

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 Choruses perform 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), Saint-Saëns' Second 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* Live 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.*
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- ***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.*
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- ***Mary Poppins Live 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.*
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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.

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