

2022–2023 | 123rd Season

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00

Thursday, December 22, at 7:00

Friday, December 23, at 7:00

The Glorious Sound of Christmas

William Eddins Conductor

Charlotte Blake Alston Speaker

Norman Garrett Baritone

Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia

Dominick DiOrio Artistic Director

Anderson *A Christmas Festival*

Tchaikovsky Selections from *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71, and *The Nutcracker Suite* (freely arranged by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and orchestrated by Jeff Tyzik)

1. Overture, from *The Nutcracker*

2. Overture, from *The Nutcracker Suite*

First Philadelphia Orchestra performances

3. March, from *The Nutcracker*

4. "Peanut Brittle Brigade" (March), from *The Nutcracker Suite*

5. "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," from *The Nutcracker*

6. "Sugar Rum Cherry" (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy), from *The Nutcracker Suite*

7. "Waltz of the Flowers," from *The Nutcracker*

8. "Dance of the Floreadors" (Waltz of the Flowers), from *The Nutcracker Suite*

First Philadelphia Orchestra performances

Intermission

Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols, for baritone, chorus, and orchestra

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

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 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Philadelphia Orchestra concerts are broadcast on WRTI 90.1 FM on Sunday afternoons at 1 PM, and are repeated on Monday evenings at 7 PM on WRTI HD 2. Visit www.wrti.org to listen live or for more details.



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 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 11th season as the eighth music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra. 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 community centers, in classrooms and hospitals, and over the airwaves and online. In response to the cancellation of concerts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Orchestra launched the Digital Stage, providing access to high-quality online performances, keeping music alive at a time when it was needed most. It also inaugurated free offerings: HearTOGETHER, a podcast

on racial and social justice, and creative equity and inclusion, through the lens of the world of orchestral music, and Our City, Your Orchestra, a series of digital performances that connects the Orchestra with communities through music and dialog while celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of the Philadelphia region.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's award-winning education and community initiatives engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members of all ages through programs such as Play!N's; side-by-sides; PopUP concerts; Our City, Your Orchestra Live; School Concerts; the School Partnership Program and School Ensemble Program; and All City Orchestra Fellowships.

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 12 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



Nate Ryan

Conductor and pianist **William Eddins** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in April 2002 at an Access Concert, conducting and playing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and made his subscription debut in October. He 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.

Recently he collaborated with Wynton Marsalis's Jazz

at Lincoln Center Orchestra with both the Detroit Symphony and the Minnesota Orchestra. In the United States he has also conducted the New York, Los Angeles, and Buffalo philharmonics, and the 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 Berlin Staatskapelle, 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 piano 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 also studied conducting with Daniel Lewis at the University of Southern California and was a founding member of the New World Symphony in Miami. He currently lives and works in Minneapolis and is co-founder of MetroNOME Brewery, 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 and is 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 works for orchestras and opera companies including original narrative texts for Saint-Saëns's *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.

Soloist

Arielle Doneson



American baritone **Norman Garrett** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the Mann Center in June 2015 in a Gershwin program conducted by Cristian Măcelaru. In addition to these current performances, highlights of his 2022–23 season include his LA Opera debut as Abdul in Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels's *Omar*; Garby in the world premiere of Will Liverman and DJ King Rico's *The Factotum* and Dr. T in the world premiere of *Proximity*, a trio of new

works composed by Daniel Bernard Roumain, Caroline Shaw, and John Luther Adams, both at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Ned in a new edition of Joplin's *Treemonisha* with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. In concert he sings Handel's *Messiah* with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Ontario.

In the 2021–22 season Mr. Garrett made a house and role debut with Seattle Opera as the Count in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, returned to both the Metropolitan Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago as the Foreman/Adult James in Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, and reprised his role as Jim in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the Metropolitan Opera. He also sang Jake in *Porgy and Bess* with the Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Alan Gilbert on tour at the Lucerne Festival and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. Mr. Garrett has appeared with numerous symphonic ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl as the Marchese in Verdi's *La traviata*; the Cleveland Orchestra in a concert of American music; the National Philharmonic at the Music Center at Strathmore and the Rogue Valley Symphony in Ashland, Oregon, both for Beethoven's Symphony No. 9; and the Lubbock Symphony as Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen* in concert.

Mr. Garrett is a former winner of the George London Foundation Competition. He has received top prizes in more than a dozen international vocal competitions, including the Gerda Lissner Foundation, the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation, the Jensen Foundation, the Giulio Gari Foundation, Fort Worth Opera's McCammon Competition, and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Texas Tech University, and the Academy of Vocal Arts, where he was a resident artist. He resides in Philadelphia with his wife, mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin, and their baby daughter.

Chorus



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 70 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 149th 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 Söngen 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.

Sing-Along Text

“Deck the Halls”

Deck the halls with boughs of holly: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

’Tis the season to be jolly! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

See the blazing yule before us! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Strike the harp and join the chorus! Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Follow me in merry measure, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

“Jingle Bells”

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,

O’er the hills we go, laughing all the way!

Bells on bobtails ring, making spirits bright;

What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight.

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way; oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night,

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

We wish you a merry Christmas,

We wish you a merry Christmas,

We wish you a merry Christmas

And a happy new year!

Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin:

We wish you a merry Christmas

And a happy new year!