

THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC

at the Music Center at Strathmore
Piotr Gajewski, Music Director & Conductor

2015-2016 SEASON



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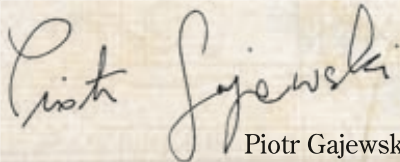
Thrilled to begin a second decade of concerts at Strathmore, National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale musicians take center stage in works of composers from Bach to Vivaldi and from Brahms to Wagner. The season opens with a program of American blockbusters from the 20th century: Leonard Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* and Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and *Concerto in F* with pianist Thomas Pandolfi, a leading interpreter of the works of Gershwin.

Concert opera returns to the Philharmonic with Wagner's powerful *Rienzi* featuring tenor Issachah Savage, fresh from his Metropolitan Opera debut, in the title role. Meanwhile, pianist Brian Ganz continues his quest to perform the complete works of Chopin, this time including the composer's rarely heard songs, sung by leading Polish soprano Iwona Sobotka.

Other returning soloists include Philharmonic favorites violinist Chee-Yun, performing Mozart, and cellist Zuill Bailey playing two rarely heard Vivaldi concertos and the humorous *Variations on a Paganini Theme* by Gregor Piatigorsky.

Of course, Handel's *Messiah* makes its annual return during the holidays with an all-star quartet of soprano Danielle Talamantes, mezzo-soprano Margaret Mezzacappa, tenor Matthew Smith and baritone Christopheren Nomura. Tchaikovsky's epic *Pathétique Symphony* closes the season.

Please join me and my National Philharmonic colleagues Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson and Associate Conductor Victoria Gau as we begin our second decade at Strathmore!



Piotr Gajewski
Music Director & Conductor



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Don't miss a beat of the National Philharmonic's thrilling 2015-2016 season, led by Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski, who emanates "a sense of gusto" (*The Washington Post*). The only way to secure the best seats (or any seats) is with a season subscription to the Philharmonic's "exciting" and "luminous" (*The Washington Post*) performances at the beautiful Music Center at Strathmore.

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Free lectures by National Philharmonic Associate Conductor Victoria Gau are offered before concerts throughout the season. Please check nationalphilharmonic.org for up-to-date information.

Before the concert, patrons can share a glass of wine, dinner or a delicious dessert with friends or family at the Prelude Café.

Become a Member of the National Philharmonic at the Sustainer Level for exclusive access to the Comcast Lounge before concerts and at intermission throughout the season.



SYMPHONIC DANCES FROM WEST SIDE STORY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

Thomas Pandolfi, piano
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

American 20th-century masters George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein are celebrated in this concert kicking off the National Philharmonic's 2015-2016 season at Strathmore! Mined from the gorgeous songs of the musical *West Side Story*, Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* reimagines Shakespeare's tragic lovers Romeo and Juliet in gang-plagued 1950s New York, while Gershwin's jazz-influenced symphonic poem, *An American in Paris*, captures the romantic beauty of the City of Light. Pianist Thomas Pandolfi, considered a leading interpreter of the works of Gershwin, performs the legendary composer's *Concerto in F*, which straddles the boundaries of popular and classical music by including elements of jazz, blues and ragtime.

Bernstein	<i>Symphonic Dances from West Side Story</i>
Gershwin	<i>An American in Paris</i>
Gershwin	<i>Concerto in F</i>



WAGNER'S RIENZI

A CONCERT OPERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

Issachah Savage (as Rienzi), tenor
Mary Ann Stewart (as Adriano), mezzo-soprano
Jennifer Wilson (as Irene), soprano
Kevin Thompson (as Stefano Colonna), bass
Jason Stearns (as Paolo Orsini), baritone
Robert Baker (as Baroncelli), tenor
Stephen Bryant (as Cecco and Raimondo), bass-baritone
National Philharmonic Chorale
Washington Men's Camerata
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

Wagner, one of the most innovative composers in the history of opera, achieved a seamless blend of music, drama, visual art and stagecraft in his third opera, the powerful *Rienzi*. This concert version features the outstanding tenor Issachah Savage in a glorious vocal scoring that traces the protagonist's journey from liberator to absolute despot before culminating in his ultimate downfall. Rousing marches, romantic melodies, elaborate choruses and brass-centered fanfares are all featured in this dramatic composition.



Issachah Savage



The Wagner Society of Washington DC

BACH FAVORITES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015

Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano
Yvette Smith, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Smith, tenor
Kevin Deas, baritone
National Philharmonic Chorale
Victoria Gau, conductor

This concert overflows with some of Bach's most cherished and memorable music. The *Orchestral Suite No. 3* is full of dance music and features what has come to be known as the *Air on the G String*. Among the famous cantatas are two of the master's most beloved settings of existing tunes: Martin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress*, and the transcendent melody Bach crafted as the beautifully flowing *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*.

Bach *Orchestral Suite No. 3*
 Cantata No. 80 (A Mighty Fortress)
 Cantata No. 147 (Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring)

TCHAIKOVSKY'S SERENADE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2015

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Chee-Yun, violin
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

In a wonderful evening of strings, award-winning violinist Chee-Yun returns to Strathmore to play Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 4*, a composition of delightful melodies and subtle wit. "Chee-Yun has not only extraordinary talent, but the poise and natural self-confidence of a seasoned veteran and born performer," says *Strings Magazine*. The concert begins with Sibelius' captivating *Rakastava (The Lover)*, a charming suite for string orchestra. Closing the concert is Tchaikovsky's popular *Serenade for Strings*. "I wrote the *Serenade* from inner compulsion, from the heart," Tchaikovsky said. The first movement, he added, "is my homage to Mozart, an imitation of his style."

Sibelius *Rakastava*
Mozart *Violin Concerto No. 4*
Tchaikovsky *Serenade for Strings*

Celebrate the Holidays WITH THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC!



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015

Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Smith, tenor
Christòpheren Nomura, baritone
National Philharmonic Chorale
Stan Engebretson, conductor

Begin your holidays with one of the most gorgeous and uplifting holiday traditions: Handel's *Messiah*, a perennial favorite since 1741. One of the most frequently performed works in Western choral literature, *Messiah* features such timeless highlights as "And the Glory of the Lord" and "Hallelujah Chorus." The critically acclaimed National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale, conducted by Stan Engebretson, will bring you the joy, spirit and tidings of this festive season.

Purchase tickets early!

BRIAN GANZ PLAYS CHOPIN

BEL CANTO OF THE PIANO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016

Brian Ganz, piano
Iwona Sobotka, soprano

The bel canto style of singing as expressed in the operatic works of Bellini, Rossini and other great Italian composers captivated Chopin and proved to be an enduring influence on his compositions for piano. Chopin wrote in the same lyrical bel canto style, including beautiful songs for voice and piano that he declined to publish and, today, are rarely performed. In the sixth recital of his journey through the complete works of Chopin, pianist Brian Ganz will be joined by the Polish soprano Iwona Sobotka in a selection of these songs. Ms. Sobotka was the Grand Prix winner of the 2004 Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Music Competition. Mr. Ganz will also play solo works that highlight the bel canto style Chopin made his own, including a selection of nocturnes, the Impromptu No. 1 in A-flat Major, Op. 29 and the monumental Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58.

Chopin

A selection of songs
Cantabile in B-flat Major
Impromptu No. 1 in A-flat Major, Op. 29
Nocturne in F Major, Op. 15, No. 1
Nocturne in C minor, Op. Posth.
Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58



BACH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

Colin Sorgi, violin
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

Mozart's inventive and virtuosic Divertimento in D Major opens this marvelous concert. National Philharmonic concertmaster Colin Sorgi is featured in Bach's brilliant Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra No. 2. The *Holberg Suite*, by Norway's greatest composer, Edvard Grieg, is based on 18th-century dances for string orchestra. *Simple Symphony*, Op. 4, the work of 20th-century British composer Benjamin Britten, uses material he wrote as a teenager and displays the influence of neoclassical music on the precocious composer.



Mozart	Divertimento in D Major, K136
Bach	Violin Concerto No. 2
Grieg	<i>Holberg Suite</i>
Britten	<i>Simple Symphony</i> , Op. 4

MOZART'S HAFFNER SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Brian Ganz, piano
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

A light, comic spirit defines Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri Overture (The Italian Girl in Algiers)*, written when the composer was only 21. Mozart's gorgeous and moving Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor is performed by the highly esteemed pianist Brian Ganz. Chopin's 1827 *Variations on "Là ci darem la mano"* ("There we will give each other our hands") bears witness to the composer's admiration for Mozart. Based on the famous duet from *Don Giovanni*, its elegant, free and graceful style and original ideas met an unusually tumultuous reception. Mozart's Symphony No. 35 ("Haffner") takes its name from Sigmund Haffner, a wealthy merchant who often helped the young composer with money and favors.

Rossini	<i>L'Italiana in Algeri Overture</i>
Mozart	Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor
Chopin	<i>Variations on "Là ci darem la mano"</i>
Mozart	Symphony No. 35 ("Haffner")

VIVALDI'S GLORIA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Zuill Bailey, cello

Julie Keim, soprano

Magdalena Wór, mezzo-soprano

National Philharmonic Chorale

Piotr Gajewski, conductor

Cellist Zuill Bailey opens this concert with two lively concertos by the Baroque master Antonio Vivaldi. Bailey then turns to Gregor Piatigorsky's brilliant *Variations on a Paganini Theme*, composed for and dedicated to various famous musicians. Among the variations is a strikingly soulful one for the preeminent cellist Pablo Casals and a slow one with a gypsy flavor for the great violinist Fritz Kreisler. Beethoven's short masterpiece *Elegischer Gesang* (*Elegiac Song*), for strings and mixed voices, is followed by Vivaldi's *Gloria*, which concludes with joyful, triumphant choruses.

Vivaldi	Cello Concertos RV 417 in G minor and RV 413 in G Major
Piatigorsky	<i>Variations on a Paganini Theme</i>
Beethoven	<i>Elegischer Gesang</i>
Vivaldi	<i>Gloria</i>



Julie Keim



Magdalena Wór

HAYDN'S LORD NELSON MASS

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016

Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Magdalena Wór, mezzo-soprano
Robert Baker, tenor
Kevin Deas, baritone
National Philharmonic Chorale
Stan Engebretson, conductor

Haydn's Mass in D minor received its name when Hungarian Prince Nikolaus Esterházy told the composer that a courier had arrived with the news that Nelson had defeated the French. The image of the trumpeting courier captured Haydn's imagination, and he added the obbligato trumpets to memorable effect. Maurice Duruflé's gentle and meditative *Requiem* combines medieval melody and modern orchestration by giving the eloquent Gregorian chant prominence throughout.

Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass*
Duruflé *Requiem*



Danielle Talamantes

TCHAIKOVSKY'S PATHÉTIQUE SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

National Philharmonic Chorale
Piotr Gajewski, conductor

The stunning one-movement *Gesang der Parzen* (*Song of the Fates*) by Brahms features a six-part chorus and a large orchestra. It's followed by his gorgeous and moving *Nänie*, a composition for chorus and orchestra that sets the poem of the same name by Friedrich Schiller to music – a work inspired by the loss Brahms suffered when his close friend, the painter Anselm Feuerbach, died. Tchaikovsky's final symphony, No. 6 ("Pathétique"), calls to mind what the composer himself wrote: "The ultimate essence of the symphony is LIFE. The first movement is all forceful passion, confidence, thirst for action. The finale is DEATH, the result of destruction. Second movement, love; third, disappointment. The fourth ends dying away." An apt description if ever there was one!

Brahms *Gesang der Parzen*
Brahms *Nänie*
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique")

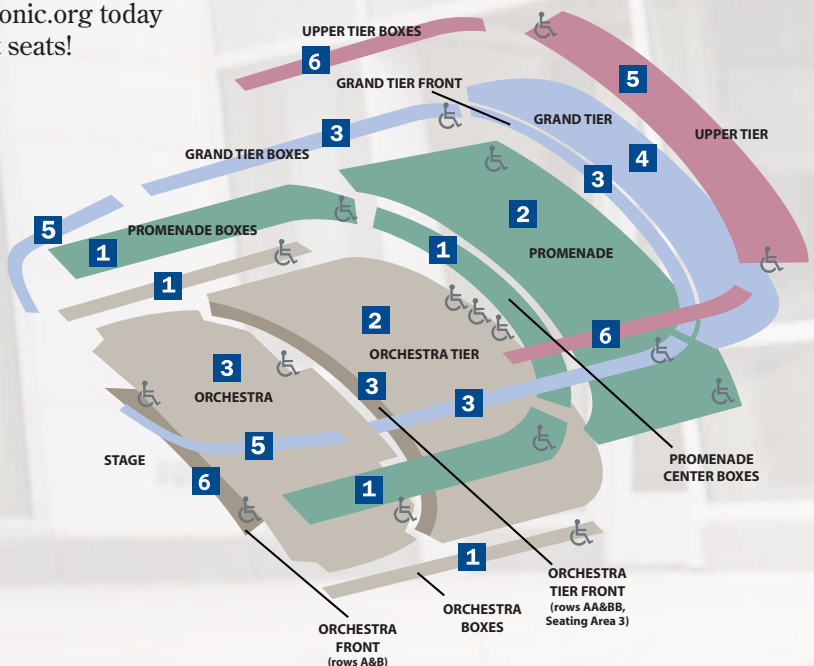
2015-2016 CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	CONCERT
Sat. 9/19	8 pm	<i>Symphonic Dances from West Side Story</i>
Sun. 9/20	3 pm	<i>Symphonic Dances from West Side Story</i>
Sat. 10/3	8 pm	Wagner's <i>Rienzi</i>
Sat. 10/31	8 pm	Bach Favorites
Sat. 11/28	8 pm	Tchaikovsky's <i>Serenade</i>
Sun. 11/29	3 pm	Tchaikovsky's <i>Serenade</i>
Sat. 12/19	8 pm	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>
Sun. 12/20	3 pm	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>
Sat. 1/9	8 pm	Brian Ganz Plays Chopin
Sat. 1/16	8 pm	Bach's Violin Concerto No. 2
Sat. 2/6	8 pm	Mozart's <i>Haffner Symphony</i>
Sun. 2/7	3 pm	Mozart's <i>Haffner Symphony</i>
Sat. 2/20	8 pm	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i>
Sun. 2/21	3 pm	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i>
Sat. 4/2	8 pm	Haydn's <i>Lord Nelson Mass</i>
Sun. 4/3	3 pm	Haydn's <i>Lord Nelson Mass</i>
Sat. 6/4	8 pm	Tchaikovsky's <i>Pathétique Symphony</i>

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CONCERT		PRICE	X	# OF TICKETS	=	SUBTOTAL
Sat. 9/19	<i>Symphonic Dances from West Side Story</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 9/20	<i>Symphonic Dances from West Side Story</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 10/3	Wagner's <i>Rienzi</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 10/31	Bach Favorites	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 11/28	Tchaikovsky's <i>Serenade</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 11/29	Tchaikovsky's <i>Serenade</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 12/19	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 12/20	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 1/9	Brian Ganz Plays Chopin	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 1/16	Bach's Violin Concerto No. 2	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 2/6	Mozart's <i>Haffner Symphony</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 2/7	Mozart's <i>Haffner Symphony</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 2/20	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 2/21	Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 4/2	Haydn's <i>Lord Nelson Mass</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sun. 4/3	Haydn's <i>Lord Nelson Mass</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Sat. 6/4	Tchaikovsky's <i>Pathétique Symphony</i>	\$ _____	x	_____	=	\$ _____
	Kids Free	\$6	x	_____	=	\$ _____
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The Gazette



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