

2023–2024 | 124th Season

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Thursday, December 14, at 7:00

Friday, December 15, at 7:00

Saturday, December 16, at 7:00

The Glorious Sound of Christmas

William Eddins Conductor

Charlotte Blake Alston Speaker

Jarrett Ott Baritone

Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

Dominick DiOrio Artistic Director

Mendelssohn/arr. Harris "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Traditional/arr. Harris "Away in a Manger"

Traditional/arr. Harris "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"

Vaughan Williams from Five Mystical Songs:

I. Easter

II. I Got Me Flowers

V. Antiphon

First Philadelphia Orchestra performances

Tchaikovsky Selections from *The Nutcracker Suite* (freely arranged by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and orchestrated by Jeff Tyzik)

I. Overture

IV. Sugar Rum Cherry (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy)

V. Peanut Brittle Brigade (March)

Intermission

Various/arr. Ryden *A Charleston Christmas*

First Philadelphia Orchestra performances

Adam/arr. Ryden "O Holy Night"

Holst/arr. Tovey "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Tovey "The Rittenhouse Carol"

Anderson *Sleigh Ride*

Various/arr. Gray Medley of Christmas Favorites

Wade/arr. Harris "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

This program runs approximately 2 hours.



The Philadelphia Orchestra

The world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra strives to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience, and to create joy, connection, and excitement through music in the Philadelphia region, across the country, and around the world. Through innovative programming, robust education initiatives, a commitment to its diverse communities, and the embrace of digital outreach, the ensemble is creating an expansive and inclusive future for classical music, and furthering the place of the arts in an open and democratic society. In June 2021 the Orchestra and its home, the Kimmel Center, united to form The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc., reimagining the power of the arts to bring joy, create community, and effect change.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is now in his 12th season with The Philadelphia Orchestra, serving as music and artistic director. His connection to the ensemble's musicians has been praised by both concertgoers and critics, and he is embraced by the musicians of the Orchestra, audiences, and the community.

Your Philadelphia Orchestra takes great pride in its hometown, performing for the people of Philadelphia year-round, in Verizon Hall and around the community, in classrooms and hospitals, and over the airwaves and online. The Orchestra's award-winning education and community initiatives engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members of all ages through programs such as PlayINs; side-by-sides; PopUP concerts; Our City, Your Orchestra Live; School

Concerts; sensory-friendly concerts; open rehearsals; the School Partnership Program and School Ensemble Program; All City Orchestra Fellowships; and residency work in Philadelphia and abroad. The Orchestra's free online video series, Our City, Your Orchestra (OCYO), uncovers and amplifies the voices, stories, and causes championed by unique Philadelphia organizations and businesses. Joining OCYO in connecting with the community is HearTOGETHER, a free monthly podcast featuring artists and activists who discuss music, social justice, and the lived experiences that inform the drive to create a more equitable and inclusive future for the arts.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador and one of our nation's greatest exports. It performs annually at Carnegie Hall, the Mann Center, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. The Orchestra also has a rich touring history, having first performed outside Philadelphia in its earliest days. In 1973 it was the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, launching a five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange.

Under Yannick's leadership, the Orchestra returned to recording with 13 celebrated releases on the Deutsche Grammophon label, including the GRAMMY® Award-winning *Florence Price Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3*. The Orchestra also reaches thousands of radio listeners with weekly broadcasts on WRTI-FM and SiriusXM. For more information, please visit www.philorch.org.

Conductor



Conductor and pianist **William Eddins** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in April 2002 and his subscription debut in October 2022. Other recent engagements include conducting The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yo-Yo Ma in Saratoga and collaborations with Wynton Marsalis's Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with both the Detroit Symphony and the Minnesota Orchestra. Mr. Eddins is music director emeritus of the Edmonton Symphony, where he served as music director

from 2004 to 2017, and a frequent guest conductor of major orchestras throughout the world. In the United States he has led the New York, Los Angeles, and Buffalo philharmonics and the San Francisco, St. Louis, Boston, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Dallas, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Houston symphonies. Internationally he was principal guest conductor of the RTÉ National Symphony in Ireland from 2001 to 2006. He has also conducted the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Berlin Radio Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Adelaide and Barcelona symphonies, and the Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra.

Mr. Eddins's career highlights include taking the Edmonton Symphony to Carnegie Hall in May 2012, conducting the RAI National Symphony on Italian television, and leading the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic on tour in South Africa with soprano Renée Fleming. Equally at home on opera stages, he conducted Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with Opera de Lyon both in France and at the Edinburgh Festival. He is an accomplished pianist and chamber musician and regularly conducts from the keyboard in works by Mozart, Beethoven, Gershwin, and Ravel. He has performed at the Ravinia Festival with both the Chicago Symphony and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra and has also conducted the orchestras of the Aspen Music Festival, the Hollywood Bowl, the Chautauqua Festival, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. His recordings include a release on his own label featuring Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" Sonata and William Albright's *The Nightmare Fantasy Rag*.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Mr. Eddins attended the Eastman School of Music, studying with David Effron and graduating at age 18. He studied conducting with Daniel Lewis at the University of Southern California and was a founding member of the New World Symphony in Miami. He is also a co-founder of MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul, a socially missioned brewery established in the wake of the public unrest during the summer of 2020 with the objective of Nurturing Outstanding Music Education. Proceeds provide musical instruments, lessons, and education for underprivileged youth in the Twin Cities metro area.

Speaker



Charlotte Blake Alston is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, narrator, and librettist. In July 2021 she was named The Philadelphia Orchestra's Imasogie Storyteller, Narrator, and Host. She has appeared as host and narrator on the Orchestra's School and Family concerts since 1991 and has been the host of Sound All Around, the Orchestra's preschool concert series, since 1994. She has also appeared on each of the Orchestra's Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concerts

since 2003.

Committed to keeping alive African and African-American oral traditions, Ms. Alston has performed on national and regional stages including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has been a featured artist at the National Storytelling Festival; the National Festival of Black Storytelling; and festivals in Ireland, Switzerland, South Africa, and Brazil. She has performed at Presidential inaugural festivities in Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Children's Inaugural Celebrations in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She was also one of two storytellers selected to present at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. She has been guest narrator for several orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. During a 20-year association with Carnegie Hall, she was the featured preconcert artist, host, and narrator on the Family, School, and Global Encounters concert series and represented the Hall in Miyazaki, Japan. She has also performed as a touring artist for Lincoln Center Institute.

Ms. Alston has produced several commissioned texts for orchestras and choirs including original narrative texts for Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*. Her honors include two honorary Ph.Ds, a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association. She is the recipient of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Artist of the Year Award and the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the highest award bestowed by the National Association of Black Storytellers. In 2023 she received the Distinguished Artist Award at the New Jersey Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts in Education.

Soloist



American baritone **Jarrett Ott** is enjoying an international career at the age of 36. In the 2023–24 season he sings the title role in a world-premiere work with Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, the title role in Pascal Dusapin's *Macbeth Underworld* with the Opéra Comique in Paris, Colonel Álvaro Gómez in a new production of Adès's *The Exterminating Angel* with the Opéra National de Paris, and Don Pedro de Alvarado in Purcell's *The Indian Queen* with the Salzburg Festival. In concert

he joins the Colorado Symphony and the Oregon Bach Festival for Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony*, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, for Handel's *Messiah*, and *Symphonia* in Syracuse, New York, for an evening of opera favorites.

In the 2022–23 season, Mr. Ott made his debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona as Lescaut in Massenet's *Manon*, the Opéra Comique as Jan Nyman in Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves*, Dandini in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with the Staatstheater Stuttgart, the prisoner in David Lang's *prisoner of the state* with Malmö Opera and the Barcelona Symphony, and Maximilian in Bernstein's *Candide* with the Hamburg Symphony at the Lausitz Festival. In the United States, he appeared as the Count in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Pittsburgh Opera, reprised the role of John Seward for a performance and recording of John Corigliano's *The Lord of Cries* with Odyssey Opera, and joined colleagues for the inaugural Sag Harbor Song Festival on Long Island. Other opera highlights include W.P. Inman in the East Coast premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain* as well as Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with Opera Philadelphia. On the concert stage he performed the title role in the world premiere of *prisoner of the state* with Jaap van Zweden and the New York Philharmonic. He has performed Orff's *Carmina burana* with the Seattle Symphony and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Brahms's Requiem with the Columbus Symphony, and a holiday concert with the Lexington Philharmonic. A favorite of the New York Choral Society, he has appeared as soloist in Charles Villiers Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet* and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, both at Carnegie Hall, and Joseph Vella's *The Hyland Mass*, a world premiere at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He made his European concert debut with the Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris, performing pieces by Vito Zuraž and Bach, conducted by Matthias Pintscher.

A native of Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, Mr. Ott is based in New York. He received his master's degree at the Curtis Institute of Music. These current performances mark his Philadelphia Orchestra debut.

Chorus

Torello Productions



Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia has a rich and storied history as one of the nation's premier choral ensembles and a vital part of Philadelphia's cultural landscape. Since its founding in 1874, the chorus has performed works of the past while commissioning and premiering new pieces at the highest artistic level. The chorus has enjoyed a close performing relationship with The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning with a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in 1904 under Fritz Scheel

and the 1908 Philadelphia premiere of Brahms's *A German Requiem* under Mendelssohn Chorus founder William Wallace Gilchrist. The choir provided more than 300 singers for the 1916 American premiere of Mahler's monumental "*Symphony of a Thousand*" with The Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski. Other historic performances with the Orchestra include the world premiere of Rachmaninoff's *Three Russian Songs*, the American premiere of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, and the first performance outside the Soviet Union of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 13*. The RCA recording of the Shostakovich performance, under the direction of Eugene Ormandy, won the *Prix Mondiale de Montreux*.

Since 1990 Mendelssohn Chorus has commissioned more than 75 works and in 2013 won its second ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming. The ensemble was nominated for a 1985 GRAMMY Award for its recording of Persichetti's *Winter Cantata*. Its commission *Anthracites Fields* by Julia Wolfe won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Now performing its 150th season, Mendelssohn Chorus is led by Artistic Director and Conductor **Dominick DiOrio**, a conductor and composer who has won widespread acclaim for his contributions to American music. He has been recognized with the American Prizes in both Choral Composition (2014) and Choral Performance (2019, with NOTUS). He has conducted ensembles around the world, from the Houston Chamber Choir and Choral Arts Initiative in the United States to Allmänna Sängen and Ars Veritas abroad. His over 50 published works have appeared at major venues around the world including the Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. Since 2012 he has been a member of the conducting faculty at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he is professor of music (choral conducting), leads the new music chamber chorus NOTUS, and teaches classes in undergraduate and graduate conducting, ear training, score reading, and music career development and entrepreneurship. In July 2020 he became the 14th artistic director and conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia. For more information about Mendelssohn Chorus, please visit mcchorus.org.

Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

Dominick DiOrio Artistic Director

Soprano

Ariel Alvarado^
Maryl Apadula
Brooke Bartolome
Anna Bochenek
Lily Carmichael
Rachel Castro-Diephouse
Lauren Cohen*
Shiloh Cooper
Lauren Darkes
Amanda Davis
Bailey Dean^
Roberta Fischer
Caroline Fitch
Teri Gemberling-Johnson
Lauren Gilmore
Miriam Goldberg
Lilah Gosman
Elizabeth Hohwieler
Anna Juliar
Emily Kane
Lynn Kirby
Maya Kociba
Carolyn Linarello
Rachael Lipson*
Fay Manicke
Natalie McQuiston
Juliana Melara
Ilene Miller
Leila Naitove
Andrea Nestman
Kethrellan Peterson
Lynn Petroski
Kate Philips-Kaiser
Gabrielle Rinkus
Roberta Rote
Mary Kate Suhy
Marie Tavianini
Laura Temoyan
Jessica Vega
Kathryn Wadsworth
Deanda Wilson
Lisa Wooldridge

Alto

Rachele Armstrong
Elizabeth Beavers^
Shahara Benson
Jenna Camacho

Christine Chaapel
Hannah Davis
Erin Donovan
Robin Eaton
Shannon Foley
Becca Fülöp
Lis Galassini-Oothuizen
Tammara Gary
Trina Gary
Anne Gold
Katherine Haas
Jennifer Hay
Mari Kawakatsu
Sharon Kempin
Katie Kershaw
Deborah Laird
Susan Lin
Priscilla Lo
Madeleine Mackin*
Deborah McIntosh
Heather Mitchell~
Florence Moyer
Margaret Oravetz
Gina Polite
Jennifer Rafferty*
Shannon Rafferty
Rebecca Rendsburg
Sharon Rhinesmith*
Rebecca Roberts
Julia Scott
Jane Uptegrove
Aiko Whiting
Heather Wismer
Ting Ting Wong~

Tenor

Michael Cabán
Chris Carriero
Kyle Conner
Mark Davidson
Dominick DiOrio~
Carl Ellinwood, Jr.*
Rich Galassini
Campbell Holder
Frank Kanther
Jim Light
John Luttenberger
Ian Martin
Sean Martin

Josh Matthias-Long
John Padden
Nick Petroski
Mark Pinzur
Eric Rodriguez-Lopez
Roy Schmidt
Jeffrey Schwartz
Kyle Sheehan
Michael Smith*
D'quan Tyson*
Steve Ullman

Bass

Louis Bartholomew
Will Budreau
Michael Carson
Keegan Connolly
Mark Cordova
Tyler Cudia
Lucas DeJesus*
Brendan Fullam
Steven Glasser
Kreg Godfrey
David Huang
Jon Kochavi
John Kohlhas
James Lamb
George Leone
Martin Levitas
Jacob Lynn-Palevsky
Michael Moore
Erik Potteiger
Jeffrey Pufahl
Cleveland Rea
Matthew Reese
Dan Simpson
Erik Stenswold*
Thomas Sutton
William Thomas
Richard Tolsma
Alexander Varghese

*Section Leader

^Conducting Apprentice

~Artistic Staff

Tickets & Patron Services

We want you to enjoy each and every concert experience you share with us. We would love to hear about your experience at the Orchestra and it would be our pleasure to answer any questions you may have.

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The Academy of Music
Broad and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tickets: 215.893.1999

Concert dates (two hours before concert time and through intermission):
The Kimmel Center
Broad and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Web Site: For information about The Philadelphia Orchestra and its upcoming concerts or events, please visit philorch.org.

Individual Tickets: Don't assume that your favorite concert is sold out. Subscriber turn-ins and other special promotions can make last-minute tickets available. Visit us online at philorch.org or call us at 215.893.1999 and ask for assistance.

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PreConcert Conversations: PreConcert Conversations are held prior to most Philadelphia Orchestra subscription concerts, beginning one hour before the performance. Conversations are free to ticket-holders, feature discussions of the season's music and music-makers, and are supported in part by the Hirschberg–Goodfriend Fund in memory of Adolf Hirschberg, established by Juliet J. Goodfriend.

Lost and Found: Please call 215.670.2321.

Late Seating: Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members who have already begun listening to the music. If you arrive after the concert begins, you will be seated only when appropriate breaks in the program allow.

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Large-Print Programs: Large-print programs for every subscription concert are available in the House Management Office in Commonwealth Plaza. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Fire Notice: The exit indicated by a red light nearest your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do not run. Walk to that exit.

No Smoking: All public space on the Kimmel Cultural Campus is smoke-free.

Cameras and Recorders: The taking of photographs or the recording of Philadelphia Orchestra concerts is strictly prohibited, but photographs are allowed before and after concerts and during bows. By attending this Philadelphia Orchestra concert you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded for any purpose in connection with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Phones and Paging Devices: All electronic devices—including cellular telephones, pagers, and wristwatch alarms—should be turned off while in the concert hall.