

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra: 2018–19 Full Season Listing

ZHANG CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN 9

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

XIAN ZHANG conductor
MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS soprano
ELIZABETH BISHOP mezzo-soprano
LORENZO DECARO tenor
REGINALD D. SMITH JR. bass
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE
NEWARK VOICES
Heather J. Buchanan, conductor
NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUSES Trish Joyce, artistic director
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Beethoven's glorious Ninth, led by Xian Zhang, is a fitting start to a spectacular season. The NJSO is joined by singers from Montclair State University and a choir composed in part of Newark residents.

WHITLEY *Speak Out* (US Premiere)

Stirring and poignant; rising British composer Kate Whitley's work is based on Malala Yousafzai's legendary speech to the UN advocating the right of every girl to have an education.

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9, "Choral"

An unmistakable masterpiece; the hymn's text extolling the human bond is sung by a joyful assembly, a massed choir including singers from MSU and Newark.

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SEONG-JIN CHO PLAYS CHOPIN

Thu, Oct 11 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Oct 13 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Oct 14 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

OTTO TAUSK conductor
SEONG-JIN CHO piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

In his 20s, Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho is on a fast track to stardom. The 2016 Chopin Competition winner's performance of the composer's spellbinding Second Piano Concerto is unmissable.

LIGETI *Romanian Concerto* (NJSO Premiere)

An orchestra showpiece: Ligeti's childhood memories of Transylvanian folk music culminate in a wild, exhilarating dance.

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2

A youthful affection inspired this concerto's tender, passionate slow movement. Though Chopin's infatuation was short-lived, the melody is eternal.

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7

Deep, heartfelt and dramatic, reflecting the Czech composer's ambition to write a piece that would "move the world."

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AUGUSTIN HADELICH RETURNS

Thu, Nov 1 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Nov 2 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Nov 3 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Nov 4 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

CHRISTOPH KÖNIG conductor

AUGUSTIN HADELICH violin

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Grammy-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich returns, bringing passion and charisma to Britten's mesmerizing concerto, while works by Strauss and Schumann illustrate music's glorious capacity to weave a narrative.

STRAUSS *Don Juan*

Hedonistic, audacious; the piece that established Strauss as a brilliant orchestrator and master of orchestral storytelling.

BRITTEN Violin Concerto

Britten wrote this turbulent, yet melodic, concerto in Canada as the storm clouds of World War II gathered in his native England.

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

Tuneful and majestic. Get carried away on the flowing currents of Schumann's Third, which evokes the resplendent Rhine River.

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FAMILY: BRAVO BEETHOVEN!

Sat, Nov 17 at 2 pm & 3:30 pm Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark

We all love Ludwig! Enjoy a full concert of Beethoven's most wonderful pieces, including excerpts from the Fifth and Seventh symphonies and some of his most exciting overtures. But even though you *think* you know Beethoven—*surprise!* What unexpected discoveries await at this boisterous, beautiful concert?!

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

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STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE IN CONCERT

Fri, Nov 23 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Nov 24 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 25 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Luke Skywalker begins a journey that will change the galaxy, as he leaves his home planet, battles the evil Empire and learns the ways of the Force. Don't miss *Star Wars: A New Hope* in concert, with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performing John Williams' Oscar-winning score live to the complete film.

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Nov 25 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

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RHAPSODY IN BLUE & THE FIREBIRD

Thu, Nov 29 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Nov 30 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Dec 1 at 8 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick
Sun, Dec 2 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

JOSHUA WEILERSTEIN conductor
AARON DIEHL piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Classical, jazz and folk collide! Acclaimed jazz pianist Aaron Diehl offers a fresh improvisational take on Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, while Stravinsky's *The Firebird* brings a Russian legend to life.

MILHAUD *La création du Monde*

French composer Milhaud heard jazz in Harlem during a 1922 visit and brought the sound back to Paris for this lively ballet based on African folk mythology.

GERSHWIN *Rhapsody in Blue*

Gershwin called this iconic piece "a musical kaleidoscope of America, of our vast melting pot, of our national pep, of our blues, our metropolitan madness."

PRICE Piano Concerto (NJSO Premiere)

Florence Price was the first African-American female composer to be performed by major orchestras; her lush concerto skillfully blends classical and popular styles.

STRAVINSKY Suite from *The Firebird* (1919)

Lavish, vibrant, iconic; tells the tale of the Firebird, whose power is brilliantly illustrated by the thrilling score.

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MESSIAH

Fri, Dec 14 at 8 pm Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sun, Dec 16 at 7 pm Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark

PATRICK DUPRÉ QUIGLEY conductor
MARGOT ROOD soprano
REGINALD MOBLEY countertenor
STEVEN SOPH tenor
CHARLES WESLEY EVANS baritone
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS
Heather J. Buchanan, conductor
Members of the **NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

HANDEL *Messiah*

Savor a family tradition. Patrick Dupré Quigley shapes a historically informed interpretation of the *Messiah* in the NJSO's annual presentation of the holiday favorite. This year, hear it in Newark at the glorious Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, a perfect setting for this timeless masterpiece.

These performances are approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes in length, including intermission.

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STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK IN CONCERT

Fri, Jan 4 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Jan 5 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 6 at 3 pm State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

After the destruction of the Death Star, the Empire has regrouped—with Darth Vader leading the hunt for Luke Skywalker. *Star Wars* and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra join forces for *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in concert, featuring the iconic movie on the big screen with the NJSO performing John Williams' legendary score live.

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Jan 6 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

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2019 WINTER FESTIVAL

This year's Winter Festival celebrates great works of music that were inspired by myths, stories and poetry. While we explore this idea throughout the season, the Winter Festival presents a rich opportunity to single out music that is deep, moving and profound in its expression of the theme, works like Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony, Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

Music speaks through the inspired imaginations of the world's great artists in the NJSO's Winter Festival!

WINTER FESTIVAL ZHANG & AX: TRANSFORMATION

Thu, Jan 10 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Jan 12 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 13 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

XIAN ZHANG conductor
EMANUEL AX piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Xian Zhang has a special affinity for Tchaikovsky, whose monumental *Manfred* Symphony is based on Lord Byron's epic poem of doomed love. Superstar Emanuel Ax displays his own Mozartean gifts in the composer's luxuriant Piano Concerto No. 22.

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 22

Ever the prolific creator, Mozart wrote three piano concertos while working on *The Marriage of Figaro*. No. 22's expanded orchestra heralded a new age in symphonic writing.

TCHAIKOVSKY *Manfred* Symphony

Gripping, one of the great program symphonies; forbidden romance is the subject of this musical tale, which follows its wizardly hero as roams the Alps seeking transformation through forgetfulness.

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WINTER FESTIVAL ZHANG & UPSHAW: EARTH & HEAVEN

Fri, Jan 18 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Jan 19 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Jan 20 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor
DAWN UPSHAW soprano
JAY ANDERSON bass | **FRANK KIMBROUGH** piano | **SCOTT ROBINSON** clarinet
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Radiant soprano Dawn Upshaw will move you to the core in Maria Schneider's uplifting *Winter Morning Walks*, which chronicles a poet's recovery from a life-threatening illness. Mahler's sublime Fourth Symphony finds wisdom in a child's vision of heaven.

SCHNEIDER *Winter Morning Walks* (NJSO Premiere)

This poignant song cycle follows the singer on a series of walks in the woods, tracing a path back to wellness as winter gives way to early spring.

MAHLER Symphony No. 4

The playful and the profound mingle in this life-affirming symphony; its idyllic finale aims to “gladden our senses, so that all awaken for joy.”

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WINTER FESTIVAL **ZHANG & TRIFONOV: THE ETERNAL**

Fri, Jan 25 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Jan 26 at 8 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick
Sun, Jan 27 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor
DANIIL TRIFONOV piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Two extraordinary artists explore the never-ending connections that music makes across the ages. Don't miss piano phenomenon Daniil Trifonov, “the most astounding young pianist of our age” (*The Times of London*), in Schumann's poetic concerto.

STRAUSS *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Famous for its use in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Strauss' tone poem—dramatic, gorgeous, thrilling—is the kind of music musicians live to play.

SCHUMANN Piano Concerto

Colorful, lively, embodying a love story for the ages. Schumann wrote this gorgeous concerto for his wife, Clara, who played the solo part in its premiere.

SCRIABIN *Poem of Ecstasy* (NJSO Premiere)

Scriabin applied his remarkable gift for orchestral color to this immersive ode to rapture, a showcase for the abundant gifts of Music Director Xian Zhang.

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CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Sat, Feb 2 at 7:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
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XIAN ZHANG conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LI HUANZHI *Spring Festival Overture*

BEETHOVEN Choral Fantasy
Opera Choruses and Traditional Chinese Songs

Start a new tradition at the NJSO's first-ever Chinese New Year celebration, conducted by Xian Zhang. Whether you live in Newark or hail from its Chinese sister city, Xuzhou, you have a seat amongst the family of music lovers at the NJSO!

Musical riches abound in this program that blends Eastern and Western musical traditions. Start with Li Huanzhi's *Spring Festival Overture*, beloved in China yet almost reminiscent of Copland's *America*. Songs and arias from opera and traditional Chinese culture show that music bridges all cultures. Finally, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy with a special young soloist brings all elements of this sumptuously crafted program together in a joyful conclusion!

BEETHOVEN'S FOURTH PIANO CONCERTO

Thu, Feb 28 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Mar 2 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Mar 3 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

HANS GRAF conductor
JEFFREY KAHANE piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Van Cliburn finalist Jeffrey Kahane “occupies an exalted position among living pianists” (Bachtrack); he’s sure to enthrall in Beethoven’s iconic concerto. Works by Ravel and Shostakovich—one elegiac, the other mischievous—make appealing bookends.

RAVEL *Le tombeau de Couperin*

Each of the four wistful and elegant movements commemorates a friend who died in battle during World War I. The oboe shines throughout.

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

Grand yet nuanced; generations of listeners have loved this piece, and critics have judged it to be among Beethoven’s greatest and most innovative works.

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 1

Shostakovich composed this sardonic work at 18; it was an enormous success, instantly bringing him international attention.

DEBUSSY MASTERWORKS

Thu, Mar 7 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Mar 8 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Mar 9 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Mar 10 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

JUN MÄRKL conductor
INGRID FLITER piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Let the NJSO transport you to a mythical realm in *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* by Debussy, who also conjures the ocean’s moods and majesty in *La mer*. Pianist Ingrid Fliter is admired for her “grace and heartfelt sincerity” (*Gramophone*).

DEBUSSY *Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune*

Languid and sensual, suggesting the erotic reveries of a faun, the half-man, half-goat of Greek mythology.

SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 2

Pyrotechnics abound in this pianistic showcase, which goes out on a demonic note.

BRITTEN Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*

Moody, foreboding; it captures the ocean at dawn, on Sunday morning, under moonlight and during a storm.

DEBUSSY *La mer*

Vivid and imaginative. As a young boy, Debussy's parents had wanted him to join the French Navy; instead, he captured his impressions of the ever-changing sea in this work.

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ZHANG CONDUCTS BRAHMS 4

Fri, Mar 22 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Mar 23 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Mar 24 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor

JOHANNES MOSER cello

NJSO HORN SECTION Chris Komer principal | **Andrea Menousek** | **Lawrence DiBello** | **Susan Standley** **NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Hailed by *Gramophone* as "one of the finest among the astonishing gallery of young virtuoso cellists," Johannes Moser stars in the East Coast premiere of Andrew Norman's inventive new concerto. Works by Schumann and Brahms showcase the artistry of the NJSO's musicians.

SCHUMANN *Konzertstück* for Four Horns (NJSO Premiere)

Festive and virtuosic: 19th-century advances in the French horn made it possible for Schumann to compose the concerto. The NJSO's horn section steps into the spotlight.

NORMAN Cello Concerto (East Coast Premiere and NJSO Co-Commission)

Named *Musical America's* 2017 Composer of the Year while still in his 30s, Andrew Norman is one of his generation's most celebrated composers, lauded by *The Boston Globe* for his "staggering imagination."

BRAHMS Symphony No. 4

Intricate, autumnal; the premiere of this ultimately satisfying masterpiece ignited a war of words in the press.

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SAROD & SCHEHERAZADE

Fri, Apr 5 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Apr 6 at 8 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick
Sun, Apr 7 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor

AMJAD ALI KHAN sarod

AMAAN ALI BANGASH sarod

AYAAN ALI BANGASH sarod

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Unmissable: Sarod (Indian lute) master Amjad Ali Khan takes the stage with his sons and the NJSO for an unforgettable meeting of East and West. Similarly, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* spans time and place.

KHAN *Samaagam*: A Concerto for Sarod, Concertante Group and String Orchestra (NJSO Premiere)

Samaagam means "confluence"; Western and Indian musical streams merge to propel this heartfelt, emotive work.

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*

Sumptuous and brilliant; like its fabled heroine from *One Thousand and One Nights*, *Scheherazade* captivates with tales of adventure and romance.

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MARY POPPINS LIVE WITH THE NJSO

Fri, Apr 12 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Apr 13 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 14 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Step in time, it's one heart-tugging, toe-tapping song after another in the beloved film *Mary Poppins*! This family-friendly, symphonic cinema event features the five-time Oscar-winning Disney film unfolding on the big screen with the NJSO performing the charming and delightful musical score. Don't miss this *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* wonder live with the NJSO!

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Apr 14 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

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XIAN CONDUCTS MOZART

Thu, Apr 25 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Apr 27 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, Apr 28 at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

XIAN ZHANG conductor
SIMONE DINNERSTEIN piano
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Simone Dinnerstein "compels the listener to follow her in a journey of discovery filled with unscheduled detours" (NPR). Join her as she explores Mozart's supremely melodic Piano Concerto No. 23.

WALTON Suite No. 2 from *Façade*

Sassy, comedic and very British; in its debut, poet Edith Sitwell sat behind a screen and recited her poems set to music through a megaphone, scandalizing the audience.

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23

Warm and tender; its sublime, melancholy Adagio speaks of heartbreak and acceptance.

MOZART Symphony No. 40

Mozart's second-to-last symphony crackles with a powerful dramatic tension, a musical "appeal to eternity" as his life was cut short.

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FAMILY: THE SOUND OF STORIES

Sat, May 11 at 2 pm & 3:30 pm Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark

It's a season of stories in music at the NJSO, and you get in on the fun too! Listen in wonder as some of your favorite stories are told through music, including Tchaikovsky's enchanted *The Nutcracker* and magical *Swan Lake*, romantic *Romeo and Juliet* and even the tale of your favorite boy wizard, Harry Potter!

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

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ART OF THE DOUBLE CONCERTO

Thu, May 16 at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, May 17 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, May 18 at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, May 19 at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

XIAN ZHANG conductor
ERIC WYRICK violin
ANNELLE GREGORY violin
STEVEN MACKEY electric guitar
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

It takes two: sparks fly in a pair of double concertos, one contemporary and one classic. NJSO Concertmaster Eric Wyrick does double duty alongside composer and guitarist Steven Mackey and, in Bach's splendid Double Concerto, with the 2017 senior winner of the Sphinx Competition.

WEBER Overture to *Oberon*

Exciting and suspenseful; based on a medieval story of an Elf King who must search the globe for one faithful human couple.

MACKEY *Four Iconoclastic Episodes*

"Music driven by energy, motion and joy of playing." Mackey's eclectic piece for violin and electric guitar includes hints of Radiohead, Chicago blues and much more.

BACH Concerto for Two Violins

Riveting and inspiring; its achingly lovely second movement was unforgettably featured in *Children of a Lesser God* as actress Marlee Matlin "heard" music.

BEETHOVEN *Leonore* Overture No. 3

Beethoven's heroic and triumphant overture tells the story of his only opera, *Fidelio*, bringing this palindrome concert to a delightful close.

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BLOCKBUSTER ALL-ORCHESTRAL SEASON FINALE

Thu, June 6 at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Fri, June 7 at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, June 8 at 8 pm	Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sun, June 9 at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Thrill to the magical partnership of Music Director Xian Zhang and the NJSO in a pair of breathtaking Russian works in this heart-pounding season finale.

PROKOFIEV Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

Scene by scene, this impassioned ballet score captures every circumstance, character and mood in the star-crossed lovers' story.

RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 2

The superlatives rack up when describing this glorious work: stunning, titanic, sweeping—even sweetly intimate in spots. A perfect conclusion to the season.

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