

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **New Jersey Symphony Announces Continued Partnership with PSEG Foundation**

### **Funding to Support Symphony's Community Partners Chamber Music Program**

Newark, NJ – The New Jersey Symphony is very pleased to announce the continuation of its partnership with the PSEG Foundation in support of its traveling chamber music program Community Partners. This partnership reaffirms our shared commitment not only to the city of Newark, but also to residents from all walks of life across the State of New Jersey.

With a shared goal of connecting deeply with the varied communities of New Jersey, the PSEG Foundation and the NJ Symphony have been working together over the last eight years to help build and strengthen relationships with the State's civic and community leaders, including those in Newark, Orange, Jersey City, Trenton, Bayonne, Elizabeth, Clifton, Passaic, Metuchen, and Plainfield. Through this partnership, we have brought the joy of live music to thousands of New Jerseyans in community venues including libraries, outdoor cultural festivals, YMCA's, senior centers, cultural centers, houses of worship, parks and schools.

"The Symphony's Community Partners Program meets audiences where they are, in their schools or community centers, and brings people and communities together through the power of live music performances," said Ingrid Novak, New Jersey Symphony Senior Director of Institutional Giving. "Thanks to dedicated partners like the PSEG Foundation, we can continue to connect, inspire and serve through music in 2024."

For the last eight years, the PSEG foundation and the New Jersey Symphony have been working together to build and strengthen relationships with civic and community leaders throughout the state, with a goal of connecting with the diverse communities in New Jersey.

"At PSEG, social responsibility is a core value, and the Foundation is thrilled to support the New Jersey Symphony and its efforts to broaden their impact among the state's diverse population," said Calvin Ledford Jr., President, PSEG Foundation and Director,

Corporate Social Responsibility. “This initiative is a crucial part of our work to uplift and support diverse and sustainable communities, while making New Jersey a better place to live and work for everyone.”

The New Jersey Symphony Community Partners Program is a touring chamber music offering that provides up-close and personal access to Symphony musicians to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to hear live music of various kinds from Beethoven to Bollywood. Each year, the Symphony has more than 150 Community Partner events throughout 21 counties in New Jersey, reaching more than 30,000 people. In 2024, the Symphony will produce six PSEG Foundation-sponsored community events—all free and open to the public—enriching the lives of nearly 1,000 residents in PSEG communities.

### **New Jersey Symphony**

The Emmy and Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of our organization—all to better reflect and serve our vibrant communities. Since 2021, Music Director Xian Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current Music Director in 2016. Since her arrival at the New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts. In its second century of bringing concerts to the people of New Jersey, the Symphony will present audience favorites in 2023–24 including Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, violinist Joshua Bell leading the orchestra in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and pianist Daniil Trifonov playing Gershwin's Concerto in F. New Jersey Symphony co-commissions include works by internationally-renowned living composers: Anna Clyne's *ATLAS* and Jessie Montgomery's *Snapshots*. Composers Rob Kapilow and Daniel Bernard Roumain will present world premieres.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or email [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org). Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

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