2023-2024 | 124th Season

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Friday, October 20, at 2:00 Saturday, October 21, at 8:00 Sunday, October 22, at 2:00

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla Conductor Jennifer Montone Horn

Haydn Horn Concerto in D major, H. VIId:3

I. Allegro vivace

II. Adagio

III. Allegro vivace

First Philadelphia Orchestra performances

Intermission

Bruckner Symphony No. 6 in A major

I. Majestoso

II. Adagio: Sehr feierlich

III. Scherzo: Nicht schnell—Trio: Langsam IV. Finale: Bewegt, doch nicht zu schnell

This program runs approximately 1 hour, 50 minutes.

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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.

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Conductor



Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla was named music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony (CBSO) in February 2016 and stepped down in 2022; she was principal guest conductor for the 2022–23 season. Winner of the 2012 Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award, she subsequently made her debut with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra at the Salzburg Festival. Recent highlights include a tour of the United States and numerous European tours with the CBSO; a

highly acclaimed performance of Britten's *War Requiem* at the Salzburg Festival; her return to opera with a new production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* staged by Barrie Kosky at the Bavarian State Opera; and performances with the London Symphony, the NDR Elbphilharmonie, the Swedish Radio Orchestra, the Filarmonica della Scala, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Ms. Gražinytė-Tyla made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2018. As a guest conductor, she has electrified audiences all over the world. In Europe she has collaborated with the Lithuanian National Symphony, the Munich and Royal Stockholm philharmonics, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the MDR Leipzig, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Orchestre National de France, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Chamber Orchestra of Vienna, the Danish National Symphony, the Mozarteum Orchestra, the Camerata Salzburg, and Berlin's Orchestra of the Komische Oper. At the Kremerata Baltica she has enjoyed a dynamic collaboration with artistic director Gidon Kremer on numerous European tours. She has led operas in Munich, Heidelberg, Salzburg, Berlin, and Bern, where she served as Kapellmeister. In North America she has worked with the Seattle and San Diego symphonies and led the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in her Carnegie Hall debut. With the Los Angeles Philharmonic she was a Dudamel Fellow in the 2012-13 season, assistant. conductor from 2014 to 2016, and associate conductor from 2016 to 2017. She was music director of the Salzburg Landestheater from 2015 until 2017.

Ms. Gražinytė-Tyla is an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2018. Her first album, Weinberg symphonies, was the result of a cooperation of the CBSO, the Kremerata Baltica, and Mr. Kremer. Her second recording featured works by Raminta Šerkšnytė. Her most recent release is *The British Project*. A native of Vilnius, Lithuania, Ms. Gražinytė-Tyla studied at Leipzig's Music Conservatory Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Bologna's Music Conservatory, and Zurich's Music Conservatory. She graduated with a bachelor's in choral and orchestral conducting from the University of Music and Fine Arts in Graz, Austria.

Soloist



Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Horn and GRAMMY Award-winner **Jennifer Montone** (Gray Charitable Trust Chair) is a world-acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. She has been on the faculties of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School since joining the Orchestra in 2006. Previously the principal horn of the St. Louis Symphony and associate principal horn of the Dallas Symphony, she was an adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University and performer/faculty

at the Aspen Music Festival and School. She currently coaches on occasion at the New World Symphony. She was third horn of the New Jersey Symphony from 1997 to 2000 and has performed as a guest artist with the Berlin and New York philharmonics, and the Cleveland, Metropolitan Opera, Saint Paul Chamber, and Orpheus Chamber orchestras. She regularly performs as a soloist with such orchestras as The Philadelphia Orchestra, with which she made her solo debut in 2010; the St. Louis, Dallas, National, and Polish National Radio symphonies; and the Curtis Institute of Music Orchestra. Her recording of the Penderecki Horn Concerto ("Winterreise") with the Warsaw National Philharmonic won a 2013 GRAMMY Award in the category of Best Classical Compendium. Her other recordings include Jennifer Montone Performs; Still Falls the Rain, works of Benjamin Britten; Gabrieli with the National Brass Ensemble; The Philadelphia Orchestra: Tchaikousky and Ewald, featuring the Orchestra's principal brass quintet; and Song of Shinobeu, works of Haruka Watanabe.

Ms. Montone made her Weill Recital Hall solo recital debut in October 2008. She has appeared as a featured artist at many International Horn Society workshops and as a soloist and collaborator with such artists as Emanuel Ax, Eric Owens, Christoph Eschenbach, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joseph Silverstein, and David Soyer. As a chamber musician she performs with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Bravo! Vail Chamber Music Festival, the La Jolla Chamber Music Festival, and the Marlboro Music Festival, among others.

Ms. Montone is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where she studied with Julie Landsman. In May 2006 she was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. She is also the winner of the 1996 Paxman Young Horn Player of the Year Award in London. A native of northern Virginia, Ms. Montone studied with Edwin Thayer as a fellow in the National Symphony's Youth Fellowship Program. She is married to double bass player Timothy Ressler and enjoys spending time with her two young sons, Max and Felix.

Framing the Program

Parallel Events

1762 Haydn

Horn Concerto in D major

Music

Gluck Orpheus and Eurydice

Literature

Rousseau The Social Contract

Art

Reynolds Portrait of Ostenaco

History

Catherine the Great becomes tsaring

1879 Bruckner Symphony

No. 6

Music Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin

Literature

Ibsen A Doll's House

Art

Rodin John the Baptist

History

British Zulu War Joseph Haydn did not write nearly as many concertos as Mozart, his younger contemporary and friend, and many are now lost. One of the lucky survivors is the marvelous Concerto for Horn in D major heard today in a performance featuring Principal Horn Jennifer Montone.

Anton Bruckner was a relatively slow starter when it came to writing what posterity most remembers: monumental symphonies. He composed his Sixth Symphony when he was in his mid-50s and his career was beginning to turn around—the Seventh would mark his greatest critical and popular success. The Sixth Symphony, which is less often performed than his other mature works, possesses one of the greatest slow movements in the symphonic literature. Bruckner never heard a complete performance—its premiere was only given five years after his death.

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The Music

Horn Concerto in D major

Joseph Haydn Born in Rohrau, Lower Austria, March 31, 1732 Died in Vienna, May 31, 1809



While Mozart, Joseph Haydn's younger contemporary, wrote many dozens of concertos for a wide variety of instruments, the elder composer did not cultivate the genre nearly to the extent that he so influentially did with symphonies and string quartets, which he brought to new levels of prominence. The reason was largely practical: Mozart was a virtuoso pianist and an excellent violinist. The many concertos he wrote for those instruments were primarily for his own use

as a touring musician. Haydn was not a virtuoso, although at the start of his career he was employed at times as a violinist and organist. He composed some early keyboard concertos for his own use, but most of the others were either commissions, including from the King of Naples, or written for specific performers.

It is not clear exactly how many concertos Haydn composed altogether as quite a few are lost—and fortunately occasionally found: his Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major, one of the gems of the cello literature, was discovered in the 1960s. (The Philadelphians perform it here next month.) In addition to concertos for organ, piano, cello, and violin, Haydn apparently wrote seven for wind instruments, but only two of them survive: the well-known Trumpet Concerto in E-flat and the Horn Concerto we hear on this concert. Among those lost are another for horn, one for two horns, and ones for flute and bassoon. Haydn's most famous concertos came relatively late in his career: the Piano Concerto in D (which the Orchestra performs later this season), the Cello Concerto in D, and the Trumpet Concerto.

Haydn mainly composed concertos for musicians he knew well and was able to mold the pieces to showcase their specific talents. He spent most of his professional life in the service of an exceeding rich family—the Esterházys—that had estates spread over the Habsburg Empire. Prince Nikolaus Esterházy was himself a passionate amateur musician who employed his own orchestra, presented plays and operas, and was a remarkable patron of the arts. He had residences in Vienna, in Eisenstadt just outside the city, and the more isolated Eszterháza Palace amidst the Hungarian countryside. The musicians lived and worked together, forming close bonds.

Concerto for a Master Haydn composed the Horn Concerto in D major in 1762 for one of the leading instrumentalists of the time, Joseph Leutgeb (1732–1811). He is now most remembered as the horn player who inspired Mozart to write several works, including four horn concertos. The two met during Mozart's youth in Salzburg, where Leutgeb played violin in the court orchestra. They reconnected after Mozart moved to Vienna and became good friends. In the manuscript of one of the horn concertos he wrote: "Wolfgang Amadè Mozart has taken pity on Leutgeb, ass, ox and fool, at Vienna, 27 March 1783." Leutgeb was briefly part of the Esterházy musical establishment, where he worked with Haydn.

Leutgeb played a wide repertory of concertos written for him by Mozart, Haydn's younger brother Michael, and others. In July 1762 Haydn's wife became the godmother to Leutgeb's first child and it was around this time that Haydn quickly composed the D-major Horn Concerto, which may have been a gift marking the baptism. The manuscript survives in the composer's hand and its relative haste of composition is suggested by a comment Haydn wrote on the last page, where he confused the order of the oboes and violins: "in schlaf geschrieben" (written while asleep). There has been some question over the years of whether Haydn really wrote the Concerto for Leutgeb or for another hornist in the Esterházy orchestra, but the musicologist Michael Lorenz has determined that the first page of the manuscript is signed by Leutgeb alongside the number six, probably an indication of its place in his music collection.

A Closer Look The first movement (Allegro) opens with a loud and lively arpeggiated theme soaring upwards that is then elegantly ornamented. The horn soloist later enters with the same material, which dominates the movement before a concluding cadenza. (In the performance today the cadenzas for the first and second movements are by Stewart Rose and for the final one by Ab Koster.)

The oboes are silent during the second-movement **Adagio**, which begins softly with a noble and extended introduction for the strings. The horn enters playing a variant of this theme. In triple meter, the movement has sections in the nature of a polite dance. The concluding **Allegro** returns to a fast and spirited mood calling for increasing virtuosity from the soloist—wide leaps, runs, ornaments, and fanfare-like repetitions.

—Christopher H. Gibbs

Haydn composed his Horn Concerto in D major in 1762.

These are the first Philadelphia Orchestra performances of the piece.

The score calls for solo horn, two oboes, harpsichord, and strings.

Performance time is approximately 17 minutes.

The Music

Symphony No. 6

Anton Bruckner Born in Ansfelden, Austria, September 4, 1824 Died in Vienna, October 11, 1896



Anton Bruckner's career as a composer of symphonies was a continual struggle, as his correspondence frequently makes clear. "In Vienna it is the old story all over again," he wrote in the late 1870s to his friend Hermann Levi, the formidable conductor who was an advocate for his music. "I almost prefer them not to perform my works here. Old friends have become hostile again, etc. In a word: the same old atmosphere and treatment. Without Hanslick's approval nothing

is possible in Vienna." Nineteenth-century Vienna was apparently not ready for Bruckner's out-of-scale symphonic essays, and the sensitive composer had the repeated misfortune of having to weather attacks by the city's most influential critic, Eduard Hanslick. But the acerbic Hanslick, whose infamous criticisms of Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss have today made him the quintessential example of resistance to the new, was right about one thing: that the nature of Bruckner's art consisted of "applying Wagner's dramatic style to the symphony."

If today Hanslick is faulted for favoring Brahms's "normalcy" over Wagner's sound world, the debate nonetheless continues as to whether Wagner's harmonic or melodic style was compatible with Classical forms. But if anyone was prepared to make a case for this synthesis, it was Bruckner.

From Old to New Born in rural Upper Austria, Bruckner is perhaps the last of the line of major Austro-Germanic composers who received training in the traditional manner: He began his musical life as a choirboy at the cathedral at St. Florian, learned music theory in the old way of strict counterpoint and "figured bass," and studied organ and composition with the St. Florian choirmaster. His first career, then, was as church organist and schoolmaster; thus it should perhaps not surprise us that critics such as Hanslick wrote of Bruckner's style as pedantic.

Through assiduous private lessons with Simon Sechter in Vienna and Otto Kitzler in Linz, Bruckner gained an astonishing mastery of learned polyphony and instrumental craft. But the event that activated his imagination, after he had become fully versed in techniques of the past, was his first exposure to the brandnew music of Wagner. In 1862 Bruckner heard *Tannhäuser* in Linz for the first time, and its effect on him was immediate and profound. It was his subsequent

acquaintance with Wagner's other operas that set him off on an almost spiritual quest that led him to compose 11 symphonies (nine with numbers, two without) as well as Masses and other sacred works—all of which tried to assimilate Wagner's innovations, and which are still the subject of controversy.

By the time that Bruckner took up his Sixth Symphony in 1879, he had already become an established part of Viennese musical life, having arrived from Linz in 1868. His first four numbered symphonies had been both praised and damned. Viewed by many as a "country boy" trying to succeed in the urbane cultural capital of the Empire, the composer persevered. His piety was real, and it helps to explain both his remarkable industry and his devotion to an individualistic musical style.

A Period of Revision The 1870s were decisive years for Bruckner. In 1875 he was finally appointed instructor of harmony at the University of Vienna, which placed him at last on the court chapel payroll. The following year he heard the premiere of Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* at Bayreuth, and it affected him deeply. Most important, during the years 1877 to 1879 Bruckner was occupied almost solely with revisions of his first symphonies, attempting to make the works more concise and coherent at the friendly suggestions of his "supporters."

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that his Sixth Symphony, begun shortly after this period of revision, is one of the composer's most economical, clearly defined symphonic structures. It is the work in which we always have a sense of "where we are" in the formal design. And yet the Sixth, which the composer finished in 1881, did not attain a complete performance during Bruckner's lifetime—though the middle two movements were performed in 1883 in Vienna—and the work has remained the least accepted of his mature symphonies. The uncut version of the work was not performed until 1901, five years after the composer's death.

A Closer Look Instead of the string tremolos with which Bruckner usually begins his symphonies, he begins the first movement (**Majestoso**) with a rhythmic triplet in the strings, providing a dynamic texture for the vaulting first theme in the cellos and basses. Bruckner follows the example of Brahms (and indeed of Beethoven and Haydn), employing three themes rather than the usual two. The second subject is heard as a haunting, urgent violin melody. The themes are developed in an unusually concise middle section, followed by a straightforward recapitulation.

The slow movement **Adagio (Sehr feierlich)**, flows between F major and minor, developing its somber first subject with some of Bruckner's most richly complex orchestral polyphony. At the movement's climax, as many as six real melodic lines can be perceived, a real challenge to aural perception. The **Scherzo (Nicht schnell)** dispenses both with the liveliness and with the humor that is usually associated with scherzos. The dominant pedal in the cellos and basses that opens the movement recalls another great scherzo from the period, that of Brahms's F-minor Piano Quintet, Op. 34.

The **Finale** (**Bewegt, doch nicht zu schnell**) again presents three themes, which are articulated at a leisurely pace. Bruckner ties the final bars of the work to the opening of the first movement, returning to the rhythmic triplets of the first measures and quoting the first theme in the finale's closing measures.

—Paul J. Horsley

The Sixth Symphony was composed from 1879 to 1881.

Riccardo Muti conducted the first performances of the work, in March 1975. Most recently on subscription concerts it was led by Christoph Eschenbach in January 2009.

The Symphony is scored for two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, tuba, timpani, and strings.

Performance time is approximately 55 minutes.

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The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director



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Musical Terms

GENERAL TERMS

Arpeggio: A broken chord (with notes played in succession instead of together)

Cadence: The conclusion to a phrase, movement, or piece based on a recognizable melodic formula, harmonic progression, or dissonance resolution

Cadenza: A passage or section in a style of brilliant improvisation, usually inserted near the end of a movement or composition

Chord: The simultaneous sounding of three or more tones

Coda: A concluding section or passage added in order to confirm the impression of finality

Counterpoint: The combination of simultaneously sounding musical lines

Dissonance: A combination of two or more tones requiring resolution

Figured bass: A primarily 17th- and 18th-century method of composition in which a bass part is provided with figures (numerals) to indicate harmonies

H.: Abbreviation for Hoboken, the chronological list of all the works of Haydn made by Anthony van Hoboken

 $\textbf{Harmonic:} \ \mathsf{Pertaining} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{chords} \ \mathsf{and} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{the}$

theory and practice of harmony **Harmony:** The combination of
simultaneously sounded musical notes to
produce chords and chord progressions **Legato:** Smooth, even, without any break

between notes

Meter: The symmetrical grouping of musical

rhythms

Pedal point: A long-held note, usually in the bass, sounding with changing harmonies in the other parts

Polyphony: A term used to designate music in more than one part and the style in which all or several of the musical parts move to some extent independently

 $\textbf{Recapitulation:} \ \mathsf{See} \ \mathsf{sonata} \ \mathsf{form}$

Scherzo: Literally "a joke." Usually the third movement of symphonies and quartets that was introduced by Beethoven to replace the

minuet. The scherzo is followed by a gentler section called a trio, after which the scherzo is repeated. Its characteristics are a rapid tempo, vigorous rhythm, and humorous contrasts. Also an instrumental piece of a light, piquant, humorous character.

Sonata form: The form in which the first movements (and sometimes others) of symphonies are usually cast. The sections are exposition, development, and recapitulation, the last sometimes followed by a coda. The exposition is the introduction of the musical ideas, which are then "developed." In the recapitulation, the exposition is repeated with modifications.

rapid alternation of down-bow and up-bow **Trio:** A division set between the first section of a minuet or scherzo and its repetition, and contrasting with it by a more tranquil movement and style

Tremolo: An effect produced by the very

Triplet: A group of three equal notes performed in the time of two

THE SPEED OF MUSIC (Tempo)

Adagio: Leisurely, slow **Allegro:** Bright, fast

Bewegt: Animated, with motion

(Doch) nicht (zu) schnell: (But) not (too) fast

Feierlich: Solemn, stately

Langsam: Slow Majestoso: Majestic Vivace: Lively

TEMPO MODIFIERS

Sehr: Very



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