

Season 2018-2019

Thursday, December 20,
at 7:00

Friday, December 21,
at 7:00

Saturday, December 22,
at 7:00

Sunday, December 23,
at 2:00

The Philadelphia Orchestra

The Glorious Sound of Christmas

Bramwell Tovey Conductor and Piano

John Viscardi Baritone

Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia

Paul Rardin Artistic Director and Principal
Conductor

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

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

Traditional/arr. Tovey "Good King Wenceslas"

Tchaikovsky March, from *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71

Holst/arr. Tovey "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Traditional/arr. Tovey "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

Hairston/arr. Tovey "Mary's Boy Child"

Moore "The Night Before Christmas," a poem with music

Rimsky-Korsakov Polonaise, from *Christmas Eve*

Intermission

Pierpont/arr. Tovey *Jingle Bells Overture*

Gruber/arr. Tovey "Silent Night"

David Bilger, flugelhorn

Tovey "The Rittenhouse Carol"

Anderson *Sleigh Ride*

Tormé/arr. Lowden "The Christmas Song"

Kent "I'll Be Home for Christmas"

Traditional/arr. Tovey "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"

Wade/arr. Harris "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

This program runs approximately 2 hours.

These concerts are presented by

Wells Fargo.

Additional support is provided by

Delta Airlines.

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
Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music Director

2018-19
SPECIAL EVENTS

Bugs Bunny at
the Symphony II

Friday, January 4 7 PM

Saturday, January 5 7 PM

Sunday, January 6 2 PM

Conducted by George Daugherty

Created by George Daugherty
and David Ka Lik Wong

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II celebrates the world's most beloved *Looney Tunes* and their legendary stars projected on the big screen—*Bugs Bunny*, *Daffy Duck*, *Elmer Fudd*, *Pepe Le Pew*, *Tweety*, *Sylvester*, *Wile E. Coyote*, and *Road Runner*—while their extraordinary original scores are played LIVE by The Philadelphia Orchestra.



LOONEY TUNES and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.
TOM AND JERRY and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Turner Entertainment Co.
(s18)

Cirque de
la Symphonie

Thursday, June 13 7 PM

Friday, June 14 7 PM

Two great artforms, both requiring agility, creativity, and a lifetime of practice, come together in this thrilling evening featuring Cirque de la Symphonie.



BUY NOW!

215.893.1999 www.philorch.org

All concerts are in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. All artists, dates, prices, fees, and programs are subject to change. All tickets subject to availability.

Photo: Pete Checchia

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Jeffrey Griffin



The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world, renowned for its distinctive sound, desired for its keen ability to capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences, and admired for a legacy of imagination and innovation on and off the concert stage. The Orchestra is inspiring the future and transforming its rich tradition of achievement, sustaining the highest level of artistic quality, but also challenging—and exceeding—that level, by creating powerful musical experiences for audiences at home and around the world.

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin's connection to the Orchestra's musicians has been praised by both concertgoers and critics since his inaugural season in 2012. Under his leadership the Orchestra returned to recording, with four celebrated CDs on the prestigious Deutsche Grammophon label, continuing its history of recording success. The Orchestra also reaches thousands of listeners on the radio with weekly broadcasts on WRTI-FM and SiriusXM.

Philadelphia is home and the Orchestra continues to discover new and inventive ways to nurture its relationship with its loyal patrons at its home in the Kimmel Center, and also with those who enjoy the Orchestra's area performances at the Mann Center, Penn's Landing, and other cultural, civic, and learning venues. The Orchestra maintains a strong commitment to collaborations with cultural and community organizations on a regional and national level, all of which create greater access and engagement with classical music as an art form.

The Philadelphia Orchestra serves as a catalyst for cultural activity across Philadelphia's many communities, building an offstage presence as strong as its onstage one. With Nézet-Séguin, a dedicated body of musicians, and one of the nation's richest arts ecosystems, the Orchestra has launched its **HEAR** initiative, a portfolio of integrated initiatives that promotes **H**ealth, champions music **E**ducation, eliminates barriers to **A**ccessing the

orchestra, and maximizes impact through **R**esearch. The Orchestra's award-winning Collaborative Learning programs engage over 50,000 students, families, and community members through programs such as PlayINs, side-by-sides, PopUP concerts, free Neighborhood Concerts, School Concerts, and residency work in Philadelphia and abroad.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, presentations, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global cultural ambassador for Philadelphia and for the US. Having been the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, in 1973 at the request of President Nixon, the ensemble today boasts five-year partnerships with Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts and the Shanghai Media Group. In 2018 the Orchestra traveled to Europe and Israel. The Orchestra annually performs at Carnegie Hall while also enjoying summer residencies in Saratoga Springs and Vail. For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit www.philorch.org.

Conductor



David Cooper

Grammy and JUNO Award-winning conductor and composer **Bramwell Tovey** became principal conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra in January 2018. Following an exceptional 18-year tenure as music director of the Vancouver Symphony (VSO), which concluded this past summer, he is now the orchestra's music director emeritus. Under his leadership, the VSO toured China, Korea, and across Canada and the United States. His innovations included the establishment of the VSO School of Music, of which he is artistic advisor; the VSO's annual festival of contemporary music; and the VSO Orchestral Institute at Whistler, a comprehensive summer orchestral training program for young musicians held in the scenic mountain resort of Whistler in British Columbia.

Since making his debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center in 2008, Mr. Tovey has performed with the ensemble in Saratoga, at Wolf Trap, and at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. He made his subscription debut in 2014 and has also led multiple holiday and New Year's Eve concerts. In addition to these current performances, highlights of his 2018-19 season include guest appearances with the Chicago, St. Louis, Houston, Indianapolis, and Toronto symphonies. In January he returns to the Winnipeg Symphony's New Music Festival, which he initiated during his tenure as music director of that ensemble from 1989 to 2000.

An active composer, Mr. Tovey won the 2003 JUNO Award for Best Classical Composition for his choral and brass work *Requiem for a Charred Skull*. Naxos recently released a recording of his opera *The Inventor*, commissioned by Calgary Opera, and featuring the original cast, the Vancouver Symphony, and the University of British Columbia Opera. In 2014 his trumpet concerto, *Songs of the Paradise Saloon*, was performed by The Philadelphia Orchestra with soloist Alison Balsom. Mr. Tovey has also appeared as piano soloist with many major orchestras and in summer 2014 conducted Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* from the keyboard in Saratoga with the Philadelphians. In 2013 he was appointed an honorary Officer of the Order of Canada for services to music. In 2017 he joined the faculty of Boston University where he teaches conducting and oversees its extensive orchestra program.

Soloist



Baritone **John Viscardi** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut with these performances. Other highlights of the 2018-19 season include the role of Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with Toledo Opera and Opera Grand Rapids, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and performances of Orff's *Carmina burana* with the Lancaster Symphony. His New York presence has been growing with recent appearances as Young Erich in New York City Opera's production of Ted Rosenthal's *Dear Erich*, in Duruflé's Requiem and Fauré's Requiem at Carnegie Hall, and in Fauré's Requiem with MidAmerica Productions. He has performed the title role in David DiChiera's *Cyrano* with Opera Carolina, Athos in Mitchell Bach's *The Three Musketeers* with the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, and Malatesta in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* with the Bar Harbor Music Festival.

Mr. Viscardi has sung *Carmina burana* at Verizon Hall with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra; performed recitals in Trevi and Ortona, Italy; and was featured on an album of love songs by Francesco Paolo Tosti with pianist Glenn Morton, produced by Brilliant Classics. Other previous engagements have included Vaughan Williams's *Five Mystical Songs* at Carnegie Hall, *Carmina burana* with Opera Philadelphia, Silvio in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* with Opera San Luis Obispo, Bill Calhoun in *Kiss Me, Kate* with the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, and Moralès in Bizet's *Carmen* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Mr. Viscardi's awards include first place in the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, Santa Fe Opera's Anna Case MacKay Memorial Award, the Lys Symonette Award from the Kurt Weill Foundation's Lotte Lenya Competition, a George London Foundation Encouragement Award, first place in the Mario Lanza Institute Scholarship Competition, second place in the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition, the Bertha Koempel Award from the Liederkrantz Foundation, fourth place in the Giulio Gari Foundation Vocal Competition, and Audience Favorite in the Annapolis Opera Vocal Competition. A native of New York, he is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.

Chorus



Sharon Forelio

Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, one of America's longest-standing musical ensembles, is performing its 145th season, and its fourth season with Artistic Director Paul Rardin. Since its founding in 1874 the chorus has carried on a rich tradition of performing the great works of the choral canon while also premiering, performing, and commissioning new choral works at the highest artistic level. The chorus has performed under the batons of such legendary conductors as Sergei Rachmaninoff, Eugene Ormandy, Claudio Abbado, Zubin Mehta, Mstislav Rostropovich, Michael Tilson Thomas, Riccardo Muti, and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

Mendelssohn Club made its Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1904 with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A decade later the choir was part of the monumental "Symphony of a Thousand" at the Academy of Music, providing more than 300 singers when the Orchestra and Leopold Stokowski gave the US premiere of Mahler's Symphony No. 8. Other historical milestones include the 1929 American premiere of Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov* in concert version and the first performance outside the Soviet Union of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13, under the direction of Mr. Ormandy. The RCA recording of that performance won the Prix Mondiale de Montreux. The ensemble was also nominated for a Grammy Award for its recording of Persichetti's *Winter Cantata*.

Since 1990 Mendelssohn Club has commissioned more than 55 works and in 2013 won the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming. The 2014 commission of Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields* received the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Other commissions include works by Alberto Ginastera, Alice Parker, and Jennifer Higdon. Mr. Rardin is also Elaine Brown Chair of Choral Music at Temple University, where he conducts the Concert Choir, teaches graduate conducting, and oversees the seven-choir program at Temple's Boyer College of Music and Dance. He is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan, where he received a master's degree in composition and the D.M.A. in conducting. For information about Mendelssohn Club, please visit mcchorus.org.

Tickets & Patron Services

We want you to enjoy each and every concert experience you share with us. We would love to hear about your experience at the Orchestra and it would be our pleasure to answer any questions you may have.

Please don't hesitate to contact us via phone at 215.893.1999, in person in the lobby, or at patronserverices@philorch.org.

Subscriber Services:
215.893.1955, M-F, 9 AM-5 PM

Patron Services:
215.893.1999, Daily, 9 AM-8 PM

Web Site: For information about The Philadelphia Orchestra and its upcoming concerts or events, please visit philorch.org.

Individual Tickets: Don't assume that your favorite concert is sold out. Subscriber turn-ins and other special promotions can make last-minute tickets available. Call us at 215.893.1999 and ask for assistance.

Subscriptions: The Philadelphia Orchestra offers a variety of subscription options each season. These multi-concert packages feature the best available seats, ticket exchange privileges, discounts on individual tickets, and many other benefits. Learn more at philorch.org.

Ticket Turn-In: Subscribers who cannot use their tickets are invited to donate them and receive a tax-deductible acknowledgement by calling 215.893.1999. Twenty-four-hour notice is appreciated, allowing other patrons the opportunity to purchase these tickets and guarantee tax-deductible credit.

PreConcert Conversations:

PreConcert Conversations are held prior to most Philadelphia Orchestra subscription concerts, beginning one hour before the performance. Conversations are free to ticket-holders, feature discussions of the season's music and music-makers, and are sponsored by Scott and Cynthia Schumacker and supported in part by the Hirschberg Goodfriend Fund, established by Juliet J. Goodfriend.

Lost and Found: Please call 215.670.2321.

Late Seating: Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members who have already begun listening to the music. If you arrive after the concert begins, you will be seated only when appropriate breaks in the program allow.

Accessible Seating:

Accessible seating is available for every performance. Please call Patron Services at 215.893.1999 or visit philorch.org for more information.

Assistive Listening: With the deposit of a current ID, hearing enhancement devices are available at no cost from the House Management Office in Commonwealth Plaza. Hearing devices are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Large-Print Programs:

Large-print programs for every subscription concert are available in the House Management Office in Commonwealth Plaza. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Fire Notice: The exit indicated by a red light nearest your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do not run. Walk to that exit.

No Smoking: All public space in the Kimmel Center is smoke-free.

Cameras and Recorders:

The taking of photographs or the recording of Philadelphia Orchestra concerts is strictly prohibited. By attending this Philadelphia Orchestra concert you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such and to any use, in any and all media throughout the universe in perpetuity, of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in connection with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Phones and Paging Devices:

All electronic devices—including cellular telephones, pagers, and wristwatch alarms—should be turned off while in the concert hall. The exception would be our LiveNote® performances. Please visit philorch.org/livenote for more information.

Ticket Philadelphia Staff

Linda Forlini, Vice President
 Brandon Yaconis, Director, Client Relations
 Dan Ahearn, Jr., Box Office Manager
 Jayson Bucy, Program and Web Manager
 Joel Guerrero, Service and Training Manager
 Meg Hackney, Patron Services Manager
 Bridget Morgan, Accounting Manager
 Catherine Pappas, Project Manager
 Michelle Carter Messa, Assistant Box Office Manager
 Robin Lee, Staff Accountant
 Alex Heicher, Program and Web Coordinator
 Dani Rose, Patron Services Supervisor and Access Services Specialist
 Kathleen Moran, Philadelphia Orchestra Priority Services Coordinator