

2023–2024 | 124th Season

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Thursday, May 2, at 6:30

Orchestra After 5

Dalia Stasevska Conductor

Tristan Rais-Sherman Host

Leif Ove Andsnes Piano

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

I. Allegro ma non tanto

II. Intermezzo: Adagio—

III. Finale: Alla breve

This program runs approximately 65 minutes and will be performed without an intermission.

Lead support for the Rachmaninoff 150 Celebration is provided by **Tatiana Copeland**. Mrs. Copeland's mother was the niece of Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Tatiana Copeland was named after the composer's daughter, Tatiana Sergeyevna Rachmaninoff.

The Orchestra After 5 series is sponsored by **Stateside Vodka**.

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 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

Veikko Kähkönen



Conductor **Dalia Stasevska** made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in March 2023. Chief conductor of the Lahti Symphony and artistic director of the International Sibelius Festival, she also holds the post of principal guest conductor of the BBC Symphony. This season she conducts the Cleveland Orchestra; the Cincinnati, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Danish National, Frankfurt Radio, Bern, Sydney, and West Australian symphonies; and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester

Berlin. Other recent engagements have included the New York, Los Angeles, and Netherlands Radio philharmonics; the Chicago, San Francisco, National, and Toronto symphonies; and the Minnesota Orchestra. Last season she embarked on a six-concert tour of Japan with the BBC Symphony and cellist Sol Gabetta, violinist Nicola Benedetti, and baritone Roderick Williams. This spring she and the BBC Symphony collaborated on a Total Immersion project focusing on composer Missy Mazzoli. Performing works of contemporary composers is a core part of Ms. Stasevska's programming, and with the Lahti Symphony they have presented works by Andrew Norman, Thomas Adès, Helen Grime, Kaija Saariaho, and Outi Tarkianen, among others.

Ms. Stasevska made her Glyndebourne Opera Festival debut last season with Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Previously she led a double bill of Poulenc's *La Voix humaine* and Weill Songs with soprano Karita Mattila, and Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at Finnish National Opera, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Norwegian National Opera, and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Royal Swedish Opera. The 10 tracks of Ms. Stasevska's most recent album, *Dalia's Mixtape* with the BBC Symphony on Platoon, feature some of the freshest sounds in contemporary music and will be released individually from March to September 2024. Other releases include piano concertos by Rautavaara and Martinů on BIS with the Lahti Symphony and Olli Mustonen.

Ms. Stasevska originally studied violin and composition at the Tampere Conservatory and also studied violin, viola, and conducting at the Sibelius Academy. In October 2020 she was honored with the Order of Princess Olga, Third Class, by Ukrainian President Zelensky for her significant personal contribution to the development of international cooperation, strengthening the prestige of Ukraine internationally, and the popularization of its historical and cultural heritage. Since February 2022, she has actively been supporting Ukraine by raising donations to buy supplies and on several occasions delivering them herself.

Host

Nile Scott



American conductor **Tristan Rais-Sherman** was conducting fellow of The Philadelphia Orchestra for the 2022–23 season and was named assistant conductor in June 2023, a role he will continue through the 2023–24 season. While in Philadelphia, he will assist Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as other guest conductors and lead The Philadelphia Orchestra in a variety of different concert programs.

Establishing his presence on the global music scene, Mr. Rais-Sherman recently competed in the renowned 2023 Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition with the Bamberg Symphony. Further solidifying his international standing, he made successful debuts with The Philadelphia Orchestra and the San Diego Symphony and this season is scheduled to make his debut with the Baltimore Symphony.

In recognition of his growing impact in the orchestral field, Mr. Rais-Sherman has twice received the Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., in 2022 and 2023. His dedication to nurturing future generations is reflected in his educational work, which includes leading the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen, conducting master classes at the Philadelphia International Music Festival, and implementing educational programs with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, and the NEC Symphony.

Mr. Rais-Sherman's unique approach to conducting has been shaped by industry leaders such as Hugh Wolff, Kenneth Kiesler, Cristian Măcelaru, David Zinman, Sian Edwards, Neil Varon, and Jeffrey Meyer. He holds an artist diploma from the New England Conservatory, a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in cello performance from Ithaca College.

Soloist

Helge Hansen/Sony Music Entertainment



Norwegian pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1997. He has won acclaim worldwide, playing concertos and recitals in the world's leading concert halls and with its foremost orchestras, while building an esteemed and extensive discography. An avid chamber musician, he is the founding director of the Rosendal Chamber Music Festival, was co-artistic director of the Risør Festival of Chamber Music for nearly two decades, and served

as music director of California's Ojai Music Festival in 2012. He was inducted into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame in July 2013, and has received honorary doctorates from New York's Juilliard School and Norway's universities of Bergen and Oslo.

Highlights of Mr. Andsnes's 2023–24 season include Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto with the Pittsburgh and Danish National symphonies and the Orchestre de Paris, and Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto with orchestras including the New York Philharmonic and the New World and London symphonies, as well as on a Japanese tour with the NHK Symphony. He also embarks on solo recital tours of Japan and Europe before joining the Dover Quartet for Brahms and Dohnányi piano quintets on a five-city North American tour, bookended by dates at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie's Zankel Hall. *Leif Ove Andsnes: The Complete Warner Classics Edition 1990–2010*, a 36-CD retrospective, is due for release in October.

Mr. Andsnes's discography comprises more than 50 titles, many of them bestsellers. Spanning repertoire from the Baroque to the present day, they have been recognized with 11 GRAMMY nominations, seven *Gramophone* Awards, and many other international prizes. His recordings of Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic and Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos. 9 and 18 were both named "Best CD of the Year" by the *New York Times*. Capturing his two major multi-season projects with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, his Sony Classical series *A Beethoven Journey* and *Mozart Momentum 1785/86* were honored with multiple *Gramophone* Awards, Belgium's Prix Caecilia, and *BBC Music Magazine's* "Recording of the Year." Other accolades include the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist Award, the Gilmore Artist Award, and Norway's Peer Gynt Prize and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav. He was the first Scandinavian to curate Carnegie Hall's "Perspectives" series. Born in Karmøy, Norway, in 1970, he studied at the Bergen Music Conservatory. He is currently an artistic adviser for the Prof. Jiri Hlinka Piano Academy in Bergen, where he lives with his partner and their three children.

Framing the Program

Parallel Events

1909

Rachmaninoff

Piano

Concerto No. 3

Music

Strauss

Elektra

Literature

Wells

Tono-Bungay

Art

Matisse

The Dance

History

Peary reaches

the North Pole

As a celebrated composer, pianist, and conductor, Sergei Rachmaninoff's deep ties to The Philadelphia Orchestra began during his first tour to America in 1909. The Orchestra would go on to give five significant world premieres of his works and also make landmark recordings with him as conductor and soloist.

Rachmaninoff, building on the success of his Second Piano Concerto, wrote a new one for his first American tour and played the premiere in New York. The Concerto surpassed the achievements of his two earlier essays in the genre and has come to rival Tchaikovsky's First as the great late Romantic piano concerto. The renowned Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes joins The Philadelphia Orchestra in this performance.

The Philadelphia Orchestra is the only orchestra in the world with three weekly broadcasts on SiriusXM's Symphony Hall, Channel 76, on Mondays at 7 PM, Thursdays at 12 AM, and Saturdays at 4 PM.

ThePhiladelphiaOrchestra

The Music

Piano Concerto No. 3

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Born in Semyonovo, Russia, April 1, 1873

Died in Beverly Hills, California, March 28, 1943



Sergei Rachmaninoff was born to a well-to-do family that cultivated his prodigious musical gifts. His mother was his first piano teacher and at age nine he began studies at the St. Petersburg Conservatory but floundered. The family finances were declining, as was his parents' marriage, and he transferred to the Moscow Conservatory, where he thrived. He met leading Russian musicians, studied with some of them, and won the support of his hero, Tchaikovsky.

Upon graduation in the spring of 1892 Rachmaninoff was awarded the Great Gold Medal, a rarely bestowed honor. His career as both pianist and composer was clearly on the rise with impressive works such as the Piano Concerto No. 1, the one-act opera *Aleko* (about which Tchaikovsky enthused), and pieces in a variety of other genres. One piano work written at age 18 received almost too much attention: the C-sharp minor Prelude, the extraordinary popularity of which meant he found himself having to perform it for the rest of his life.

Early Success, Failure, and Success Rachmaninoff seemed on track for a brilliant and charmed career, the true successor to Tchaikovsky. Then things went terribly wrong with the premiere of his Symphony No. 1 in D minor, which proved to be one of the legendary fiascos in music history and a bitter shock to Rachmaninoff just days before his 24th birthday. Alexander Glazunov, an eminent composer and teacher but, according to various reports, a mediocre conductor, led the ill-fated performance in March 1897. The event plunged Rachmaninoff into deep despair: "When the indescribable torture of this performance had at last come to an end, I was a different man."

For some three years Rachmaninoff stopped composing, although he continued to perform as a pianist and began to establish a prominent new career as a conductor. He eventually found therapeutic relief and reemerged in 1901 with the Second Piano Concerto, an instant success. The following year, after surmounting religious obstacles, he married his cousin Natalia Satina, with whom he had two daughters.

He composed primarily during summers at a pastoral estate called Ivanovka, some 300 miles south of Moscow. Rachmaninoff continued to build on the

compositional successes of his Second Piano Concerto and Second Symphony during what turned out to be the most productive period of his career. Now in his mid-30s, he was about to undertake his first tour to America in 1909. In preparation, he decided to write a new concerto, again amidst the calm of Ivanovka.

Rachmaninoff dedicated the Third Concerto to Josef Hofmann, the great Polish-born pianist who would later become the director of the Curtis Institute of Music. Soon after his friend's death, Hofmann commented: "Rachmaninoff was made of steel and gold; steel in his arms, gold in his heart." In the end, Hofmann never performed the piece, which Rachmaninoff premiered as soloist in November 1909 with Walter Damrosch leading the New York Symphony Orchestra. After a few weeks elsewhere on his three-month tour, Rachmaninoff played the piece again in New York, this time with Gustav Mahler conducting the New York Philharmonic. (The competing orchestras later merged.)

A Closer Look The unforgettable opening of the Third Piano Concerto (**Allegro ma non tanto**) is simplicity itself: a hauntingly beautiful melody played in octaves that has a chant-like quality. Rachmaninoff stated that it was "borrowed neither from folk song nor from ecclesiastical sources. It just 'got written.' ... I wanted to 'sing' a melody on the piano the way singers sing." Rachmaninoff composed two cadenzas, both of which he played. The short coda returns to the opening melody.

The following **Intermezzo: Adagio** begins with an orchestral section presenting the principal melodic ideas, melancholic in tone, until the piano enters building to a broadly Romantic theme. There is a very brief, fast, scherzo-like section that leads without pause into the thrilling and technically dazzling **Finale: Alla breve**. The movement recycles some of the musical ideas of the first one, making this one of the most unified of the composer's concertos.

—Christopher H. Gibbs

Rachmaninoff composed his Piano Concerto No. 3 in 1909.

Alfred Cortot was the soloist in the Orchestra's first performances of the Concerto, in January 1920 with Leopold Stokowski. Rachmaninoff himself performed it with the Orchestra in February 1920 (with Stokowski) and in December 1939 (with Eugene Ormandy). The most recent subscription performances were in January/February 2023 with Yuja Wang and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

The Orchestra has recorded Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto four times: in 1939 with the composer and Ormandy for RCA; in 1975 with Vladimir Ashkenazy and Ormandy for RCA; in 1986 with Andrei Gavrilov and Riccardo Muti for EMI; and in 2016 with Daniil Trifonov and Yannick Nézet-Séguin for Deutsche Grammophon.

Rachmaninoff's score calls for solo piano, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion (bass drum, cymbals, snare drum), and strings.

The Third Concerto runs approximately 45 minutes in performance.

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