



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2018

The Uniting Power of Music

Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra to Connect with Israeli Citizens During 2018 Tour of Israel Residency Activities

***Events include performances for Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens,
a side-by-side concert with the Israel Philharmonic and young musicians
of Tel Aviv University's School of Music, and master classes***

(Philadelphia, May 7, 2018)—Using music to bring people and cultures together, musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra will participate in special residency activities in Israel, June 3-7, 2018, as part of the Orchestra's 2018 Tour of Europe and Israel. The activities—ranging from master classes with students to chamber performances for Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens—are an integral part of the Orchestra's commitment to cultural diplomacy, and will provide opportunities for musicians to connect with the people of Israel in meaningful ways. Musicians of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will also participate, joining a June 4 side-by-side concert with the young musicians of Tel Aviv University's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra.

“These residency activities have become a hallmark of The Philadelphia Orchestra's tours, using music to bring people and cultures together in ways that would not otherwise take place,” said Orchestra Interim President Ryan Fleur. “Through these unique activities, we have the opportunity to interact with Israeli citizens, including students and musicians, and to unite people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs through the universal language of music. We look forward to listening and learning from the people of Israel and using the power of music to engender dialogue and to express our hope for unity and tranquility in the region.”

Residency activities include:

Sunday, June 3: Performance at Oasis of Peace

An Orchestra ensemble will perform for the residents of Oasis of Peace, a community jointly established by Jewish and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel. The Oasis of Peace community, which is not affiliated with any political party or movement, is based on the concepts of mutual acceptance, respect, and cooperation.

Monday, June 4: Side-by-side concert at Tel Aviv University

Approximately 15 Philadelphia Orchestra musicians and a complement of musicians of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will collaborate with the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra, the Cadette orchestra of the Israel Philharmonic sitting side-by-side with them for a performance. The 90 young members of the orchestra also include 25 members of the Outstanding Musicians of the IDF Program. The concert is free to the public and will take place at 1:00 PM in Tel Aviv University's Smolarz Auditorium.

Monday, June 4: Master classes at Tel Aviv University

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will give master classes to students of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music. Founded in 2005 as a unique partnership between Tel Aviv University and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music trains outstanding young musicians and prepares them for professional careers.

Monday, June 4: Arts Administration and Cultural Philanthropy Panel Discussions at Tel Aviv University

In partnership with the Culture and Art Institutions Forum in Israel, a pair of panel discussions will offer an exchange of ideas about arts administration (3:00 PM) and cultural philanthropy (4:30 PM) in Israel and the United States. These conversations are free and open to the public, including arts administrators, philanthropists, and students.

Tuesday, June 5: Master classes at Jerusalem Conservatory Hassadna

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will give master classes to students of the Jerusalem Conservatory Hassadna, one of Israel's premier institutes of music education for young people ages three to 18. The Conservatory strives to provide every student with musical instruction of the highest caliber while ensuring that every child longing to experience the gift of music has access to this life-changing opportunity.

Tuesday, June 5: Master classes at the Jerusalem Music Centre

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will give master classes to students of the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra at the Jerusalem Music Centre. Founded in 1973 by violinist Isaac Stern and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, the Centre finds and nurtures the finest musical talents from across Israel. As a global center for musical excellence, it has hosted many pre-eminent musicians of the 20th century, including Arthur Rubinstein, Pablo Casals, Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, and Alfred Brendel.

Tuesday, June 5: Youth performance for Ambassador David Friedman at the International Convention Center

A group of Jewish and Arab youth will perform for David Friedman, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, with instruction from a small group of Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, including concertmaster David Kim. Following the performance, the students will attend the 8:00 PM concert, thanks to support from the U.S. State Department.

Wednesday, June 6: Master classes at the Israel Conservatory of Music

Philadelphia Orchestra musicians will give master classes to members of the Outstanding Musicians of the IDF Program. The program enables young soldiers with musical talent to continue developing their skills during army service.

Wednesday, June 6: Performance at the Jeanne and Bennet Tanenbaum Conservatory of Music

An Orchestra ensemble will perform at 5:00 PM for the public and for residents of the Jeanne and Bennet Tanenbaum Conservatory of Music in Netivot, Israel. The Sdot Negev Regional Council, which includes Netivot, is home to more than 40,000 residents, including many immigrants from North Africa, the former Soviet Union, and Ethiopia.

Thursday, June 7: Performance at the Lod Music School for the Gifted and Excellent

An Orchestra ensemble will perform for the children of the Lod Youth Concert Band. Established 40 years ago, the Lod Youth Concert Band is part of the Lod Music School for the Gifted and Excellent, operated by the Ministry of Education in Israel. The school's music activities are for all segments of Lod's population—Arabs, Christians, and Jews—as well as for newcomers from all over the world. Children between the ages of six and 18 study at the school, and graduates have gone on to enjoy professional careers with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and other orchestras around the world.

**Please note: All events are subject to change.*

About The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2018 Tour of Europe and Israel

As part of its commitment to cultural diplomacy—and its belief that great music has a unique ability to unite diverse populations—The Philadelphia Orchestra, under the leadership of Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, will tour Europe and Israel from May 24 through June 5, 2018. The visit to Israel—in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia—marks only the second time The Philadelphia Orchestra has traveled there since its inaugural visit in 1992. The Philadelphia Orchestra is only the third major American symphony orchestra to ever visit the country; the last time an American orchestra visited Israel was in 1996.

The Orchestra will perform in Brussels, Belgium; Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; Paris, France; Düsseldorf, Germany; Hamburg, Germany; Vienna, Austria; Haifa, Israel; Tel Aviv, Israel; and Jerusalem, Israel with pianists Hélène Grimaud and Jean-Yves Thibaudet as soloists. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Lead support for the Israel portion of the tour comes from the Neubauer Family Foundation and Constance Smukler.

Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University) is the official education and healthcare partner for the Israel portion of the tour. The trip is being coordinated with the formal inauguration of the Jefferson Israel Center, one of several multi-institutional collaborations with Jefferson and Israel.

Additional support for the Israel portion of the tour comes from Marcy Gringlas and Joel Greenberg, Seed the Dream Foundation; John H. McFadden and Lisa D. Kabnick; Sandy and David Marshall; Joan N. Stern in memory of Clarence and Diana Stern; Miriam Klein Charitable Foundation; the Leslie and Richard Worley Foundation; the Paul E. Singer Foundation; Tobey and Mark Dichter; the Moses Feldman Foundation; Rachelle and Ron Kaiserman; Lynn and Joe Manko; Sherrie R. Savett; Adele K. Schaeffer; and Joseph S. and Renee M. Zuritsky.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2018 Tour of Europe and Israel is supported by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Team PA. PHLCVB is a supporting sponsor of the Europe portion of the tour.

Tour simulcasts on WRTI 90.1 FM in Philadelphia are made possible in part by the support of Stingray Digital Group, Inc.

About [The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

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