

2023–2024 | 124th Season

# The Philadelphia Orchestra

Friday, January 12, at 8:00

## Lunar New Year Concert

**Long Yu** Conductor

**Charlotte Blake Alston** Host

**Yiwen Lu** Jinghu

**Yifei Fu** Percussion

**Yumi Kendall** Cello

**Patrick Williams** Flute

**Xiaoxi Li** Flute and Bamboo Flute

**Haochen Zhang** Piano

**David Kim** Violin

**Don S. Liuzzi** Percussion

**Traditional/arr. Zou** "Deep Night," for jinghu and orchestra

*First Philadelphia Orchestra performance*

**Dvořák** "Song to the Moon," from *Rusalka*, Op. 114, for cello and orchestra

**Li/arr. Zou** *Spring Festival Overture*, for flute duo and orchestra

**Chen** *Er Huang*, for piano and orchestra

*First Philadelphia Orchestra performance*

**Sarasate** Fantasy on Bizet's *Carmen*, Op. 25, for violin and orchestra

**Traditional/arr. Zou** *Jasmine Flower*, for percussion and orchestra

This program runs approximately 1 hour, 20 minutes, and will be performed without an intermission.

This concert is presented in honor of **David Kim's 25th anniversary**.

Additional support is provided by **Dr. Weiwu He and Mrs. Robin Wang**.

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](http://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 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](http://www.philorch.org).

# Conductor



Conductor and impresario **Long Yu** has devoted his career to steering China's growing connection to classical music while familiarizing international audiences with the country's most eminent musicians and composers. From north to south, he currently holds the top position in China's three most prominent orchestras—artistic director of the China Philharmonic in Beijing and music director of both the Shanghai and Guangzhou symphonies—and is principal guest

conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He is co-director of Shanghai's Music in the Summer Air festival and chair of the artistic committee of the Beijing Music Festival, an annual autumn event that he founded in 1998, serving as artistic director until 2017. He is currently vice president of the China Musicians Association and chairman of its recently established League of China Orchestras.

Mr. Yu made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut at the Mann Center in 2007. In addition to tonight's performance, highlights of the current season include appearances with the New York Philharmonic. At home he performs with renowned artists including pianist Stephen Hough, violinists Leonidas Kavakos and Julian Rachlin, baritone Matthias Goerne, and soprano Olga Peretyatko, among others. He also leads the world premiere of Aaron Zigman and Mark Campbell's *Émigré* with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, co-commissioned by that ensemble and the New York Philharmonic. In June 2018 he became the first Chinese conductor to sign an exclusive relationship with Deutsche Grammophon (DG). In July 2021 he released *The Song of the Earth* with the Shanghai Symphony. This follows his acclaimed first recording for DG, *Gateways*, with violinist Maxim Vengerov.

Under Mr. Yu's baton, the China Philharmonic became the first Chinese orchestra to perform at the Vatican's Paul VI Auditorium. In 2014 he led the China Philharmonic in the first Chinese orchestral performance at the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall, a concert viewed by millions of people across the United Kingdom. Since taking the reins of the Shanghai Symphony in 2009, his initiatives have included the 2014 opening of Shanghai Symphony Hall and the founding of the Shanghai Orchestra Academy, China's first post-graduate training program for orchestral musicians, in partnership with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the New York Philharmonic. Born in Shanghai in 1964 into a musical family, he received his early musical education from his grandfather, the renowned composer Ding Shande, later continuing his studies at the Shanghai Conservatory and the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin.

# Soloists



**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 at the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, among others. 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 and the Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Children's Inaugural Celebrations. She was one of two storytellers selected to present at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Her honors include a Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the highest award bestowed by the National Association of Black Storytellers.



**Yiwen Lu** is one of the most well-known erhu and jinghu players in China. She is the council member of the National Bowed Stringed Instruments Committee under the China Musicians Association and the Huqin Committee under the China Nationalities Orchestra Society. She is currently teaching erhu at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Her major awards include the Gold Medal of the 10th Golden Bell Award Erhu Competition in 2015 (the highest award in any Chinese

instrument competition) and the 4th Wenhua Prize, the Erhu Youth Group's highest performance award, in 2012. She studied with Wang Xiangyang at an early age. During her studies at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, she studied under the guidance of Liu Jie, Chen Chunyuan, and erhu virtuoso Min Huifen. Ms. Lu has performed all over the world, appearing as soloist with major orchestras such as the New York, Hong Kong, and China philharmonics; the Minnesota, Singapore Chinese, and Taipei Chinese orchestras; and the Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Qingdao, and Guiyang symphonies. Her performances encompass traditional and contemporary erhu pieces, including her own compositions and transcriptions.

# Soloists



Percussionist **Yifei Fu** pursued her education at the Middle School attached to the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the Curtis Institute of Music (BM), and the Yale School of Music (MM) under the guidance of Ji Zhao, Robert Van Sice, and Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Timpani Don Liuzzi. She currently holds the position of timpani and percussion with the Shanghai Symphony. She showcased her talents at a young age, being twice accepted into the China Guangdong

International Music Festival organized by the Guangzhou Symphony. She has made solo appearances at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and as a chamber musician has collaborated with the GRAMMY-winning chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird and composers Joan Tower and Matthias Pintscher. Ms. Fu joined the Shanghai Symphony in 2016 and in 2021 made her solo debut with the ensemble and Tan Dun. She is the founder of the Isorhythm Quartet, a chamber ensemble featuring two pianos and two percussionists. The group focuses on arranging and performing classic orchestral repertoire in a new form, presenting an innovative and distinctive sound. As an artist endorser, she represents Freer Percussion.

Jessica Griffin



**Yumi Kendall**, who holds the Elaine Woo Camarda and A. Morris Williams, Jr., Chair, joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in September 2004 as assistant principal cello, immediately after graduation from the Curtis Institute of Music. She began studying cello at the age of five following the Suzuki approach. At age 16 she made her solo debut at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony. In addition to maintaining a private teaching studio, she has regularly served on the

faculties of the National Orchestral Institute and the New York State School for Orchestral Studies, as well as the Brevard Music Center and the Miami Summer Music Festival. In 2017 she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Applied Positive Psychology. Her interest in organizational psychology and development stems from her belief in classical music's powerful role in human flourishing, and the importance of cultivating healthy organizations as pathways to serve the arts and public community. Ms. Kendall was the 2013 recipient of The Philadelphia Orchestra's C. Hartman Kuhn Award, which is 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 Philadelphia Orchestra."

# Soloists

Pete Checchia



**Patrick Williams** was appointed associate principal flute of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2018 and holds the Rachelle and Ronald Kaiserman Chair. He was previously principal flute of the Louisiana Philharmonic and co-principal flute of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Nishinomiya, Japan. He has also performed in such ensembles as the Chicago, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Fort Worth, and Princeton symphonies, and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in Sapporo, Japan.

He currently serves on the faculty of Temple University's Boyer College of Music. He has served as an adjunct instructor at Xavier University of Louisiana and has been a clinician at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Loyola University New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. A Colorado native, he began studying the Suzuki flute method in Steamboat Springs. After one year of study, he traveled to Nagano, Japan, to perform with thousands of Suzuki students during the 1998 Olympics. He attended the Interlochen Arts Academy High School and at the Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, he pursued a double degree in flute performance and environmental studies. He received his performance degree at the Curtis Institute of Music studying with Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner.

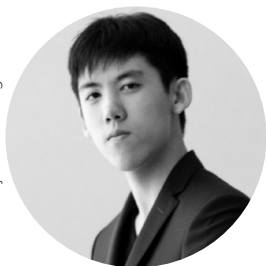


**Xiaoxi Li** is a second-year student at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying under Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner. She began to study flute at the age of 10 and in 2017 was accepted to Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Guoliang Han and Ye Liu. In 2019 she was accepted into the Colburn Music Academy in Los Angeles and began studies with Jim Walker. She has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras,

including the Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou symphonies and the China Philharmonic. She also won several competitions, including top prizes in the 49th National Flute Association High School Soloist Competition, the 2nd Concurso Internacional de Música China-Español, the Florida Flute Association High School Soloist Competition, and the 10th Anton Eberst International Flute Competition. She placed second in the 8th Severino Gazzelloni International Flute Competition (Category A), where she also won the prize for Best French Work Interpretation.

# Soloists

Benjamin Ealovega



Since his gold medal win at the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009, **Haochen Zhang** has appeared with many of the world's leading festivals and orchestras including the BBC Proms, the China and Munich philharmonics, the Sydney Symphony, and the NDR Hamburg. Highlights of this current season include a United States tour with the Atlanta Symphony, his debut with the Melbourne Symphony, performances with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and the Orchestra dell'Accademia

Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, a tour of Asia with the Chamber Orchestra of Paris, and extensive recital and orchestral performances throughout China. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut as a winner of the Orchestra's Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition in 2006 and his subscription debut in 2017, the same year he received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. His debut solo album was released in 2017 and his debut concerto album in 2019, both on BIS Records. These were followed by the complete Beethoven concertos with The Philadelphia Orchestra and a solo album of Liszt's Transcendental Etudes. Mr. Zhang is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music. He previously studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Shenzhen Arts School, where he was admitted at the age of 11.

Allie Skylar Photography



**David Kim** (Dr. Benjamin Rush Chair) was named concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999. Born in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1963, he started playing the violin at age three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at age eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. His 2023–24 season includes multiple performances next month with The Philadelphia Orchestra of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Piazzolla's

*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. Mr. Kim gives master classes at the Curtis Institute of Music, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, and the Manhattan School of Music, among others, and he gives concerto and recital appearances across the United States. He also continues to appear as concertmaster of the nine-time Emmy Award-winning All-Star Orchestra on PBS stations across the US and online at the Khan Academy. His first book, *The Audition Method for Violin*, was published by GIA Publications and released in 2022. Mr. Kim serves as distinguished artist at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and frequently serves as an adjudicator at international violin competitions. He exclusively performs on and endorses Larsen Strings from Denmark.

# Soloist

Jessica Griffin



Principal Timpani **Don Liuzzi** (Dwight V. Dowley Chair) was born and raised in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and completed high school in Philadelphia at the Franklin Learning Center. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan and his Master of Music degree from Temple University. Before joining The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1989, he was a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony percussion section. While in Pittsburgh he taught percussion

and conducted the percussion ensemble at Duquesne University, was assistant conductor of the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra, and appeared on *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*. He joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 1994. He has also held faculty positions at Rowan University and guest faculty status at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Manhattan School of Music. He recently completed 10 years as music director of the Philadelphia All City High School Orchestra and is founding conductor of the Curtis Institute's 20–21 New Music Ensemble. His early orchestral experience included the Flint Symphony, the Michigan Opera Theater and Spoleto Festival orchestras, and the Colorado Philharmonic. Having consulted with Yamaha on the development of professional timpani, he is now a Yamaha performing artist.