

SPRING 2023

*Your* ORCHESTRA

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

*Your* IMPACT

The  
Philadelphia  
Orchestra  
Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
Music and Artistic Director

Our GRATITUDE





Throughout the 2022–23 season, *Your* Philadelphia Orchestra continued to transform in extraordinary ways under the visionary leadership of Music and Artistic Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**. The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc., is building on our strengths to provide opportunities for world-class, wide-ranging performances through a diverse and inclusive roster of artists in an atmosphere where all feel welcome. We have found innovative ways to bring people, institutions, and ideas together, and to engage with our communities to inspire the next generation of artists and arts lovers.

All of this is possible thanks to your generosity. We thank you for being a member of our donor family and invite you to read on to learn more about the impact of your gift on the second half of the Orchestra's 123rd season!

**"My real goal in life is to make sure that everyone feels welcome in the music and in the concert halls. Everyone should feel this is for them."**

—Yannick Nézet-Séguin

## PHILLY YANNICK WEEK

### Philly Loves Yannick!

In February 2023, **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** renewed his commitment to our Orchestra and Philadelphia by expanding his title to music and artistic director and extending his tenure to the year 2030—promises that signal auspicious, historic growth opportunities for The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc.

We recognized all that Yannick has done for our organization and our city with a special "Philly Loves Yannick Week" celebration in early February. He demonstrated his love in return for all things Philly by running up the Rocky steps, leading students in a rehearsal and performance at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, thanking healthcare workers at Penn Medicine, presenting Mayor Jim Kenney with a Yannick bobblehead after receiving a special mayoral proclamation, and ringing the bell at a Philadelphia 76ers game.

Together, Yannick and the Orchestra have commissioned an astonishing 37 works from an ever-growing and diverse group of today's best composers. In addition, Yannick is passionately committed to performing the music of under-appreciated



Yannick celebrates his contract renewal with his husband, Pierre Tourville, and a limited-edition bobblehead.

composers of the past, such as Florence Price, the first Black woman to have her work performed by a major American symphony orchestra; Clara Schumann; Lili Boulanger; Louise Farrenc; and, next season, William Grant Still.

**We can't wait to see what Yannick and the Orchestra will accomplish through 2030!**

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ORCHESTRA'S SPRING 2023 SEASON

### Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 16, Yannick and The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to the Girard College Chapel for our annual Tribute Concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement. Featuring the Orchestra's Imasogie Storyteller, Narrator, and Host Charlotte Blake Alston, the concert showcased works by Black composers such as John Rosamond

Johnson, Jessie Montgomery, Florence Price, and Margaret Bonds, and featured performances by violinist Melissa White, the Choir of the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, and the Girard College High School Choir. First presented in 1991, the free concert is a cherished tradition for Yannick and the Orchestra, honoring Dr. King's vision of a society free of prejudice and racial divisions and his belief in the power of music to effect change.



Melissa White





Yuja Wang

### Rachmaninoff 150 Celebration Featuring Yuja Wang

In January and February, the Orchestra performed a five-concert series celebrating Sergei Rachmaninoff's deep connection to The Philadelphia Orchestra. In honor of the composer's 150th birthday, superstar pianist Yuja Wang performed all four of his piano concertos and the Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with Yannick and the Philadelphians in Verizon Hall. Yuja and the Orchestra also traveled to Carnegie Hall for an unforgettable marathon performance of all five works in one day. Look for more Rachmaninoff 150 performances as our celebration continues in the 2023–24 season!

### Rediscovering William Dawson

Another composer with a historic connection to The Philadelphia Orchestra is William Dawson, whose *Negro Folk Symphony* was originally premiered by the Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski in 1934. Yannick was delighted to host Dawson's great niece, Jennifer Randolph, for an afternoon of discussion

and discovery, and proudly wore a lapel pin that had belonged to Dawson during the Orchestra's performances of a new edition of the work in February.

### Reuniting with Fans in Florida

February saw the Orchestra's return to sunny Florida for the first time since 2017. The Philadelphians, led by Principal Guest Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann, reunited with fans in a series of concerts featuring violinist Gil Shaham in West Palm Beach, Miami, Orlando, and Vero Beach. Thank you to the Volunteer Committees of The Philadelphia Orchestra for their support of the "Evening in Palm Beach" event in celebration of the Orchestra's return to the Kravis Center!



Nathalie Stutzmann  
Principal Guest Conductor



Jennifer Randolph

William Dawson

### Organ Day 2023

On February 25 we welcomed visitors of all ages to the Kimmel Center for Organ Day. This annual celebration features the magnificent Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ in Verizon Hall. Throughout the day, the instrument and its vast musical capabilities were center stage in free performances by The Philadelphia Orchestra, Philadelphia Ballet, Opera Philadelphia, and more.



Organ Day



John Luther Adams

### World Premiere of Vespers of the Blessed Earth

In March, Verizon Hall was filled with the sounds of a poignant world premiere by John Luther Adams, one of the great composers and thinkers of our time. Commissioned by Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra, *Vespers of the Blessed Earth* is a groundbreaking new work that speaks powerfully to humanity's devastating impact on the planet, with musicians and singers from the GRAMMY-winning choral group The Crossing (in its Philadelphia Orchestra debut). We thank the members of the 2022–23 Producers Circle, whose generosity supported these first-ever performances of *Vespers of the Blessed Earth*.

**"Our best hope for survival still lies within the human capacity for creative thought, of which art is the fullest expression."**

—John Luther Adams

### In-Person Family Programs Return

This season, in-person family programming—including Family Concerts, Sound All Around, and School Concerts, all of which are

sensory-friendly—returned for the first time since 2020! In October, *Your Philadelphia Orchestra* performed its first Family Concert of the 2022–23 season: Peter and the Wolf, featuring fun, welcoming pre-concert activities for kids and grown-ups alike in Commonwealth Plaza. Other Family Concerts included the Children's Holiday Spectacular; Peer Gynt, featuring Enchantment Theatre Company; and a special collaboration with students from Special Music School at Kaufman Music Center to introduce young listeners and families to Florence Price, the pioneering Black woman composer whose work was tragically overlooked during her lifetime. In a performance named for the students' book, *Who Is Florence Price?*—a biography written by the students for young readers—conductor Lina Gonzalez-Granados and the Orchestra explored Price's life, work, and enduring legacy.

The Orchestra's beloved Sound All Around concert series resumed at the Academy of Music. Hosted by Charlotte Blake Alston, these interactive programs introduce kids ages 3–7 to the instruments that make up an orchestra.



Sound All Around

### School Concerts in Verizon Hall and Around the World

Philadelphia public school teachers and students in grades 3–5 joined the Orchestra in Verizon Hall in March for five Jane H. Kesson School Concerts, hosted by violinist Nick Kendall of the GRAMMY-winning trio Time for Three, along with Conducting Fellow Austin Chanu. Together, they taught thousands of visiting students about recognizing music as a language.

This season, in addition to our in-person School Concerts, the Orchestra also presented a free Virtual School Concert Experience, designed for students in grades 1–6, accessible from anywhere in the world.

We worked with the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and America Houses in Kyiv, Odesa, and Lviv to update our 2023 Virtual School Concert to include Ukrainian subtitles and share it with students and refugees impacted by the war in Ukraine. The School Concert was distributed to 58 classrooms across 18 cities in Ukraine and beyond, marking the first time since the full-scale Russian invasion that a performing arts nonprofit provided virtual programming to Ukrainian students through the Embassy.







### Increasing Access to the Arts

Our Student Circle program, which offers deeply discounted tickets to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, is thriving! This past season we welcomed over 1,000 Student Circle members, a significant increase since last season.

Students aren't the only audience members who receive special tickets. Teachers, administrators, and staff of the School District of Philadelphia are eligible for the APPLE program, which offers free tickets to many of the Orchestra's Verizon Hall and Digital Stage performances.

### Spring Highlights from Our City, Your Orchestra

In May, we hosted Our City, Your Orchestra Live—an extension of the Orchestra's groundbreaking Our City, Your Orchestra (OCYO) digital series, which uncovers and amplifies the voices, stories, and causes championed by unique Philadelphia organizations and businesses. The free OCYO Live concert and festival, honoring Northeast High School and its surrounding community, featured all-ages fun: bounce houses, games, concessions, and food trucks. From pieces showcasing the spirit of Brazil to the energy of the western frontier, the OCYO Live concert also featured fan favorites such as John Williams's theme from *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*.



April's digital episode of OCYO featured Down North Pizza in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of Philadelphia. Down North seeks to erase employment barriers faced by formerly incarcerated people by providing culinary career opportunities. This episode highlights their important work and includes performances featuring Associate Principal Bass Gabriel Polinsky and Principal Timpani Don Liuzzi in collaboration with rapper Khemist and KIPP West Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School.

Other OCYO programs this season included We Are the Seeds, an Indigenous women-led organization committed to amplifying Indigenous voices through the arts, and Pathways to Housing, an organization whose aim is to empower people with disabilities to improve their housing opportunities, achieve better health, and reclaim their lives. All OCYO episodes are available to view for free at [philorch.org/ocyo](http://philorch.org/ocyo).



### The Great Stages Gala: A New Tradition

On May 16, The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc., held the inaugural Great Stages Gala, a new tradition celebrating our great venues and stages and the extraordinary art performed there. This gala evening featured festive receptions and entertainment, culminating in a concert with Yannick and the Orchestra featuring superstar vocalists Renée Fleming and Angélique Kidjo and hosted by legendary news anchor Jim Gardner. We thank all of the sponsors and supporters who helped to make the Great Stages Gala a smashing success!



### Extraordinary Members of The Philadelphia Orchestra

This spring, The Philadelphia Orchestra formally recognized the exemplary contributions of our distinguished musicians. Amy Oshiro-Morales (violin) was selected by Yannick as the 2023 recipient of the C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given annually to "the member of The Philadelphia Orchestra who has shown ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the standards and the reputation of the ensemble." Davyd Booth (violin) and Renard Edwards (viola) were each honored for a remarkable half-century of service to the Orchestra, and Samuel Caviezel (associate principal clarinet) and Richard Amoroso (violin) were each recognized for 25 years of service. We are deeply grateful to each of these extraordinary individuals for their incredible musicianship and years of dedication to the Orchestra—congratulations!



**Amy Oshiro-Morales**  
Violin



**Davyd Booth**  
Violin



**Renard Edwards**  
Viola



**Samuel Caviezel**  
Associate Principal Clarinet



**Richard Amoroso**  
Violin



### The Orchestra Celebrates Pride

Legendary conductor Marin Alsop and The Philadelphia Orchestra were joined by vocalist DeAnne Stewart, baritone Paulo Szot, the ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir, the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, and Philadelphia Voices of Pride for our second annual Pride Concert on June 3, dedicated to the Philadelphia region's LGBTQ+ community. The free concert featured music by LGBTQ+ composers and allies, including the world premiere of Laura Karpman's *The Marvels Suite* in advance of the film's release, and a diverse range of choral works, including "Born this Way" by Lady Gaga and Jeppe Laursen.



### Summer with Your Philadelphia Orchestra

The Orchestra is thrilled to return to our summer homes at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in Colorado, and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York this summer to share performances that demonstrate the Orchestra's commitment to beloved

classics, innovative new works, genre-crossing collaborations, and more.

Your Philadelphia Orchestra will be at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts for eight concerts across three weeks this summer! We kicked off the excitement with two concerts in May led by Yannick: Beethoven's Ninth with the Morgan State University Choir and works by Bonds, Mendelssohn, and Ravel. In June we performed the annual Tchaikovsky Spectacular; a musical tribute to Joni Mitchell, Carole King, and Carly Simon; and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in concert. July features more genre-crossing concerts, including a free performance of Darin Atwater's *Black Metropolis* with Chill Moody and a collaboration with singer/songwriter Amos Lee, and culminates with *Jurassic Park* in concert.







The  
Philadelphia  
Orchestra  
Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
Music and Artistic Director

# THANK YOU!

# Spring 2023 Donor Impact Report

Yannick Nézet-Séguin holds the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair.

Nathalie Stutzmann holds the Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller Chair.

Charlotte Blake Alston holds the Osagie and Losenge Imasogie Chair.

Richard Amoroso holds the Robert and Lynne Pollack Chair.

Samuel Caviezel holds the Sarah and Frank Coulson Chair.

Don Liuzzi holds the Dwight V. Dowley Chair.

The Pride Concert was supported in part by Donald E. Barb, Esq., and the Rev. Bruce H. Davidson; Christos Coutifaris and Deborah Driscoll, in memory of Woody Driscoll; and Dr. James F. Dougherty. Additional support is given by Arthur M. Kaplan and R. Duane Perry, and Allan Schimmel.

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 Sergeevna Rachmaninoff.

The Sound All Around concert series is endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children's Concerts, with additional support from the Acadia Fund.

The Student Circle program is funded in part by the Amy P. Goldman Foundation and an anonymous donor.

We thank Frederick R. Haas, artistic advisor for the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Experience, and the Wyncote Foundation for their generous grant in support of organ programming.

The Jane H. Kesson School Concert Program is funded in part by the Acadia Fund, the Annenberg Foundation, Donald E. Barb, Esq., and the Rev. Bruce H. Davidson, Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., the Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation in memory of Morton and Malvina Charlestein, the Connelly Foundation, the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Mr. Colin Gardner and Ms. Erika L. Faust, the Hess Foundation, JKG Florida Business Corporation, the Billy Joel Fund for Music Education, Mrs. Beth Ann Wahl Kolpen and Mr. Jack Kolpen, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation, the Nancy and William A. Loeb Student Education Fund, Philadelphia Insurance Co., Linda S. Rothermel, the Volunteer Committees for The Philadelphia Orchestra, and an anonymous donor.

Lead support for APPLE is generously given by Dr. Richard M. Klein.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute Concert is generously sponsored by PECCO, with additional

sponsorship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Annenberg Foundation.

Lead support for the *Vespers of the Blessed Earth* concerts was given by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend. Additional support was given by Joyce Creamer, MaryAnn Edwards, Susan Mucciarone and David Moore, Robert and Gene Pratter, Carol Westfall, and Steve and Mary Beth Young. The April 2 concert was sponsored by Juliet J. Goodfriend and Marc R. Moreau.

Carol Tyler's generosity inspired the "Philly Loves Yannick" giving opportunity in recognition of Yannick Nézet-Séguin's partnership with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Our City, Your Orchestra is supported in part by the William Penn Foundation, with additional support provided through the PNC Arts Alive initiative.

Family Concerts are funded in part by the Zisman Family Foundation.

Gifts from donors like you make it possible for The Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Inc., to share the transformative power of the performing arts and arts education with the widest possible audience. You have received this Philadelphia Orchestra Impact Report because of your generous philanthropic support. If you would like to change your contact preferences, please notify us at 215.893.3151 or [development@philorch.org](mailto:development@philorch.org).

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