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The Philadelphia Orchestra

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director

The
Orchestra
Leads
the
Way

Forward

2021

FALL IMPACT REPORT



The arts are back

in

Philadelphia



The Avenue of the Arts is bustling, the doors to Verizon Hall are open once again, and the 122nd season of The Philadelphia Orchestra is in full swing with a dynamic mix of performances and events. Together with our partners at the Kimmel Cultural Campus, we are committed to bringing joy, creating community, and effecting change through the arts for all Philadelphians.

In this season of gratitude, as we look ahead with joyful anticipation to the holidays, to a new year, and to our winter and spring programs, we are especially thankful for you—our family of donors—who have done so much to make this season's reunion with our audiences possible.

Reflecting the theme *Forward*, the Orchestra's 2021–22 season features a stunning array of debuts, world premieres, treasured classics, and more, as Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the musicians of the Orchestra continue to explore subjects of profound societal change, from technology to racial and social justice to the natural world.

Whether you are joining us in Verizon Hall, streaming our digital programs from the comfort of your home, or a blend of both, we invite you to experience the music of *Your Philadelphia Orchestra* safely and comfortably this season.



Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra performing Jessica Hunt's *Climb* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica"). As one concertgoer commented, "There's something special about being in the moment ... something we all experience together. To come here and support the Orchestra, support the arts, support what's happening in Philadelphia—that's something you shouldn't miss."

Along with our concerts, we look forward to welcoming you back to a full slate of in-person donor events this winter and spring! In addition to our series of digital Meet the Artists events featuring Principal Oboe Philippe Tondre and Principal Guest Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann, we'll share the latest details about our popular Open Rehearsals, the reopening of the Founders' Lounge, and more in the new year.

The Orchestra Leads the Way Forward

On September 18, the Kimmel Center welcomed back thousands of guests for the first time in 18 months for Arts Launch 2021, marking the return of in-person arts events in Philadelphia. From dance workshops and poetry readings to live performances and interactive demonstrations, Arts Launch showcased the diversity and vibrancy of our city's artistic and cultural life. A highlight of the day was a free concert with Music





2021 Opening Night Celebration

The memorable Opening Night Celebration with Yannick; legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma; Orchestra Storyteller, Narrator, and Host Charlotte Blake Alston; and our beloved musicians was a season launch like no other. Our time apart made this musical reunion even sweeter as we gathered again in Verizon Hall to enjoy the incomparable Philadelphia Sound in a program of Bach, Villa-Lobos, Valerie Coleman, and Ravel. The 2021 Opening Night Celebration set the stage for this season in more ways than one, as a vaccinated and masked audience filled the house and the Orchestra appeared in all-black concert dress against a backdrop of dynamic architectural lighting. We are proud to present the most diverse season in our history, featuring an exciting mix of beloved musical favorites and new works that speak powerfully to our time and place.

“[Yannick] Nézet-Séguin, also the music director of the Metropolitan Opera, led vibrant, impetuous performances of works both classic and new.”

—Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*

Carnegie Hall Opening Night

Just one day after our Opening Night Celebration in Philadelphia, the Orchestra traveled to New York for Carnegie Hall's eagerly anticipated October 6 Opening Night concert featuring Yannick and superstar pianist Yuja Wang.



Extraordinary Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra Family

In August, The Philadelphia Orchestra Association formally recognized the exemplary contributions of our musicians and staff. Principal Bassoon **Daniel Matsukawa** was presented with the 2021 C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given annually to “the member of The Philadelphia Orchestra who has shown ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the standards and the reputation of the ensemble.” Retirees **Michael Shahan** (bass) and **Jeffry Kirschen** (horn) were honored for a remarkable 57 and 32 years of dedicated service, respectively. **Alex Veltman** (cello) and **Arthur Curtis** (managing director, information technology) were each recognized for their 25 years of service. We are deeply grateful to each of these extraordinary individuals for their commitment to the Orchestra—congratulations and best wishes!



The Orchestra is honored to welcome **Charlotte Blake Alston** to our official roster of artistic collaborators as The Philadelphia Orchestra's storyteller, narrator, and host. Charlotte made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut nearly 30 years ago and has appeared as host and narrator of our School and Family concerts since 1991. She is currently in her 28th season as host of Sound All Around, the Orchestra's preschool concert series, and has also appeared on each of the Orchestra's Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concerts since 2003.



We are delighted to announce that Conducting Fellow **Lina Gonzalez-Granados** has been named resident conductor of the Los Angeles Opera through the 2024–25 season. We have been fortunate enough to experience Lina's talents firsthand and know that she will bring extraordinary gifts to this new role.



The Philadelphia Orchestra extends heartfelt and well-deserved congratulations to our principal guest conductor, Nathalie Stutzmann, on her historic appointment as music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, beginning in the 2022–23 season. She is only the second woman to hold a music director position with a major American orchestra. Nathalie will maintain her role as principal guest conductor here in Philadelphia, and we look forward to exploring her remarkable musicianship throughout the course of her three-year appointment with us. This December, she will lead three performances with the Orchestra in Verizon Hall, including Missy Mazzoli's *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)* and Schubert's Symphony No. 9 (“Great”).



In July, the Philadelphia Orchestra Global Music Center launched with a one-week online intensive pilot for students in China. In 1973, the Philadelphians were the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, and this pilot program continues a four-decade tradition of innovation and friendship with young people throughout China. This new music education program provides high school and conservatory students with premium instrument instruction, real life performance preparation, career guidance, and a curriculum that bridges cultural differences through music education via live online instruction.



2021-2022 Virtual School Concert Experience

Just in time for back-to-school in September, the Orchestra launched a Virtual School Concert Experience, including a brand-new curriculum with videos and resources for teachers. The capstone of the experience will be a School Concert to be released in March, inviting students and teachers to attend a digital concert performance created especially for them.



Hosted by Charlotte Blake Alston, the Orchestra's storyteller, narrator, and host, our popular Sound All Around performances continue online this fall, with two episodes for young listeners ages 3-5.

Music Education Continues this Season—in Classrooms and Online

Summer 2021 saw the return of in-person music education, with a family-friendly Sound All Around concert at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in Vail, Colorado, and a Play!N session during the Orchestra's August residency at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Here in Philadelphia, the Orchestra also returned for its third summer as the lead partner for the Mann Center for the Performing Arts' All City Orchestra Summer Academy (ACOSA). This year, 80 students in grades 6-12 had the opportunity to gain high-quality orchestra training experience through master classes with Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, chamber music rehearsals and performance opportunities, composition lessons, and electives from ACOSA partner organizations.

First Associate Principal Concertmaster Juliette Kang teaches a master class in the 2021 All City Orchestra Summer Academy at the Mann Center for Performing Arts



Principal Guest Conductor Designate Nathalie Stutzmann with the Orchestra at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in July



Our City, Your Orchestra and the HearTOGETHER Podcast Are Back

Our City, Your Orchestra returns for a second season! This series of free online concerts performed by small ensembles at Black-owned businesses, non-profit institutions, and iconic cultural locations throughout the Philadelphia region continues this fall with new collaborations with Asian Arts Initiative and Grant Blvd.

Located in Philadelphia's Chinatown North, Asian Arts Initiative is a multidisciplinary arts center offering exhibitions, performances, artist residencies, youth workshops, and a community gathering space. Grant Blvd is an ethically sourced, sustainable clothing store in West Philadelphia that uses upcycled garments, fabrics, and vintage fashion to create employment opportunities and raise awareness for marginalized communities.

Look for more concerts to be added in 2022! All Our City, Your Orchestra performances are available to stream for free on demand at philorch.org/ocyo.

Our City, Your Orchestra is supported in part by the William Penn Foundation, with additional support provided through the PNC Arts Alive initiative, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Presser Foundation.



Also returning for the 2021-22 season is the HearTOGETHER podcast, featuring artists and activists who share their personal and professional experiences working for racial and social justice and creative equity. This fall, we're featuring conversations with the following guests:

- **President and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc. Matías Tarnopolsky**
- **Pianist and arts advocate Lara Downes**
- **"New renaissance artist," experimental filmmaker, composer, and performer the Hon. Elizabeth A. Baker**

Stay tuned for all the latest episodes, which are released monthly on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other streaming services, as well as at philorch.org/hearttogether.

HearTOGETHER is supported by lead corporate sponsor Accordant Advisors. Additional major support has been provided by the Otto Haas Charitable Trust.



The Philadelphia Orchestra's recording of Florence Price's Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3, led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, was released digitally by the Deutsche Grammophon label in September, launching a planned series of recordings celebrating Price's work. This remarkable recording is now available to stream on major platforms, with a CD release scheduled for January 2022.

"It's so important to me and to The Philadelphia Orchestra to bring back the music of composers we believe in, like Florence Price, and continue broadening the repertoire to give a much more diverse representation of who we are as a society today." —Yannick Nézet-Séguin



In August, Philadelphia Orchestra President and CEO Matías Tarnopolsky joined with arts and civic leaders on the steps of the Academy of Music to mark the future location of a statue commissioned in honor of famed contralto Marian Anderson. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Anderson was the first Black person to become a member of the Metropolitan Opera. Denied access to perform at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., in 1939 because of her race, she went on to make history at a famous performance for an audience of 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial. The statue of Anderson will also have historic status as the first monument to a Black woman in the city of Philadelphia. Plans for the installation of the statue are underway; final candidates for the design of the statue are scheduled to be announced in February 2022 to mark the 125th anniversary of Anderson's birth.

Built in 1857, the Academy of Music is a fitting location to honor Anderson's artistic legacy. The historic home of The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Academy is the oldest opera house in the United States still used for its original purpose and is owned and maintained by The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc.



Enjoy the Gift of Music this Holiday Season

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with *Your Philadelphia Orchestra!* From the majestic Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ to the Glorious Sound of Christmas, from holiday family favorites on the Digital Stage to Handel's *Messiah* with orchestra and choir, there is something for everyone in Verizon Hall and online this holiday season.

Ring in the New Year with Yannick and the Orchestra in a series of festive concerts featuring Beethoven's Ninth

Symphony and the world premiere of *Pachamama Meets an Ode*, a new commission by Composer-in-Residence Gabriela Lena Frank.

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