theatre and McCarter Theatre Center.



Opening Night Celebration: Jacques Lacombe and the NJSO open the season with alto saxophonist Branford Marsalis, who performs Milhaud’s *Scaramouche* and “Escapades” from John Williams’ score to *Catch Me If You Can* and performs the saxophone solo in Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Special event packages include a pre-concert cocktail party and a post-concert gala dinner. September 25–27.

- **Premieres and contemporary music:** The NJSO presents the world premiere of Richard Danielpour’s Percussion Concerto, “The Wounded Healer,” with soloist Lisa Pegher (January 14–17). Other key contemporary works include Jennifer Higdon’s *blue cathedral* (November 5–8) and 2014 NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute composer Chris Rogerson’s *Night and the City* (June 9–12).
 - **NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute:** The Orchestra continues the NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute—a partnership between the Edward T. Cone Foundation, Princeton University and the NJSO. Promising graduate-level composers will have their work rehearsed by the NJSO, participate in master classes and receive feedback from NJSO musicians. The Institute will provide sessions with industry leaders in publishing, licensing, promotion and music preparation to give participants a foundation for a successful career in composition. It concludes with a world-premiere performance of the participants’ works by the NJSO. On the strength of the Institute’s 2014 sessions, the NEA has awarded the NJSO an ArtWorks grant to support the 2015 Institute; the Cone Foundation has committed to supporting the Institute for the next four years.
- **“Sounds of Shakespeare” Winter Festival:** The 2016 Winter Festival caps a two-year festival project celebrating music inspired by the Bard, William Shakespeare.

Week I – *Symphonie fantastique*. Shakespeare takes an encore in the 2016 Winter Festival, which opens with a pair of linked Berlioz scores that pulse with dramatic tension. An obsessive love turns demonic in his *Symphonie fantastique*, which vividly conjures the Witches’ Sabbath from *Macbeth*, while its sequel, *Lélio*, boasts a finale inspired by *The Tempest*. Lacombe will step from the podium to play the piano accompaniment for a brief portion of the latter work. January 22–24.

Week II – *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Mendelssohn’s music for *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is as magical as Shakespeare’s comedy. Experience them together in this special presentation: spoken excerpts performed by celebrated artistic partner The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey unfold alongside Mendelssohn’s score, highlighted by the immortal “Wedding March.” January 29–31.

- **Jessye Norman with the NJSO:** The NJSO and NJPAC welcome superstar soprano Jessye Norman, a legendary performer of electrifying magnitude. Her program with Jacques Lacombe and the NJSO centers on songs of American life, from the Great American Songbook to Spirituals. May 21. *Presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*
- **Collaborations:** The NJSO partners with several New Jersey arts institutions and performs with New Jersey artists. The Orchestra performs with the **Westminster Symphonic Choir** (Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, November 5–8), **Montclair State University Singers** (Handel’s *Messiah*, December 18–20) and **women of the Montclair State University Chorale** (Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, January 29–31), **The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey** (Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, January 29–31) and **New Jersey Youth Chorus** (*Home Alone: The Movie*, December 5–6). The NJSO presents programs in collaboration with **NJPAC** (“Jessye Norman with the NJSO,” May 21) and the **State Theatre** (“Cirque de la Symphonie with the NJSO,” October 18; “*Home Alone: The Movie*,” December 6; “Valentine’s Day with Megan Hilty and the NJSO,” February 14; “Music of the “Mad Men” Era,” April 17; “Bond and Beyond,” June 5).
- **Great works of the repertoire:** The 2015–16 season includes masterworks and gems of the classical repertoire, including Rachmaninoff’s Second Symphony and Third Piano Concerto, Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony and Violin Concerto, Dvořák’s “New World” Symphony, Brahms’ Second Symphony, Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, Handel’s *Messiah* and Beethoven’s First, Fourth and Ninth Symphonies.

- **Performances statewide:** Fulfilling its mission as New Jersey’s state orchestra, the NJSO presents classical subscription programming at NJPAC in Newark, the State Theatre in New Brunswick, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank and bergenPAC in Englewood. The Orchestra performs pops concerts at NJPAC, the State Theatre and Count Basie Theatre and presents family concerts at NJPAC.

GUEST AND FEATURED ARTISTS

The NJSO welcomes world-class soloists—superstars, rising young virtuosos and gifted players from the Orchestra itself—to headline its concert programs this season.

Guest artists:

- **Jessye Norman** is “a catalogue of all that is virtuous in singing,” *The New York Times* writes of the legendary soprano, who joins Lacombe and the NJSO for a special program of American music presented in collaboration with NJPAC in Newark. May 21.
- **Branford Marsalis** is, as *The Seattle Times* writes, the “renowned and ubiquitous saxophone player who has performed with everyone from Miles Davis to Public Enemy to the New York Philharmonic.” He joins the NJSO for works by Milhaud, Williams and Mussorgsky on Opening Weekend. September 25–27.
- Pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** was “the picture of coolness” who “made fresh, distinctive and colorful choices throughout” Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* in his performance with the NJSO on Opening Weekend 2012, according to *The Star-Ledger*. He returns to the NJSO—and to Gershwin—for the composer’s Concerto in F. October 22–25.
- *The Guardian* writes that **Jonathan Biss** has “confirmed his status as a truly world-class pianist.” He returns to the NJSO for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2. October 29–November 1.
- *Symphony Magazine* has called Pittsburgh-native percussionist **Lisa Pegher** one of the top six performers of her generation and writes that she is “blazing a particularly rocky, un-trodden trail” in the world of classical percussion. She gives the world premiere of Danielpour’s Percussion Concerto, “The Wounded Healer,” with the NJSO. January 14–17.
- Two-time Grammy nominee and Avery Fischer career grant recipient **Jennifer Frautschi** “possesses a lush, florid tone, a sure musical sense and a forthright knowledge of where she wants to go with any given phrase,” writes *The Kansas City Star*. The violinist joins the NJSO for Barber’s Violin Concerto. April 7–10.
- *The Star-Ledger* praised conductor **Xian Zhang**’s NJSO debut, writing, “Zhang was at once commanding and exuberant, occasionally jumping or bending sharply at the waist to spur on the orchestra but often remaining fairly still—a riveting, dancer-like presence completely in the service of music, not showmanship.” Zhang returns for a program of Tchaikovsky and Barber. April 7–10.
- “Rarely has America sounded so beautiful,” *The New York Daily News* wrote when violinist **Augustin Hadelich** performed at his September 2014 swearing in as an American citizen. Hadelich returns to the NJSO for Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto. May 12–15.
- **Christoph König** “exuded confidence and expertise as he led the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra,” *The Star-Ledger* wrote, praising the “plush, expansive sound” the conductor drew from the Orchestra in his 2012 appearance. He returns for Beethoven’s Second Piano Concerto and Rachmaninoff’s Second Symphony. October 29–November 1.

NJSO artists:

- Concertmaster **Eric Wyrick** leads and solos in a program featuring Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, Respighi’s *Ancient Airs and Dances* Suite No. 1 and Boccherini’s Symphony No. 6, “La casa del diavlo.” November 27–29.

- Associate Principal Cello **Stephen Fang** performs Dvořák’s *Silent Woods* and Popper’s Hungarian Rhapsody. February 25–28.
- NJSO Associate Conductor **Gemma New**—hailed by WQXR as one of the “top five women conductors on the rise”—leads pops performances featuring Cirque de la Symphonie and a family concert, “Star Power,” featuring music by Williams, Beethoven, Mozart and more. October 17–18; February 13.

NJSO POPS

The NJSO performs a five-concert pops series on Saturday evenings at NJPAC in Newark and, in collaboration with the State Theatre, on Sunday afternoons at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. New this season, the Orchestra presents two pops concerts on Friday evenings at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank.

- **Cirque de la Symphonie with the NJSO:** Back by popular demand! NJSO Associate Conductor Gemma New conducts as these exceptional artists—acrobats, aerial flyers, contortionists and strongmen—perform dazzling and death-defying choreography and acrobatic feats to classical favorites that will thrill audiences of all ages. October 17–18 in Newark and New Brunswick. *The October 18 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick.*
- **Home Alone: The Movie:** A true holiday favorite, this rollicking comedy classic features legendary composer John Williams’ charming and delightful score, performed live by the NJSO. Watch as Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who is accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation and must defend his home against two bungling thieves. It’s hard to believe this hilarious and heart-warming holiday romp is 25 years old! December 5–6 in Newark and New Brunswick. *The December 6 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick.*
- **Valentine’s Day with Megan Hilty and the NJSO:** Celebrate Valentine’s Day with Megan Hilty, known for starring roles in “Smash,” *Wicked* and *9 to 5: The Musical*. Called a “burgeoning blonde bombshell” by *The Daily Beast*, Hilty’s sensational voice and star power is perfect for a trip through the American Songbook. February 12–14 in Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick. *The February 14 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick.*
- **Music of the “Mad Men” Era:** Cheyenne Jackson, star of Broadway and TV hits “Glee” and “30 Rock,” takes you back to a time when bossa nova was new, the lounges of Las Vegas were hip and boss dance music was spinning on every hi-fi. Dress in your best “Mad Men” attire and enjoy the slick sounds of the 50s and 60s. April 15–17 in Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick. *The April 17 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick.*
- **Bond and Beyond:** The music is Bond, James Bond, as the NJSO takes you into the world of your favorite spy. The legacy of 007 comes alive in a symphonic tribute featuring music from five decades of Bond films, including *Casino Royale*, *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds are Forever* and more. June 4–5 in Newark and New Brunswick. *The June 5 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre in New Brunswick.*

NJSO FAMILY SERIES

The young and the young at heart will enjoy discovering the instruments of the orchestra, great stories told through music and rich orchestral repertoire featured in this magical and interactive series, which the NJSO presents on Saturday afternoons at NJPAC in Newark. *Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey presents the NJSO Family Series.*

- **Classical Favorites in the Forecast:** Winter, spring, summer or fall, there’s *always* music in the forecast! Hear how composers depict weather and seasons like the lazy heat of summer, a spring storm or a snowy day. Favorites from Gershwin, Beethoven, Copland and more set the stage for a thunderously good time! November 28.
- **Star Power:** Before there were movies and TV shows, there were orchestra concerts, and composers were the biggest stars of the day. Stroll down the NJSO’s Composer Walk of Fame and hear John Williams’ *Star Wars* and the very best music from Beethoven, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Rising stars from the NJSO Academy Orchestra take the stage to inspire young listeners. February 13.

- **Athletes of the Orchestra:** The big game is on—meet all the teams of the Orchestra and cheer on your favorite! Will it be the strings, brass, woodwinds or percussion that win the day? “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” Olympic fanfares and classics from Mozart and Rimsky-Korsakov will make it feel like you and the kids are sitting on the third-base line with a hot dog and a soda. May 21.

Pre-Concert Adventures—specially created interactive programs perfect for the whole family—are an opportunity to learn more about the music, participate in fun activities, play games and meet NJSO musicians in the NJPAC lobby an hour before each concert.

NON-SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

- **Handel’s *Messiah*:** One of the most magnificent achievements in music, Handel’s *Messiah* is an annual holiday season must for music lovers everywhere. Hearing its perfection is always a moving, emotional and resonant experience. Lacombe conducts the masterwork in Princeton and Newark. December 18 & 20. *The December 18 performance at the Richardson Auditorium in Princeton is presented in collaboration with the McCarter Theatre; the December 20 performance is presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*
- **Jessye Norman with the NJSO:** The NJSO and NJPAC are thrilled to welcome superstar soprano Jessye Norman, a legendary performer of electrifying magnitude. Her program with Jacques Lacombe and the NJSO centers on songs of American life, from the Great American Songbook to Spirituals. Don’t miss the pairing of Norman and Lacombe in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. May 21. *Presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*

ABOUT THE 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.

Under the bold leadership of Music Director Jacques Lacombe, the NJSO 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 the State Theatre in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre 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 performances and multiple offerings—including the three-ensemble NJSO Youth Orchestras and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project)—that provide and promote in-school instrumental instruction as part of the NJSO Academy. The NJSO’s REACH (Resources for Education and Community Harmony) chamber music program annually brings original programs—designed and performed by NJSO musicians—to a variety of settings, reaching as many as 17,000 people in nearly all of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

For more information about the NJSO, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra’s website.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

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OPENING WEEKEND: BRANFORD MARSALIS JOINS THE NJSO

Fri, Sep 25 at 7:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Sep 26 at 8 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Sep 27 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor
BRANFORD MARSALIS saxophone
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

RAVEL *Valses nobles et sentimentales*
WILLIAMS “Escapades” for saxophone from *Catch Me If You Can*
MILHAUD *Scaramouche* for alto saxophone
MUSSORGKY *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Saxophone giant Branford Marsalis stars in the NJSO’s Opening Weekend, lending his luminous sound to cinematic master John Williams’ “Escapades” and Milhaud’s sprightly *Scaramouche*. To top it off, he plays the saxophone solo in Mussorgsky’s majestic *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which never fails to enthrall in Ravel’s colorful orchestration.

POPS: CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE WITH THE NJSO

Sat, Oct 17 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Oct 18 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

GEMMA NEW conductor
CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Back by popular demand! NJSO Associate Conductor Gemma New conducts as these exceptional artists—acrobats, aerial flyers, contortionists and strongmen—perform dazzling and death-defying choreography and acrobatic feats to classical favorites that will thrill audiences of all ages.

The October 18 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre.

THIBAUDET PLAYS GERSHWIN

Thu, Oct 22 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Oct 23 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Oct 24 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Oct 25 at 3 pm Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor
JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BERNSTEIN *Candide* Overture
GERSHWIN Concerto in F
BERNSTEIN Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*
GERSHWIN (arr. R. R. Bennett) *Porgy & Bess: A Symphonic Picture*

Gershwin and Bernstein: perfect together, especially with charismatic soloist Thibaudet in the mix. Gershwin dared to bring jazz into the concert hall with his sparkling Concerto in F. Bernstein’s supercharged dances from *West Side Story* will make

you want to shout “Mambo,” and memorable tunes from *Porgy and Bess*—the show that brought us “Summertime”—are guaranteed to delight.

RACHMANINOFF'S SECOND SYMPHONY

Thu, Oct 29 at 7:30 pm bergenPAC in Englewood
Fri, Oct 30 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Oct 31 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 1 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

CHRISTOPH KÖNIG conductor

JONATHAN BISS piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2

RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 2

Here's an inspired pairing of “twos”! Energetic conductor König is known for his “huge musicality,” and Biss, whom *The Guardian* calls “a truly world-class pianist,” specializes in Beethoven. Their collaboration on Beethoven's playful Second Piano Concerto is sure to enchant. Rachmaninoff's epic Second Symphony, with its particularly gorgeous slow movements, is one of the composer's finest achievements.

BEETHOVEN'S NINTH

Thu, Nov 5 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Nov 6 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Nov 7 at 8 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Nov 8 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

BARBARA SHIRVIS soprano

ELIZABETH BISHOP mezzo-soprano

JONATHAN BOYD tenor

STEPHEN POWELL baritone

WESTMINSTER SYMPHONIC CHOIR Joe Miller, director

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HIGDON *blue cathedral*

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9

Beethoven's glorious Ninth Symphony celebrates the bonds that unite humankind. Tracing a journey from doubt to affirmation, it culminates in the stirring “Ode to Joy.” Higdon's *blue cathedral* captures “a feeling of celebration and ecstatic expansion of the soul,” setting the stage perfectly for Beethoven's most joyous masterpiece.

VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS

Fri, Nov 27 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Nov 28 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 29 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

ERIC WYRICK leader and violin soloist

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BOCCHERINI Symphony No. 6, “La casa del diavolo”

RESPIGHI *Ancient Airs and Dances*, Suite No. 1

VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*

Spend Thanksgiving with the NJSO this season! Vivaldi's beloved *The Four Seasons* are perfect at any time of year. With their propulsive rhythms and lilting melodies, they capture the essence of the Baroque style. Respighi updates a variety of Baroque-era dances with the lush timbres of a modern orchestra. Eric Wyrick follows the 18th-century tradition of leading from the concertmaster chair.

FAMILY: CLASSICAL FAVORITES IN THE FORECAST

Sat, Nov 28 at 2 pm

NJPAC in Newark

JEFFREY GROGAN conductor

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Winter, spring, summer or fall, there's *always* music in the forecast! Hear how composers depict weather and seasons like the lazy heat of summer, a spring storm or a snowy day. Favorites from Gershwin, Beethoven, Copland and more set the stage for a thunderously good time!

Pre-Concert Adventure begins at 1 pm. Learn more about the music, participate in fun hands-on activities and meet musicians during this interactive time that's perfect for the whole family.

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey sponsors the 2015–16 Family Series.

POPS: HOME ALONE: THE MOVIE

Sat, Dec 5 at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Dec 6 at 3 pm

State Theatre in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS Trish Joyce, director

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A true holiday favorite, this rollicking comedy classic features legendary composer John Williams' charming and delightful score, performed live by the NJSO. Watch as Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who is accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation and must defend his home against two bungling thieves. It's hard to believe this hilarious and heartwarming holiday romp is 25 years old!

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The December 6 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre, which will show the film on its 46-foot screen.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Fri, Dec 18 at 7:30 pm

Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

Sun, Dec 20 at 3 pm

NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

CELENA SHAFER soprano

ADRIANA ZABALA mezzo-soprano

WILLIAM BURDEN tenor

DASHON BURTON bass-baritone

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS Heather J. Buchanan, director

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

HANDEL *Messiah*

One of the most magnificent achievements in music, Handel's *Messiah* is an annual holiday-season must for music lovers everywhere. Hearing its perfection is always a moving, emotional and resonant experience.

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

Presented in collaboration with McCarter Theatre (December 18) and New Jersey Performing Arts Center (December 20).

BEETHOVEN & DANIELPOUR

Thu, Jan 14 at 7:30 pm bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Jan 16 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Jan 17 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

LISA PEGHER percussion

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1

DANIELPOUR Percussion Concerto, "The Wounded Healer" (World Premiere)

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 4

Beethoven's sunny, youthful First Symphony is filled with Mozartean grace, while his cheerful Fourth adds deeper shadings of maturity with its mysterious, questing introduction. Together, they make a fine frame for the always-engaging Danielpour's multi-hued concerto, with magnetic percussionist Pegher in the spotlight.

WINTER FESTIVAL: SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

Fri, Jan 22 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Jan 23 at 8 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Jan 24 at 3 pm Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

BERNARD UZAN narrator

SYMPHONIC CHORUS OF MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC Kent Tritle, director

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

BERLIOZ *Lélio*

The Bard is back! Shakespeare takes an encore in the 2016 Winter Festival, which opens with a pair of linked Berlioz scores that pulse with dramatic tension. An obsessive love turns demonic in his *Symphonie fantastique*, which vividly conjures the Witches' Sabbath from *Macbeth*. Its sequel, *Lélio*, boasts a turn with Jacques Lacombe at the piano and a finale inspired by *The Tempest*.

WINTER FESTIVAL: MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Fri, Jan 29 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Jan 30 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 31 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

THE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE OF NEW JERSEY Bonnie J. Monte, artistic director

Women of the MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE Heather J. Buchanan, director

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MENDELSSOHN *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Mendelssohn's music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is as magical as Shakespeare's comedy. Experience them together in this special theatrical presentation: actors from celebrated artistic partner The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey perform alongside Mendelssohn's score, highlighted by the immortal "Wedding March."

POPS: VALENTINE'S DAY WITH MEGAN HILTY AND THE NJSO

Fri, Feb 12 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank

Sat, Feb 13 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Feb 14 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

MEGAN HILTY vocalist

TODD ELLISON conductor

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Megan Hilty, known for starring roles in "Smash," *Wicked* and *9 to 5: The Musical*. Called a "burgeoning blonde bombshell" by *The Daily Beast*, Hilty's sensational voice and star power is perfect for a trip through the American Songbook.

The February 14 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre.

FAMILY: STAR POWER

Sat, Feb 13 at 2 pm NJPAC in Newark

GEMMA NEW conductor

NJSO ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Before there were movies and TV shows, there were orchestra concerts, and composers were the biggest stars of the day. Stroll down the NJSO's Composer Walk of Fame and hear John Williams' *Star Wars* and the very best music from Beethoven, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Rising stars from the NJSO Academy Orchestra take the stage to inspire young listeners.

Pre-Concert Adventure begins at 1 pm. Learn more about the music, participate in fun hands-on activities and meet musicians during this interactive time that's perfect for the whole family.

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey sponsors the 2015–16 Family Series.

VISTAS & LANDSCAPES: COPLAND & DVOŘÁK

Thu, Feb 25 at 7:30 pm bergenPAC in Englewood

Sat, Feb 27 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark

Sun, Feb 28 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

MIGUEL HARTH-BEDOYA conductor

STEPHEN FANG cello

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DVOŘÁK *Silent Woods*

POPPER Hungarian Rhapsody
COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

Be transported: when it comes to summoning the spacious vistas of the American landscape, few pieces can rival Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Dvořák's "New World" Symphony. A different landscape beckons in *Silent Woods*, inspired by the serene forests of Dvořák's native Bohemia and performed here by NJSO Associate Principal Cello Stephen Fang.

ALL-MOZART

Fri, Mar 11 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Mar 12 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Mar 13 at 3 pm Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

PERRY SO conductor
ERIC LU piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MOZART Overture and Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23
MOZART Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"

All Mozart, all sublime. Glimpse eternity in Mozart's 41st and last symphony, nicknamed "Jupiter" for its grandeur. In another late work, his A Major Piano Concerto, a heartbreakingly tender adagio movement is the centerpiece.

ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS FROM SCHUMANN & BRAHMS

Thu, Mar 17 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Mar 19 at 8 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick
Sun, Mar 20 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

CHRISTIAN ARMING conductor
STEPHEN HOUGH piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WAGNER Prelude to Act III from *Tristan and Isolde*
SCHUMANN Piano Concerto
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

Two composers of the Romantic era are linked by a common love. Clara Schumann inspired her husband's only piano concerto. Brahms, who was championed by Schumann, had the misfortune to fall for Clara, yearning for her until the end of his days. But in a sunny moment, he composed his engaging Second Symphony.

ZHANG CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY 4

Thu, Apr 7 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Apr 8 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Apr 9 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Apr 10 at 3 pm Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor
JENNIFER FRAUTSCHI violin
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TCHAIKOVSKY *Marche Slave*
BARBER Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Audience favorite Xian Zhang returns to lead the NJSO in an evening of rich, romantic melody. Tchaikovsky's passionate, foreboding Fourth Symphony evokes the awesome power of Fate to shape human lives. Barber's Violin Concerto is an American classic, filled with yearning and hope; Frautschi, an electrifying player, takes the solo role.

POPS: MUSIC OF THE "MAD MEN" ERA

Fri, Apr 15 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Apr 16 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 17 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

CHEYENNE JACKSON vocalist
THOMAS WILKINS conductor

Cheyenne Jackson, star of Broadway and TV hits "Glee" and "30 Rock," takes you back to a time when bossa nova was new, the lounges of Las Vegas were hip and boss dance music was spinning on every hi-fi. Dress in your best "Mad Men" attire and enjoy the slick sounds of the 50s and 60s.

The April 17 performance is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre.

HADELICH PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY

Thu, May 12 at 1:30 pm NJPAC in Newark
Fri, May 13 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, May 14 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, May 15 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

JÉRÉMIE RHORER conductor
AUGUSTIN HADELICH violin
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MENDELSSOHN *The Hebrides Overture*
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
BRAHMS Serenade No. 1

For musical lines that truly soar and endlessly delight, few composers can rival Tchaikovsky, whose Violin Concerto is a pinnacle of the repertoire. Augustin Hadelich—who wowed NJSO audiences in his 2012 appearance—dispatches the work's brilliant solo part with effortless panache. Rustic charm infuses every melody of Brahms' Serenade No. 1 to bring the concert to a joyful close.

FAMILY: ATHLETES OF THE ORCHESTRA

Sat, May 21 at 2 pm NJPAC in Newark

JEFFREY GROGAN conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The big game is on—meet all the teams of the Orchestra and cheer on your favorite! Will it be the strings, brass, woodwinds or percussion that win the day? "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," Olympic fanfares and classics from Mozart and Rimsky-Korsakov will make it feel like you and the kids are sitting on the third-base line with a hot dog and a soda.

Pre-Concert Adventure begins at 1 pm. Learn more about the music, participate in fun hands-on activities and meet musicians during this interactive time that's perfect for the whole family.

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SPECIAL: JESSYE NORMAN WITH THE NJSO

Sat, May 21 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

JESSYE NORMAN soprano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The NJSO and NJPAC are thrilled to welcome superstar soprano Jessye Norman, a legendary performer of electrifying magnitude. Her program with Lacombe and the NJSO centers on songs of American life, from the Great American Songbook to Spirituals. Don't miss the pairing of Norman and Lacombe in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The concert is presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

POPS: BOND AND BEYOND

Sat, June 4 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark

Sun, June 5 at 3 pm State Theatre in New Brunswick

MICHAEL KRAJEWSKI conductor

DEBBIE GRAVITTE vocalist

The music is Bond, James Bond, as the NJSO takes you into the world of your favorite spy. The legacy of 007 comes alive in a symphonic tribute featuring music from five decades of Bond films, including *Casino Royale*, *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds are Forever* and more.

The June 5 concert is presented in collaboration with the State Theatre.

LACOMBE CONDUCTS RACHMANINOFF & RAVEL

Thu, June 9 at 7:30 pm bergenPAC in Englewood

Sat, June 11 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank

Sun, June 12 at 3 pm NJPAC in Newark

JACQUES LACOMBE conductor

JOYCE YANG piano

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROGERSON *Night and the City*

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3

RAVEL *La Valse*

RAVEL *Daphnis and Chloé* Suite No. 2

Jacques Lacombe's final concerts as Music Director of the NJSO feature some of his favorite pieces, including Ravel's gorgeous suite from *Daphnis and Chloé* and the thrilling Third Piano Concerto of Rachmaninoff. It's your final chance to laud the marvelous Lacombe. Don't miss these farewell concerts.

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