

## **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Xian Zhang announce 2020–21 season**

**Programs highlight diverse artists and composers**

**2021 Winter Festival: ‘Gershwin & the Sounds of America’ features works  
by Ellington, Weill, Coleridge-Taylor/Aaron Dworkin, Bernstein and more**

**Jennifer Koh performs world premiere  
by Newark-born composer Tyshawn Sorey on opening weekend**

**Principal Horn Chris Komer premieres jazz concerto commissioned from four composers**

**NJSO performs US premiere of co-commission from Thomas Adès,  
East-Coast premiere of Conrad Tao’s *Spoonfuls***

**Beethoven 250 celebration continues with Seventh Symphony, *Wellington’s Victory*,  
Violin Concerto with Augustin Hadelich, complete violin sonatas with Concertmaster Eric Wyrick**

**Joshua Bell, Conrad Tao, Aaron Diehl, Gemma New make return engagements**

**Violinist, pianist and composer Alma Deutscher debuts with NJSO**

**Orchestra presents *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2*, *Jurassic Park*  
and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in Concert**

**Zhang leads Lunar New Year Celebration in Newark**

**NJSO performs mainstage productions in seven communities across the state**

NEWARK, NJ (January 22, 2020)—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Xian Zhang announce the Orchestra’s 2020–21 season. Classical highlights include a Winter Festival featuring works by Gershwin and other luminary composers who blend classical and popular traditions; performances of commissions from Tyshawn Sorey, Thomas Adès and a quartet of jazz composers; a continuing celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday; return engagements by violin superstars Joshua Bell and Jennifer Koh and solo performances by multiple NJSO musicians.

Fulfilling its mission as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO offers classical series in Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, Morristown, Red Bank and Englewood, with 14 weeks of subscription programs. The Orchestra adds a new venue—West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood—for a classical concert in May.

Special concerts include Handel’s *Messiah* at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, a Lunar New Year Celebration at NJPAC in Newark, Beethoven’s complete violin sonatas performed by Concertmaster Eric Wyrick across three programs at the Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison and performances by violinist, pianist and composer Alma Deutscher at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank and NJPAC.

The NJSO continues its film concert series with *Jurassic Park* in Concert and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in Concert in Newark, New Brunswick and Red Bank and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2* in Concert in Newark. The Orchestra presents two family concerts in Newark.

Zhang says: “This season not only shines a spotlight on our programs but also builds momentum as we move closer to the NJSO centennial in 2022. There is great excitement as we continue to celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday, music that honors our commitment to diverse artists and their compositions, and extraordinary special guests such as Jennifer Koh, Conrad Tao and Joshua Bell. Our Winter Festival—featuring the works of George Gershwin, among other important composers—is not to be missed.”

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion on stage and in concert programming, the Orchestra’s partnership with the Sphinx Organization brings Sphinx’s founder, Aaron Dworkin, to New Jersey stages for his spoken-word multimedia work *The American Rhapsody*, which tells the story of America through the words of George Washington, set to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*. The season opens with the world premiere of a new work by Newark-born composer and MacArthur genius Tyshawn Sorey. A cultural tradition continues with a festive Lunar New Year Celebration led by Zhang in Newark.

The Orchestra highlights the voices of women composers from Jessie Montgomery (*Starburst*) to Rene Orth (*Chasing Light*) to Vivian Li (commissioned to write a movement of an innovative jazz French horn concerto).

Opening weekend recreates the December 8, 1813, concert that saw the world premieres of Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony and *Wellington’s Victory*. Zhang pairs the two Beethoven works with the world premiere of Sorey’s NJSO commission with violinist Jennifer Koh.

The classical season finale sees the return of Joshua Bell for a pair of violin showpieces—Bruch’s First Violin Concerto and the NJSO premiere of Bloch’s *Baal Shem* for Violin and Orchestra. Zhang conducts the finale, which also features Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony and the NJSO premiere of Rene Orth’s *Chasing Light*.

In a twist on his annual solo appearances with the Orchestra, Concertmaster Eric Wyrick performs Beethoven’s complete violin sonatas across three programs at the Concert Hall at Drew University—featuring pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Alan Feinberg and Drew Petersen—culminating on Beethoven’s birthday, December 16. The NJSO further honors the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth with performances of the composer’s violin concerto—featuring audience-favorite violinist Augustin Hadelich—and Fifth Symphony, led by guest conductor Mario Venzago.

Showcasing the talent within the Orchestra, several NJSO musicians take center stage as featured soloists with Zhang conducting. Principal Horn Chris Komer gives the world premiere of an innovative jazz French horn concerto, a work the NJSO commissioned from four jazz composers—Paquito D’Rivera, Vivian Li, Christian McBride and Gary Morgan. Principal Flute Bart Feller performs Nielsen’s Flute Concerto, Principal Cello Jonathan Spitz performs Saint-Saëns’ First Cello Concerto, solo piccolo Kathleen Nester performs Vivaldi’s Piccolo Concerto in C Major and Associate Concertmaster Brennan Sweet and Assistant Principal Viola Elzbieta Weyman perform Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola.

### **2021 Winter Festival: ‘Gershwin & the Sounds of America’**

The 2021 Winter Festival, “Gershwin & the Sounds of America,” features the music of Gershwin and other luminary composers who blend classical and popular traditions. Major works by Gershwin—*An American in Paris*, Piano Concerto in F and selections from *Porgy and Bess*—anchor each week of the festival, the NJSO’s signature three-week artistic event. Zhang highlights the jazz, pop and classical influences of Gershwin’s music by pairing his works with music from Weill (Suite from *The Threepenny Opera*), Coleridge-Taylor/Aaron Dworkin (*The American Rhapsody*), Ellington (*Harlem*), Bernstein (Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*), Herrmann (Suite from *Vertigo*) and a quartet of contemporary jazz composers (jazz French horn concerto commission). The Orchestra welcomes the Morgan State University Choir for *Porgy and Bess*.

### **Premieres & Commissions**

Continuing her commitment to introducing new works to NJSO audiences, Zhang conducts the world premieres of two NJSO commissions—Tyshawn Sorey’s new work for violin and orchestra and a jazz French horn concerto with movements by Paquito D’Rivera, Vivian Li, Christian McBride and Gary Morgan. The Orchestra also gives the US

premiere of a co-commission from Thomas Adès, led by former NJSO Associate Conductor Gemma New, and the East-Coast premiere of Conrad Tao's *Spoonfuls* for Piano and Orchestra, performed by the composer and led by guest conductor Jader Bignamini.

The season also features several works new to the NJSO, including Schumann's Overture to *Genoveva*, Coleridge-Taylor/Aaron Dworkin's *The American Rhapsody*, Herrmann's Suite from *Vertigo*, Walton's First Symphony, Mahler's Seventh Symphony, Rene Orth's *Chasing Light* and Bloch's *Baal Shem* for Violin and Orchestra.

### **Inspired Presentations of Core Repertoire**

Season highlights include Mozart's Piano Concertos No. 20 and 25, Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola and Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"; Brahms' Third Symphony; Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra; Ellington's *Harlem*; Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*; Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, First Piano Concerto and Second Symphony, "Little Russian"; Chopin's First Piano Concerto; Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and Second Violin Concerto; Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, "Italian," and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, Piano Concerto in F, selections from *Porgy and Bess*, Three Preludes for Solo Piano and "I Got Rhythm" Variations for Piano and Orchestra.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, the NJSO presents the composer's Fifth and Seventh Symphonies, *Wellington's Victory*, Violin Concerto and complete violin sonatas.

### **Featured Artists**

The 2020–21 season sees the return of celebrated guest artists, including violinists Joshua Bell, Jennifer Koh, Augustin Hadelich, Karen Gomyo and Vadim Gluzman; pianists Conrad Tao, Aaron Diehl, Haochen Zhang and New Jersey's Terrence Wilson; former NJSO Associate Conductor Gemma New and conductors Jun Märkl and Mario Venzago.

Pianists Jorge Federico Osorio and Tom Borrow, narrator Aaron Dworkin, the Morgan State University Choir and conductors Ruth Reinhardt, Fabien Gabel and Jader Bignamini make their NJSO debuts on classical subscription programs. Violinist, pianist and composer Alma Deutscher debuts in a pair of special concerts in Red Bank and Newark.

Showcasing its own musicians, the NJSO presents Principal Horn Chris Komer in the world premiere of an innovative jazz French horn concerto the NJSO commissioned from four jazz composers, Principal Flute Bart Feller in Nielsen's Flute Concerto, Principal Cello Jonathan Spitz in Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto, solo piccolo Kathleen Nester in Vivaldi's Piccolo Concerto in C Major and Associate Concertmaster Brennan Sweet and Assistant Principal Viola Elzbieta Weyman in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola.

### **Collaborations**

The Orchestra's partnership with the Sphinx Organization brings Sphinx's founder, Aaron Dworkin, to New Jersey stages for his spoken-word multimedia work *The American Rhapsody*, set to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*. The NJSO partners with the Morgan State University Choir for selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and with the Montclair State University Singers for Handel's *Messiah*. The Orchestra brings Handel's *Messiah* to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, a longtime collaborative partner. NJPAC co-presents *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2* in Concert in Newark; State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the New Brunswick performances of *Jurassic Park* in Concert and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in Concert.

### **Gala Celebrations**

Special Opening Night Celebration gala festivities surround Zhang and the NJSO's October 9 performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and *Wellington's Victory* and Tyshawn Sorey's new work for violin and orchestra at NJPAC in Newark.

The Orchestra presents its third annual Lunar New Year Celebration at NJPAC in Newark on February 6.

Gala packages for each event include a pre-concert cocktail party and post-concert dinner with Zhang, NJSO musicians and special guests at NJPAC in Newark.

### **Family**

The NJSO presents a pair of engaging family programs—Britten’s *A Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra* and Nathaniel Stookey’s *The Composer is Dead*, with text by Lemony Snicket—in the Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark. Each concert has two showtimes and features special pre-concert events designed to bring young audiences closer to the music and music makers.

### **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 13–18, 2020. Promising emerging composers will have their work rehearsed by the NJSO and guest conductor Ludovic Morlot, participate in masterclasses with Institute Director Steven Mackey and receive feedback from NJSO musicians. The Institute will provide sessions with industry leaders in publishing, networking, 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 18 at Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University. Learn more at [njsymphony.org/institute](https://njsymphony.org/institute).

### **Tickets**

Classical and family subscriptions are now on sale for the 2020–21 season. Full information on ticket packages for each series and venue is available at [njsymphony.org/subscribe](https://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 2020–21 press kit—including the season schedule, high-resolution photos and more—are available at [njsymphony.org/presskit](https://njsymphony.org/presskit).



## NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: 2020-21 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- **Opening Weekend:** Opening weekend recreates the December 8, 1813, concert that saw the world premieres of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and *Wellington's Victory*. Zhang pairs the two Beethoven works with the world premiere of an NJSO commission from Newark-born composer and MacArthur genius Tyshawn Sorey—the new work features violinist Jennifer Koh. Oct 9–11. Special Opening Night Celebration gala packages include a pre-concert cocktail party and a post-concert dinner on Oct 9 at NJPAC in Newark.
- **2021 Winter Festival: Gershwin & the Sounds of America.** The 2021 Winter Festival, “Gershwin & the Sounds of America,” features the music of Gershwin and other luminary composers who blend classical and popular traditions. Major works by Gershwin—*An American in Paris*, Piano Concerto in F and selections from *Porgy and Bess*—anchor each week of the festival, the NJSO's signature three-week artistic event. Zhang highlights the jazz, pop and classical influences of Gershwin's music by pairing his works with music from Weill (Suite from *The Threepenny Opera*), Coleridge-Taylor/Aaron Dworkin (*The American Rhapsody*), Ellington (*Harlem*), Bernstein (Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*), Herrmann (Suite from *Vertigo*) and a quartet of contemporary jazz composers (jazz French horn concerto commission).

Week I – Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. Gershwin's music spanned jazz, pop and classical, and New Jersey's own Terrence Wilson brings it all home with a suite of dazzling piano pieces. *An American in Paris* finds Gershwin at his jauntiest. Aaron Dworkin's spoken-word multimedia work *The American Rhapsody* tells the story of America through the words of George Washington, set to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*. Jan 15–17.

Week II – Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F. Classics from film, jazz and Broadway orbit around Gershwin's rollicking Piano Concerto in F, which Aaron Diehl makes his own through moments of spellbinding solo improvisation. We'll visit a couple of New York boroughs Gershwin walked, as Ellington paints *Harlem* and Bernstein tells his *West Side Story*. Jan 21–24.

Week III – The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*. No American opera has had the transcendent influence of *Porgy and Bess*—music at once popular, classical and utterly unforgettable. Hear “Bess, You Is My Woman Now,” “Summertime” and so many other glories from Gershwin's masterpiece with the NJSO, Morgan State University Choir and all-star vocal soloists. Principal Horn Chris Komer sets the table with the premiere of a striking jazz concerto, written for him by four composers. Jan 29–31.

[njsymphony.org/winterfestival](https://njsymphony.org/winterfestival)

- **Premieres, Commissions & Works New to the NJSO:** Xian Zhang conducts the world premieres of two NJSO commissions—Tyshawn Sorey's new work for violin and orchestra (Oct 9–11) and a jazz French horn concerto with movements by Paquito D'Rivera, Vivian Li, Christian McBride and Gary Morgan (Jan 29–31). The Orchestra also gives the US premiere of a co-commission from Thomas Adès, led by former Associate Conductor Gemma New (Feb 25–28), and the East-Coast premiere of Conrad Tao's *Spoonfuls* for Piano and Orchestra, performed by the composer and led by guest conductor Jader Bignamini (Apr 29–May 2). Works new to the NJSO include Schumann's Overture to *Genoveva* (Nov 5–8), Coleridge-Taylor/Aaron Dworkin's *The American Rhapsody* (Jan 15–17), Herrmann's Suite from *Vertigo* (Jan 21–24), Walton's First Symphony (Feb 25–28), Mahler's Seventh Symphony (Mar 6–7), Rene Orth's *Chasing Light* (June 10–13) and Bloch's *Baal Shem* for Violin and Orchestra (June 10–13).
- **Collaborations:** The Orchestra's partnership with the Sphinx Organization brings Sphinx's founder, Aaron Dworkin, to New Jersey stages for his spoken-word multimedia work *The American Rhapsody*, set to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Symphonic Variations on an African Air* (Jan 15–17). The NJSO partners with the Morgan State University Choir for selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* (Jan 29–31) and with the Montclair State University Singers for Handel's *Messiah* (Dec 18–20). The Orchestra brings Handel's *Messiah* to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, a longtime collaborative partner (Dec 20). NJPAC co-presents *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2* in Concert in Newark (Oct 31); State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the

New Brunswick performance of *Jurassic Park* in Concert (Nov 29) and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in Concert (Mar 21).

- **Beethoven 250:** In honor of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, Concertmaster Eric Wyrick performs the composer's complete violin sonatas across three programs, featuring pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Alan Feinberg and Drew Petersen at the Concert Hall at Drew University (Oct 21, Nov 18 & Dec 16). The Orchestra performs Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and *Wellington's Victory* on opening weekend (Oct 9–11) and Fifth Symphony (Apr 8–11).
- **Great works of the repertoire:** Highlights include Mozart's Piano Concertos No. 20 (Mar 6–7) and 25 (Nov 5–8), Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola (May 6–9) and Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter" (Oct 15–18); Brahms' Third Symphony (Nov 5–8); Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra (Dec 4–6); Ellington's *Harlem* (Jan 21–24); Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* (Jan 21–24); Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto (Feb 25–28), First Piano Concerto (Apr 29–May 2) and Second Symphony, "Little Russian" (Mar 11–14); Chopin's First Piano Concerto (Mar 11–14); Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony (June 10–13) and Second Violin Concerto (Apr 8–11); Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, "Italian" (May 6–9), and Gershwin's *An American in Paris* (Jan 15–17), Piano Concerto in F (Jan 21–24), selections from *Porgy and Bess* (Jan 29–31), Three Preludes for Solo Piano (Jan 15–17) and "I Got Rhythm" Variations for Piano and Orchestra (Jan 15–17).
- **Women composers:** The NJSO highlights works by women composers, including Jessie Montgomery (*Starburst*, Dec 4–6), Rene Orth (*Chasing Light*, June 10–13) and Vivian Li (commissioned to write a movement of an innovative jazz French horn concerto, Jan 29–31).
- **Statewide performances:** Fulfilling its mission as New Jersey's state orchestra, the NJSO presents classical programming at NJPAC in Newark, State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, bergenPAC in Englewood and West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood. The Orchestra performs film concerts at NJPAC, State Theatre New Jersey and Count Basie Center for the Arts, presents family concerts and a Lunar New Year Celebration at NJPAC and gives performances of Handel's *Messiah* at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark and Richardson Auditorium in Princeton. Concertmaster Eric Wyrick performs Beethoven's complete violin sonatas across three programs at the Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison.
- **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 2020. Promising emerging composers will have their work rehearsed by the NJSO and guest conductor Ludovic Morlot, participate in masterclasses with Institute Director Steven Mackey and receive feedback from NJSO musicians. The Institute will provide sessions with industry leaders in publishing, networking, 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 at Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University. July 13–18.

### **Guest and Featured Artists**

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

#### *Guest artists:*

- *The New York Times* writes, "**Jennifer Koh** is one of our most important violinists not just because she's a very fine soloist, but because she is a prolific commissioner of contemporary music." On opening weekend, she gives the world premiere of a new NJSO commission from Newark composer Tyshawn Sorey. Oct 9–11.
- **Joshua Bell** "doesn't stand in anyone's shadow," *The New York Times* writes of the virtuoso who returns for Bruch's First Violin Concerto and Bloch's *Baal Shem* for Violin and Orchestra on the season finale. June 10–13.

- *The Star-Ledger* writes that “when it’s just [**Augustin Hadelich**] and the violin, the physical world recedes. All you experience is the music. Hadelich somehow brings you back in time.” The NJSO audience favorite violinist returns for Beethoven’s Violin Concerto. Dec 4–6.
- *The New York Times* has praised **Conrad Tao**’s “fiercely individual performances.” The “fearless” pianist and composer returns for Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto and the East-Coast premiere of his own *Spoonfuls* for Piano and Orchestra. Apr 29–May 2.
- Former NJSO Associate Conductor **Gemma New** is “one of the brightest rising stars in the conducting firmament,” writes the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She returns to lead the US premiere of a new work by Thomas Adès alongside works by Tchaikovsky and Walton. Feb 25–28.
- “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 brings that approach to the composer’s Piano Concerto in F as part of the 2021 Winter Festival. Jan 21–24.
- Mexican-born artist **Jorge Federico Osorio**, “one of the most elegant pianists on the planet” (*Los Angeles Times*), makes his NJSO debut with Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25. Nov 5–8.
- *International Piano* calls young Israeli pianist **Tom Borrow** “the very definition of ‘the One to Watch.’” He performs Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 20 in his NJSO debut. Mar 6–7.
- *BBC Music Magazine* calls **Vadim Gluzman** playing Prokofiev’s Second Violin Concerto “a constant glory.” Apr 8–11.
- Sir Simon Rattle calls **Alma Deutscher** “a force of nature.” The extraordinary young violinist, pianist and composer joins the NJSO after a triumphant sold-out Carnegie Hall debut this season. May 22–23.

#### *NJSO artists:*

- Principal Horn **Chris Komer** gives the world premiere of an innovative jazz French horn concerto, a work the NJSO commissioned from four jazz composers—Paquito D’Rivera, Vivian Li, Christian McBride and Gary Morgan. Jan 29–31.
- Concertmaster **Eric Wyrick** performs Beethoven’s complete violin sonatas across three programs at Drew University, featuring pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Alan Feinberg and Drew Petersen. Oct 21, Nov 18 & Dec 16.
- Principal Flute **Bart Feller** performs Nielsen’s Flute Concerto on a program that also features Principal Cello **Jonathan Spitz** performing Saint-Saëns’ First Cello Concerto. Oct 15–18.
- Solo piccolo **Kathleen Nester** performs Vivaldi’s Piccolo Concerto in C Major, and Associate Concertmaster **Brennan Sweet** and Assistant Principal Viola **Elzbieta Weyman** perform Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola. May 6–9.

#### **Film Concerts**

- ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2 in Concert:*** In the epic finale to The Harry Potter™ Film Concert Series, the battle between good and evil forces of the Wizarding World™ escalates into an all-out war! *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2 in Concert* brings the final chapter to the big screen as the NJSO performs every note of the epic score from Alexandre Desplat. The stakes have never been higher, and no one is safe! Oct 31. *The Harry Potter Film Concert Series is presented in collaboration with New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Presented by CINECONCERTS.*
- ***Jurassic Park in Concert:*** Featuring visually stunning imagery and groundbreaking special effects, the action-packed adventure of Jurassic Park pits man against prehistoric predators in the ultimate battle for survival. Experience this epic film in HD with the NJSO performing John Williams’ iconic score live to picture. Welcome ... to Jurassic Park! Nov 27–29. *State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the Nov 29 performance.*

- **Star Wars: The Last Jedi in Concert:** In Lucasfilm's *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, the Skywalker saga continues as the heroes of *The Force Awakens* join galactic legends in an epic adventure that unlocks age-old mysteries of the Force and shocking revelations of the past. Experience this thrilling film like never before as the NJSO performs Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' exhilarating score live. Mar 19–21. *State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the Mar 21 performance.*

### **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.* [njsymphony.org/family](http://njsymphony.org/family)

- **The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra:** Bring your young ones on a musical adventure through the various instrument families of the orchestra with Britten's classic *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Nov 14.
- **The Composer is Dead:** A guest actor will take on the famous role of Lemony Snicket—best known for the popular *A Series of Unfortunate Events*—in Nathaniel Stookey's musical mystery *The Composer Is Dead*. May 15.

**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.

### **Specials**

- **Handel's Messiah:** Join us for one of the NJSO's great holiday traditions. Conductor Ruth Reinhardt brings her "incandescent talent" (*The Seattle Times*) to the Orchestra for Handel's classic. Hearing the amazing Montclair State University Singers sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" is a glorious experience each season. Dec 18–20 at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton and Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.
- **Lunar New Year Celebration:** Celebrate the Year of the Ox with us! Join Music Director Xian Zhang and the NJSO for a joyful Lunar New Year concert blending Eastern and Western musical traditions—an unmissable celebration of community and cultural exchange. The evening begins with a pre-concert festival of entertainment and activities in the Prudential Hall lobby. *Soloists, performers and program details to be announced.* Feb 6 at NJPAC in Newark.
- **Alma Deutscher Debuts with the NJSO:** Alma Deutscher has taken the world by storm with her talents as a violinist, pianist and composer who wrote her first piano sonata at age 6 and her first short opera at 7. Hear the extraordinary young voice Sir Simon Rattle calls "a force of nature" as she joins the NJSO after a triumphant sold-out Carnegie Hall debut this season. May 22–23 at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank and 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, critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang—a "dynamic podium presence" *The New York Times* has praised for her "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity"—continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People; NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez. NJSO musicians annually



perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners Program.

For more information about the NJSO, visit [njsymphony.org](https://njsymphony.org) or email [information@njsymphony.org](mailto: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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