



## New Jersey Symphony Orchestra: 2020–21 Season Listing

### Opening Weekend: Beethoven's Seventh Symphony

Fri, Oct 9, at 7:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Oct 10, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sun, Oct 11, at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**JENNIFER KOH** violin

Our new season—and the continuation of Beethoven's 250th birthday—begins with a literal bang in *Wellington's Victory*, featuring Newark-based students joining the fray. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, used so powerfully in *The King's Speech*, will send you home inches off the ground. Superstar Jennifer Koh plays the world premiere of a new work by Newark's own MacArthur genius Tyshawn Sorey.

**BEETHOVEN** *Wellington's Victory*  
**TYSHAWN SOREY** Work for Violin and Orchestra (World Premiere, NJSO Commission)  
**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 7

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### Zhang Conducts Mozart's 'Jupiter'

Thu, Oct 15, at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Fri, Oct 16, at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Oct 17, at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Oct 18, at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**BART FELLER** flute  
**JONATHAN SPITZ** cello

Two superb Orchestra principals step into the spotlight—Bart Feller in a tour de force that lets all of the flute's brilliant personalities sing out, and Jonathan Spitz in the piece many call the perfect cello concerto. And, for the first time, Music Director Xian Zhang leads Mozart's beloved final symphony with the NJSO.

**NIELSEN** Flute Concerto  
**SAINT-SAËNS** Cello Concerto No. 1  
**MOZART** Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"

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## **Beethoven's Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas**

Eric Wyrick, our inspired concertmaster, presents all of Beethoven's violin sonatas across three concerts. Beethoven poured his whole heart and genius into these 10 pieces, and they embrace an enormous range of emotion. In these violin showpieces, the piano is equally important, and master pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Alan Feinberg and Drew Petersen join Wyrick for the occasion. Don't miss the intimacy and excitement of chamber music at its best in honor of Beethoven's 250th birthday.

### **Beethoven's Violin Sonatas 1–4**

Wed, Oct 21, at 7:30 pm      Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison

**ERIC WYRICK** violin  
**DREW PETERSEN** piano

Our journey begins with Beethoven evoking his heroes Mozart and Haydn in his First Sonata. In his Second, you start to hear a delightful sense of impishness. The Third deepens his expression with a particularly tender slow movement. And by his Fourth, he has tossed off his models and plumbs dramatic depths in his first minor-key sonata.

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 1  
**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 2  
**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 3  
**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 4

*Beethoven's Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas performances also take place on Nov 18 (Sonatas 5–7) and Dec 16 (Sonatas 8–10).*

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## **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 2 in Concert**

Sat, Oct 31, at 2 pm      NJPAC in Newark

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!

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Harry Potter™ concerts are presented in collaboration with New Jersey Performing Arts Center.  
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## Mozart & Brahms

Thu, Nov 5, at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, Nov 6, at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Nov 7, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sun, Nov 8, at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

**JUN MÄRKL** conductor  
**JORGE FEDERICO OSORIO** piano

Jun Märkl returns for Brahms' touching Third Symphony, with a third-movement melody you'll hum all the way home. Our special guest for Mozart is Mexican-born artist Jorge Federico Osorio, "one of the most elegant pianists on the planet" (*Los Angeles Times*).

**SCHUMANN** Overture to *Genoveva* (NJSO Premiere)  
**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 25  
**BRAHMS** Symphony No. 3

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## Family Concert: *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

Sat, Nov 14, at 2 pm	Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Nov 14, at 3:30 pm	Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark

Bring your young ones for an entertainingly narrated musical adventure through the various instrument families of the orchestra with Britten's classic *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

Each concert includes a pre-concert adventure beginning one hour before the performance.

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

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## Beethoven's Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas Beethoven's Violin Sonatas 5-7

Wed, Nov 18, at 7:30 pm	Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison
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**ERIC WYRICK** violin  
**ALAN FEINBERG** piano

Amid November's chilly and gray weather, come into the ease and warmth of Beethoven's Fifth Sonata, "Spring." In his Sixth, the composer reveals a surprising softness in his soul. All this is swept up in his Seventh Sonata, whose dark and urgent mood he would tap again to world-changing effect in his Fifth Symphony.

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 5, “Spring”

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 6

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 7

*Beethoven’s Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas performances also take place on Oct 21 (Sonatas 1–4) and Dec 16 (Sonatas 8–10).*

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### ***Jurassic Park in Concert***

Fri, Nov 27, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sat, Nov 28, at 2 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Nov 28, at 7:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 29, at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

**CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS** conductor

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*!

*Jurassic Park in Concert on Nov 29 is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*

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### ***Beethoven’s Violin Concerto***

Fri, Dec 4, at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Dec 5, at 8 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick
Sun, Dec 6, at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor

**AUGUSTIN HADELICH** violin

Energy surges over the stage with Jessie Montgomery’s blazing *Starburst* and Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra, filled with colorful folk tunes and one of the most exhilarating finales in all of classical music. And with Beethoven’s 250th birthday days away, a special treat: his graceful violin concerto, played by the extraordinary Augustin Hadelich.

**JESSIE MONTGOMERY** *Starburst*

**BARTÓK** Concerto for Orchestra

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Concerto

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## **Beethoven's Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas** **Beethoven's Violin Sonatas 8–10**

Wed, Dec 16, at 7:30 pm      Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison

**ERIC WYRICK** violin  
**SIMONE DINNERSTEIN** piano

Beethoven's Eighth Sonata is a sunlit stream of music; from its first bars, it seems as if we've suddenly come across its beauty deep in the woods. The Ninth is his Everest—twice the length, difficulty and depth of many of his earlier sonatas. The cycle closes with Beethoven's loveliest, most graceful music.

**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 8  
**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 9, "Kreutzer"  
**BEETHOVEN** Violin Sonata No. 10

*Beethoven's Birthday Bash: The Complete Violin Sonatas performances also take place on Oct 21 (Sonatas 1–4) and Nov 18 (Sonatas 5–7).*

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## **Handel's Messiah**

Fri, Dec 18, at 8 pm      Richardson Auditorium in Princeton  
Sun, Dec 20, at 7 pm      Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark

**RUTH REINHARDT** conductor  
**Soloists to be announced**  
**MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS** | Heather J. Buchanan, conductor

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.

**HANDEL** *Messiah*

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## **2021 Winter Festival: Gershwin & the Sounds of America** **Week I: Gershwin's *An American in Paris***

Fri, Jan 15, at 8 pm      NJPAC in Newark  
Sat, Jan 16, at 8 pm      State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick  
Sun, Jan 17, at 3 pm      Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor

**TERRENCE WILSON** piano  
**AARON DWORKIN** narrator

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 *The American Rhapsody* sets riveting narration from George Washington's writings to Coleridge-Taylor's *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*.

**WEILL** Suite from *The Threepenny Opera*  
**GERSHWIN** Three Preludes for Solo Piano  
**GERSHWIN** "I Got Rhythm" Variations for Piano and Orchestra  
**COLERIDGE-TAYLOR / AARON DWORKIN** *The American Rhapsody* (NJSO Premiere)  
**GERSHWIN** *An American in Paris*

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## **2021 Winter Festival: Gershwin & the Sounds of America** **Week II: Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F**

Thu, Jan 21, at 7:30 pm	bergenPAC in Englewood
Sat, Jan 23, at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 24, at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

**FABIEN GABEL** conductor  
**AARON DIEHL** piano

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*.

**HERRMANN** Suite from *Vertigo* (NJSO Premiere)  
**GERSHWIN** Piano Concerto in F  
**ELLINGTON** *Harlem*  
**BERNSTEIN** Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

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## **2021 Winter Festival: Gershwin & the Sounds of America** **Week III: The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess**

Fri, Jan 29, at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, Jan 30, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sun, Jan 31, at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**CHRIS KOMER** horn  
**Soloists to be announced**  
**MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIR** | Eric Conway, director

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 the Gershwins’ masterpiece. Principal Horn Chris Komer sets the table with the premiere of a striking jazz concerto, written for him by four composers!

**VARIOUS** Jazz French Horn Concerto (World Premiere, NJSO Commission)

Movements by **PAQUITO D’RIVERA, VIVIAN LI, CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, GARY MORGAN**

**GERSHWIN** Selections from *Porgy and Bess*

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## Lunar New Year Celebration

Sat, Feb 6, at 7:30 pm

NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor

Soloists, performers and program details to be announced.

Celebrate the Year of the Ox as Music Director Xian Zhang and the NJSO continue a tradition that welcomes all audiences for a festive evening of community and cultural exchange.

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## Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Thu, Feb 25, at 1:30 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Fri, Feb 26, at 8 pm

NJPAC in Newark

Sat, Feb 27, at 8 pm

State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

Sun, Feb 28, at 3 pm

Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

**GEMMA NEW** conductor

**KAREN GOMYO** violin

Gemma New captured New Jersey’s hearts and minds as our former associate conductor, and her career continues to rocket with recent debuts in Philadelphia and San Francisco. She returns to give the US premiere of a new work by Thomas Adès and lead Walton’s big, brassy First Symphony. Dynamic violinist Karen Gomyo joins her, taking center stage for Tchaikovsky’s joyous concerto.

**THOMAS ADÈS** New Work (US Premiere, NJSO Co-Commission)

**TCHAIKOVSKY** Violin Concerto

**WALTON** Symphony No. 1 (NJSO Premiere)

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## Zhang Conducts Mahler 7

Sat, Mar 6, at 8 pm                      NJPAC in Newark  
Sun, Mar 7, at 3 pm                      NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**TOM BORROW** piano

Xian Zhang has dreamed of bringing you Mahler's Seventh since her NJSO tenure began. Its deep longing, its quiet intimacy and its ravishing waves of sound—this is Mahler at his best. Mahler is paired with the grace of Mozart and young Israeli pianist Tom Borrow—an artist who is, *International Piano* says, "the very definition of 'the One to Watch.'"

**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 20  
**MAHLER** Symphony No. 7 (NJSO Premiere)

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## Chopin's First Piano Concerto

Thu, Mar 11, at 1:30 pm                  NJPAC in Newark  
Fri, Mar 12, at 8 pm                      Richardson Auditorium in Princeton  
Sat, Mar 13, at 8 pm                      Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank  
Sun, Mar 14, at 3 pm                      State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**HAOCHEN ZHANG** piano

The spirit of folk music runs deep and glorious through these works. Close your eyes, and you're in the jaw-dropping beauty of Norway's fjords or Ukraine's green and rolling Carpathian Mountains. Open them, and you're dazzled by Haochen Zhang, gold-medal winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, in Chopin's lyrical First Piano Concerto.

**GRIEG** *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1  
**CHOPIN** Piano Concerto No. 1  
**TCHAIKOVSKY** Symphony No. 2, "Little Russian"

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## Star Wars: The Last Jedi in Concert

Fri, Mar 19, at 8 pm                      Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank  
Sat, Mar 20, at 2 pm                      NJPAC in Newark  
Sat, Mar 20, at 7:30 pm                  NJPAC in Newark  
Sun, Mar 21, at 3 pm                      State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

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.

**CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS** conductor

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*Mar 21 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*

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## Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

Thu, Apr 8, at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sat, Apr 10, at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Apr 11, at 3 pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown

**MARIO VENZAGO** conductor

**VADIM GLUZMAN** violin

Need a little magnificence? *BBC Music Magazine* calls Vadim Gluzman playing Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto "a constant glory." Come bask in it—and in the wonder of history's most iconic symphony, Beethoven's Fifth.

**GLUCK** Selections from *Armide* (NJSO Premiere)

**PROKOFIEV** Violin Concerto No. 2

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 5

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## Conrad Tao Plays Tchaikovsky

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

**JADER BIGNAMINI** conductor

**CONRAD TAO** piano

Since Conrad Tao's NJSO debut three seasons ago, his career has exploded: he's written music for the New York Philharmonic, given concerts all over the world and earned a huge spread in *The New York Times*. He returns for his own *Spoonfuls* and Tchaikovsky's big-shouldered First Piano Concerto, with the NJSO performing Shostakovich's lighthearted Ninth Symphony in between.

**CONRAD TAO** *Spoonfuls* for Piano and Orchestra (East-Coast Premiere)

**SHOSTAKOVICH** Symphony No. 9

**TCHAIKOVSKY** Piano Concerto No. 1

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## Mendelssohn's 'Italian' Symphony

Thu, May 6, at 7:30 pm	West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood
Sat, May 8, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sun, May 9, at 3 pm	State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor  
**BRENNAN SWEET** violin  
**ELZBIETA WEYMAN** viola  
**KATHLEEN NESTER** piccolo

Magnificently talented Associate Concertmaster Brennan Sweet and Assistant Principal Viola Elzbieta Weyman step to center stage to play the loveliest music ever written for violin and viola. And the NJSO's solo piccolo, Kathleen Nester, makes the orchestra's tiniest instrument sing loud and proud in Vivaldi's virtuosic Piccolo Concerto in C Major. The sunshine of Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony warms the entire program.

**ROSSINI** Overture to *L'italiana in Algeri*  
**MOZART** Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola  
**VIVALDI** Piccolo Concerto in C Major  
**MENDELSSOHN** Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

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## Family Concert: *The Composer is Dead*

Sat, May 15, at 2 pm	Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark
Sat, May 15, 3:30 pm	Victoria Theater at NJPAC in Newark

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*.

Each concert includes a pre-concert adventure beginning one hour before the performance.

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

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## Alma Deutscher Debuts with the NJSO

Sat, May 22, at 8 pm	Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sun, May 23, at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

**ALMA DEUTSCHER** composer, violin, piano  
**MICHAEL FRANCIS** conductor

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 in 2019.

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### **Season Finale: Joshua Bell Returns**

Thu, June 10, at 1:30 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Fri, June 11, at 8 pm	Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Sat, June 12, at 8 pm	NJPAC in Newark
Sun, June 13, at 3 pm	NJPAC in Newark

**XIAN ZHANG** conductor

**JOSHUA BELL** violin

Passion, poetry and power to see you through summer. We wrap the season with the nation’s most acclaimed violinist, Joshua Bell, in music of hold-your-breath beauty. And the fire in Prokofiev’s most popular symphony will hold you until we meet again!

**RENE ORTH** *Chasing Light* (NJSO Premiere)

**BRUCH** Violin Concerto No. 1

**BLOCH** *Baal Shem* for Violin and Orchestra (NJSO Premiere)

**PROKOFIEV** Symphony No. 5

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