

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Xian Zhang announce 2018–19 season



‘Music Speaks’: Season explores music inspired by the written and spoken word

NJSO performs *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* live to picture

Emanuel Ax, Daniil Trifonov and Dawn Upshaw headline 2019 Winter Festival

**Season features diverse array of musical voices,
including Florence Price, Amjad Ali Kahn, Steven Mackey**

Opening weekend pairs US premiere of Kate Whitley’s *Speak Out* with Beethoven’s Ninth

NJSO gives East Coast premiere of Andrew Norman’s Cello Concerto, a co-commission

Zhang leads Chinese New Year Celebration in Newark

Guest artists include Augustin Hadelich, Simone Dinnerstein, Seong-Jin Cho

Season finale showcases Orchestra’s artistry in works by Rachmaninoff and Mendelssohn

NJSO performs mainstage productions in six communities across the state

NEWARK, NJ (January 29, 2017)—“Music speaks” in the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s 2018–19 season, announced today by the Orchestra and Music Director Xian Zhang. Classical, pops and family offerings feature works that bring to life great stories, poems and speeches, from Kate Whitley’s Malala Yousafzai-inspired *Speak Out* to Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* to sarod master Amjad Ali Khan’s *Samaagam* to *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* and *Mary Poppins* performed live to picture.

Fulfilling its mission as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO offers subscription series in Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, Morristown, Red Bank and Englewood, with 14 weeks of subscription classical programs, a three-program pops movie

series and two family programs. Special concerts in Newark include Handel's *Messiah* at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and a Chinese New Year Celebration at NJPAC.

A full realization of Zhang's artistic vision, the NJSO season features a diverse array of musical voices, from classical masters (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Debussy's *La mer* and Shostakovich's First Symphony) to composers performing their own concertos (Steven Mackey's *Four Iconoclastic Episodes* for violin and electric guitar, Amjad Ali Khan's *Samaagam* for Sarod, Concertante Group and String Orchestra) to female composers (Whitley's *Speak Out*, Maria Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks* with soprano Dawn Upshaw and Florence Price's Piano Concerto with acclaimed jazz pianist Aaron Diehl).

The Opening Weekend program pairing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the US premiere of Whitley's *Speak Out* encapsulates many of the season's major themes. The NJSO celebrates the voices of its own communities, creating Newark Voices—a choir composed in part of Newark residents who will join singers from Montclair State University, all under the direction of Heather J. Buchanan—for Beethoven's masterwork.

Zhang says: "For our 2018–19 season, I've chosen pieces that are inspired by great stories, myths and poems, bringing these words to vivid life. And as we welcome jazz musicians, Indian sarod virtuosos and singers from Newark and the New Jersey community, and celebrate Chinese New Year all on the NJSO stages, [audiences will] hear how music speaks in a common language across diverse cultures and traditions."

A new partnership with the Sphinx Organization to regularly present its competition winners is another aspect of the Orchestra's ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion on stage and in concert programming. With a festive Chinese New Year Celebration in Newark, Zhang brings a new cultural tradition to the NJSO.

Zhang has crafted a season of virtuosic symphonic repertoire to showcase the artistic quality of the Orchestra, with highlights including Mahler's Fourth Symphony, Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*, Brahms' Fourth Symphony and an all-orchestral season finale pairing Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony with selections from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In a hallmark of NJSO programming, Orchestra musicians take center stage as featured soloists. Concertmaster Eric Wyrick performs a pair of double concertos—Steven Mackey's *Four Iconoclastic Episodes* with the composer on electric guitar and Bach's Concerto for Two Violins with Sphinx Competition winner Annelle Gregory—and the NJSO horn section performs Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns.

2018 WINTER FESTIVAL

A blockbuster trio of soloists—pianists Emanuel Ax and Daniil Trifonov and soprano Dawn Upshaw—headline the NJSO's three-week Winter Festival in January. In 2019, the Orchestra's signature artistic event focuses on great works that were inspired by myths, stories and poetry, while featuring renowned guest artists with distinct musical voices.

Ax performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 on a program featuring Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony, based on Lord Byron's epic poem of doomed love. Upshaw sings Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks*, which chronicles a poet's recovery from a life-threatening illness, and Mahler's sublime Fourth Symphony, which finds wisdom in a child's vision of heaven. Piano phenomenon Daniil Trifonov performs Schumann's Piano Concerto on a program that includes Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy* and Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

A series of NJSO Accents and special Winter Festival events will further explore the "Music Speaks" theme.

PREMIERES & COMMISSIONS

Underscoring her belief in bringing new works to NJSO audiences, Zhang conducts the US premiere of Whitley's *Speak Out* on Opening Weekend and the East Coast premiere of an NJSO co-commission from *Musical America* 2017 Composer of the Year Andrew Norman—a cello concerto performed by Johannes Moser.

The season also features several works new to the NJSO, including Ligeti's *Romanian Concerto*, Florence Price's Piano Concerto, Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks*, Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*, Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns and Amjad Ali Kahn's *Samaagam*: A Concerto for Sarod, Concertante Group and String Orchestra.

INSPIRED PRESENTATIONS OF CORE REPERTOIRE

Season highlights include Chopin's Second Piano Concerto, Dvořák's Seventh Symphony, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony, Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird*, Mendelssohn's First Piano Concerto, Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, Choral Fantasy and *Leonore* Overture No. 3.

FEATURED ARTISTS

The NJSO welcomes an international roster of guest artists in the 2018–19 season, including soprano Dawn Upshaw; violinists Augustin Hadelich and Sphinx Competition winner Annelle Gregory; pianists Daniil Trifonov, Emanuel Ax, Seong-Jin Cho, Simone Dinnerstein, Aaron Diehl, Jeffrey Kahane and Ingrid Fliter; cellist Johannes Moser; sarod master Amjad Ali Khan and his sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash; and electric guitarist Steven Mackey.

Celebrating its own musicians, the NJSO presents Concertmaster Eric Wyrick in a pair of double concertos by Bach and Mackey and its horn section—Principal Horn Chris Komer, Andrea Menousek, Lawrence DiBello and Susan Standley—in Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns.

GALA OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

Special Opening Night Celebration Gala festivities surround Zhang and the NJSO's October 5 performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Whitley's *Speak Out*. Gala packages include a pre-concert cocktail party and post-concert dinner with Zhang, NJSO musicians and special guests at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

POPS MOVIE SERIES

The NJSO presents a trio of blockbuster movies with live orchestral performances of the film scores. The Orchestra performs the first two films of the original *Star Wars* trilogy—*A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*—and Disney's *Mary Poppins* at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick. State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the New Brunswick series.

FAMILY

The NJSO presents engaging family programs in the Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark; each concert has two showtimes and features special pre-concert events designed to bring young concertgoers closer to the music and music makers.

COLLABORATIONS

The NJSO partners with the Montclair State University Singers and Chorale for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Kate Whitley's *Speak Out* and Handel's *Messiah*; the New Jersey Youth Choruses for Whitley's *Speak Out* and Newark Voices—a choir composed in part of Newark residents—for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. In a partnership with the Sphinx Organization, the NJSO welcomes Sphinx Competition winner Annelle Gregory for Bach's Concerto for Two Violins. The Orchestra continues to present programs in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey and brings Handel's *Messiah* to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, a longtime collaborative partner.

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—July 9–14, 2018. Promising emerging composers will have their work rehearsed by the NJSO and guest conductor David Robertson, participate in masterclasses with Institute Director Steven Mackey 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 an NJSO performance of the participants' works on July 14. Learn more at www.njsymphony.org/institute.

TICKETS

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2018–19 season. Full information on ticket packages for each series and venue is available at www.njsymphony.org/subscribe; subscriptions are available for purchase online or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). Single tickets will go on sale in August.

PRESS KIT

The full 2018–19 press kit—including the season schedule, high-resolution photos and more—is available at www.njsymphony.org/presskit.



NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: 2018-19 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- **Opening Weekend:** For Opening Weekend, Xian Zhang pairs Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the US premiere of Kate Whitley's *Speak Out*, a work inspired by Malala Yousafzai's speech to the UN advocating the right of every girl to have an education. The NJSO celebrates the voices of its own communities, creating Newark Voices—a choir composed in part of Newark residents—to join the Orchestra and singers from Montclair State University for Beethoven's masterwork. New Jersey Youth Chorus performs Whitley's work. Oct 5–7. Special Opening Night Celebration Gala packages include a pre-concert cocktail party and a post-concert gala dinner on Oct 5 at NJPAC in Newark.
- **2019 Winter Festival: Music Speaks.** The 2019 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 including 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.

Week I – Zhang & Ax: Transformation. 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. Jan 10–13.

Week II – Zhang & Upshaw: Earth & Heaven. 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. Jan 18–20.

Week III – Zhang & Trifonov: The Eternal. Two extraordinary artists explore the never-ending connections that music makes across the ages. Daniil Trifonov, "the most astounding young pianist of our age" (*The Times of London*), solos in Schumann's poetic concerto. Jan 25–27.

www.njsymphony.org/winterfestival

- **Premieres, Commissions & Works New to the NJSO:** The season features works that will be new to NJSO audiences. The NJSO gives the US premiere of Kate Whitley's *Speak Out* on Opening Weekend (Oct 5–7) and the East Coast premiere of an NJSO co-commission from *Musical America* 2017 Composer of the Year Andrew Norman—a cello concerto performed by Johannes Moser (Mar 22–24). The Orchestra also performs for the first time Ligeti's *Romanian Concerto* (Oct 11–14), Florence Price's Piano Concerto (Nov 29–Dec 2), Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks* (Jan 18–20), Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy* (Jan 25–27), Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns (Mar 22–24) and Amjad Ali Kahn's *Samaagam: A Concerto for Sarod, Concertante Group and String Orchestra* (Apr 5–7).
- **Great works of the repertoire:** The 2018–19 season includes masterworks and gems of the classical repertoire. Highlights include Chopin's Second Piano Concerto (Oct 11–14), Dvořák's Seventh Symphony (Oct 11–14), Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (Nov 29–Dec 2), Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony (Jan 10–13), Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 (Jan 10–13), Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony (Nov 1–4), Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird* (Nov 29–Dec 2), Mahler's Symphony No. 4 (Jan 18–20), Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra* (Jan 25–27) and *Don Juan* (Nov 1–4), Shostakovich's First Symphony (Feb 28–Mar 3), Mendelssohn's First Piano Concerto (Mar 7–10), Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and *La mer* (Mar 7–10), Brahms' Fourth Symphony (Mar 22–24), Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* (Apr 5–7), Bach's Concerto for Two Violins (May 16–19), Handel's *Messiah* (Dec 14–16), Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony (June 6–9) and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Oct 5–7), Choral Fantasy (Feb 2), Fourth Piano Concerto (Feb 28–Mar 3) and *Leonore* Overture No. 3 (May 16–19).
- **Performances statewide:** Fulfilling its mission as New Jersey's state orchestra, the NJSO presents classical subscription programming at NJPAC in Newark, State Theatre New Jersey 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, State Theatre New Jersey and Count

Basie Theatre, presents family concerts at NJPAC and gives performances of Handel's *Messiah* at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark and Richardson Auditorium in Princeton.

- **Collaborations:** The NJSO partners with the Montclair State University Singers and Chorale for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Oct 5–7), Kate Whitley's *Speak Out* (Oct 5–7) and Handel's *Messiah* (Dec 14–16); the New Jersey Youth Choruses for Whitley's *Speak Out* (Oct 5–7) and Newark Voices—a choir composed in part of Newark residents—for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Oct 5–7). In a partnership with the Sphinx Organization, the NJSO welcomes Sphinx Competition winner Annelle Gregory for Bach's Concerto for Two Violins (May 16–19). The Orchestra presents pops programs in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey (*Star Wars: A New Hope* in Concert, Nov 25; *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in Concert, Jan 6; *Mary Poppins* in Concert with the NJSO, Apr 14). The NJSO brings Handel's *Messiah* to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, a longtime collaborative partner (Dec 16).
- **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—in July 2018. Promising emerging composers will have their work rehearsed by the NJSO and guest conductor David Robertson, participate in masterclasses with Institute Director Steven Mackey 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 an NJSO performance of the participants' works. July 9–14.

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.

Guest artists:

- **Daniil Trifonov**, “the most astounding young pianist of our age” (*The Times of London*), performs Schumann's poetic Piano Concerto in the closing program of the 2019 Winter Festival. Jan 25–27.
- **Emanuel Ax's** “greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays” (*Los Angeles Times*). The pianist opens the 2019 Winter Festival with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22. Jan 10–13.
- Soprano **Dawn Upshaw**, “one of the most consequential performers of our time” (*Los Angeles Times*), sings a work written for her—Maria Schneider's *Winter Morning Walks*, which chronicles a poet's recovery from a life-threatening illness, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. Jan 18–20.
- *Musical America's* 2017 Instrumentalist of the Year, **Augustin Hadelich**—“one of the finest violinists of our day, a child prodigy who matured into a master of singing tone and intelligent interpretation” (*St. Louis Post Dispatch*)—returns for Britten's Violin Concerto. Nov 1–4.
- Korean pianist **Seong-Jin Cho**, the 2016 Chopin Competition winner, “paints with transparency and exuberance ... his playing is riveting as ever” (*The Guardian*). He performs Chopin's Second Piano Concerto in his NJSO debut. Oct 11–14.
- “It's hard to imagine that Gershwin would not have been impressed” with jazz pianist **Aaron Diehl's** improvisational take on his work, *The New York Times* writes. Diehl performs *Rhapsody in Blue* and gives the NJSO premiere of Florence Price's Piano Concerto. Nov 29–Dec 2.
- **Amjad Ali Khan**—“the finest living exponent of the sarod” (*The Guardian*)—takes the stage with his sons for his *Samaagam: A Concerto for Sarod, Concertante Group and String Orchestra*. Apr 5–7.
- **Simone Dinnerstein**, who “compels the listener to follow her in a journey of discovery filled with unscheduled detours” (NPR), performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23. Apr 25–28.

NJSO artists:

- Concertmaster **Eric Wyrick** performs a pair of double concertos by Bach and Mackey. May 16–19.
- The NJSO horn section—Principal Horn **Chris Komer**, **Andrea Menousek**, **Lawrence DiBello** and **Susan Standley** takes center stage for the NJSO premiere of Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns. Mar 22–24.

POPS MOVIE SERIES

The NJSO presents a trio of blockbuster movies with live orchestral performances of the film scores. The Orchestra performs the first two films of the original *Star Wars* trilogy—*A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*—and Disney's *Mary Poppins* at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick. State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the New Brunswick series.

www.njsymphony.org/pops

- ***Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert***: 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. Nov 23–25. *The Nov 25 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey. Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts in association with 20th Century Fox, Lucasfilm Ltd., and Warner /Chappell Music. © 2018 & TM LUCASFILM LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © DISNEY*
- ***Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert***: 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. Jan 4–6. *The Jan 6 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey. Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts in association with 20th Century Fox, Lucasfilm Ltd., and Warner /Chappell Music. © 2018 & TM LUCASFILM LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © DISNEY*
- ***Mary Poppins in Concert with the NJSO***: 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! Apr 12–14. *The Apr 14 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey. Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts © Disney All rights reserved.*

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 in the Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark. *The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey presents the NJSO Family Series.*

www.njsymphony.org/family

- **Bravo Beethoven!** 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?! Nov 17.
- **The Sound of Stories**: It's a season of stories in music at the NJSO, and family audiences 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! May 11.

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 and play games in the NJPAC lobby an hour before each concert.

NON-SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

- **Handel's *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. Dec 14–16 at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton and Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.
- **Chinese New Year Celebration:** 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! Feb 2 at NJPAC in Newark.

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 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; NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, currently led by José Luis Domínguez; and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project). NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners Program.

For more information about the NJSO, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone at 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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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.

* * *

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.

* * *

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.”

* * *

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

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!

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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.

MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1

"A celebration of life ... and an explosion of happiness." – [Ingrid Fliter](#)

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.

* * *

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 *Scheherezade* 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 IN CONCERT 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.

MENDELSSOHN Selections from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Whimsical, sparkling, emotional—was more joyous music ever put to paper? Closes with the famous “Wedding March,” which in its full orchestral form is a marvel.

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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