



*EMBARGOED UNTIL
January 31, 2016*

MANFRED HONECK AND THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE 2016-2017 BNY MELLON GRAND CLASSICS SEASON

BNY Mellon Grand Classics Season Highlights:

- **Around the World with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** — The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will explore some of the great musical cities of the world this season, in programs celebrating Rome, New York, Paris, St. Petersburg, Prague and Los Angeles. This season also includes a two-week Vienna Festival, showcasing distinguished Austrian pianists Till Fellner and Rudolf Buchbinder.
- **Prominent Guest Conductors** — Returning guest conductors include some of the world's most prominent names — Christoph von Dohnányi, music director laureate of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Gianandrea Noseda, recently appointed music director of the National Symphony Orchestra; audience favorite Yan Pascal Tortelier; American conductors Leonard Slatkin and David Zinman; and Jukka-Pekka Saraste, who last led the Pittsburgh Symphony in 1999. Debut conductors are Vasily Petrenko, the Russian-born principal conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and chief conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Long Yu, music director of the China Philharmonic and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra.
- **Composer of the Year** — This year, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra looks outside the United States for its Composer of the Year, choosing Scottish-born Sir James MacMillan. Among the featured works by MacMillan during the season are his most popular work, percussion concerto *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, and the U.S. premiere of Symphony No. 4, a Pittsburgh Symphony co-commission.
- **Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"** — Music Director Manfred Honeck leads this monumental work, featuring super star vocalists Christina Landshamer (soprano) and Gerhild Romberger (mezzo-soprano) and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Symphony performed this work at the Vatican in 2004 for the Pope.
- **Complete Cycle of Brahms Symphonies** — During the 2016-2017 season, the Pittsburgh Symphony will perform all four Brahms Symphonies in order, led by Manfred Honeck (No. 1 & No. 4), Christoph von Dohnányi (No. 2) and David Zinman (No. 3).



PITTSBURGH—Today, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra announced the 2016-2017 BNY Mellon Grand Classics season, the orchestra's 121st year since its founding and its ninth season under the leadership of Music Director Manfred Honeck.

"The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and I look forward to another season filled with milestones and musical innovations," says Honeck. "I am excited to share music from many of the world's great cities and especially look forward to the return of Maestro Christoph von Dohnányi, as well as presenting new faces to our Pittsburgh audience. Each season with this world-class orchestra is such a joy!"

Honeck conducts 10 of the 20-week BNY Mellon Grand Classics subscription concerts, including the season opener with violin superstar Pinchas Zukerman; the third pairing of classical music and beautiful NASA-produced footage — Dvořák's *New World Symphony* accompanied by "Cosmos: An HD Odyssey"; the annual Thanksgiving weekend performances with popular waltzes and polkas; a semi-staged version of Haydn's *The Creation*; and the triumphant Pittsburgh return of violin sensation Midori.

Several artists will make their debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra this season. Violinist Simone Porter (November 4 & 6); pianists Francesco Piemontesi (March 10 & 12) and Behzod Abduraimov (June 9 & 11); and cellist Maximilian Hornung (May 19 & 21) will perform on the 2016-2017 season.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra continues to highlight the exceptional principal musicians within its own ranks with solo performances by Edward Stephan (February 10 & 12), percussion, in MacMillan's *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*; Randolph Kelly (March 31 & April 2), viola, with Paganini's *Sonata per la Grand Viola* and Strauss' *Don Quixote* alongside cellist Maximilian Hornung (May 19 & 21); and Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida (November 11 & 13), who will perform Mozart's expressive and melodious Oboe Concerto.

"It has been thrilling to participate in crafting the 2016-2017 season, my first as the CEO of this magnificent orchestra," says Melia Tourangeau, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Symphony. "This season showcases greatness — the unbelievable talent of the music director and musicians of this orchestra, virtuoso guests and a fantastic array of music from a variety of eras and styles. I can't wait."

The Pittsburgh Symphony welcomes back BNY Mellon as title sponsor for the BNY Mellon Grand Classics series. Fairmont Pittsburgh is the official hotel and Delta Air Lines is the official airline of the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | 412.392.4900 | pittsburghsymphony.org

Devin McGranahan, Board Chair | Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO



Season tickets are available in packages of six, seven, 14 and 20 concerts and range in price from \$114 to \$1,410. Tickets for individual concerts will go on sale in July. Concert times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Season ticket packages can be purchased in person at the Heinz Hall Box Office at 600 Penn Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh, by phone at 412-392-4900 or online at pittsburghsymphony.org.

Items of note in the 2016-2017 BNY Mellon Grand Classics Season:

Composer of the Year: Sir James MacMillan

For the 2016-2017 BNY Mellon Grand Classics season, the Pittsburgh Symphony has chosen Scottish-born Sir James MacMillan as its Composer of the Year.

MacMillan's music combines rhythmic excitement, raw emotional power and spiritual meditation, and will be featured throughout the season, including *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, a percussion concerto that has been performed nearly 500 times; *Britannia*, written in 1994 as a celebration of the British orchestral tradition; and the colorful and intricate Symphony No. 4, a co-commission making its U.S. debut in at Heinz Hall.

Launched in the 2001-2002 season, the Composer of the Year program provides audiences with an unprecedented opportunity to encounter music of living composers and establish a relationship with the composers through the experience of hearing multiple works and learning about the works through pre-concert talks and chats with the composer. Past participants are Steven Stucky, Joan Tower, John Adams, Richard Danielpour, John Corigliano, Christopher Theofanidis, Jennifer Higdon, Christopher Rouse, Michael Hersch, Krzysztof Penderecki and Rodion Shchedrin; Pittsburgh composers David Stock, Leonardo Balada, Nancy Galbraith, Patrick Burke, Bomi Jang, Mathew Rosenblum, Reza Vali and Amy Williams; Mason Bates (2014-2015 and 2012-2013); and performer-composers Daniil Trifonov, Conrad Tao, Stewart Copeland and Cameron Carpenter. The 2016-2017 BNY Mellon Grand Classics Season marks the 16th year of the Composer of the Year program.

Vienna Festival

A Vienna Festival spread over two weekends — April 21-23 and April 28 and 30 — will celebrate the musical heritage of the city of Vienna. The first weekend, featuring Till Fellner, will focus on Vienna through 1827, the year Beethoven died, and showcase works by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. The second weekend offers a special concert in celebration of Rudolf Buchbinder's 70th birthday, with the beloved pianist performing three

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concerti on Friday night. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will present Bruckner's epic Symphony No. 8 on Sunday to close the festival. Each performance of the Vienna Festival has a different program but all will be led by Music Director Manfred Honeck.

A Season of Celebration

This season, the Pittsburgh Symphony continues to celebrate 120 years of music making as well as the 200th anniversary of the City of Pittsburgh's incorporation. After each BNY Mellon Grand Classics concert, the orchestra will perform an encore. Each encore will be wonderful, celebratory music that seldom is presented on a regular program — and each will be a surprise to the audience!

Returning Conductors

Some of the finest names in the orchestra world will come to Pittsburgh this season to lead the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. One of the greatest living conductors, Christoph von Dohnányi, music director of the Cleveland Orchestra for nearly two decades, first appeared as a guest conductor with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1983. He returns in April 2017 in a program featuring two symphonies, Schumann's Symphony No. 4 and Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Pittsburgh favorites Leonard Slatkin, Gianandrea Noseda and Yan Pascal Tortelier will take the podium on November 4 & 6, November 11 & 13 and March 17-19, 2017, respectively. Young Israeli conductor Omer Meir Wellber made his debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony in October 2014 and will again lead the symphony in February 2017, in a distinctly American program filled with works by Copland, Gershwin and Bernstein. Juraj Valčuha, who most recently led the orchestra in February 2016, returns to Pittsburgh in March 2017 to lead the "Mozart in Prague" program. American-born David Zinman, a frequent guest with the world's leading orchestras last appeared at Heinz Hall in December 2004, and Finnish conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste, the chief conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra, Cologne, last performed in Pittsburgh in October 1999, make their much-anticipated returns! Zinman leads Brahms' Symphony No. 3 in May 2017 and Saraste will lead Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and Sibelius' Symphony No. 5 in January 2017.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Gala

As is tradition, the 2016-2017 season celebrates the new concert season with one of the best parties of the year — the Pittsburgh Symphony's annual gala concert and associated dinner and soiree events on Saturday, September 17, 2016. This year's theme is "Moonlight Masquerade" and will feature violinist Gil Shaham. The concert will be led by Music Director Manfred Honeck. Gala concert tickets will be made available for



purchase to the public in late spring.

Explore and Engage Program

The Pittsburgh Symphony continues its commitment to providing patrons with a deeper, more meaningful connection to the symphony and its repertoire, composers and conductors. Collaborations with area arts organizations and companies will continue through the 2016-2017 season. Pre- and post-concert talks, lobby displays, videos and interactive installations, workshops and more will enrich the BNY Mellon Grand Classics experience.

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2016-2017 BNY Mellon Grand Classics Season at a Glance

Programs, artists and dates are subject to change

OCTOBER

October 7 & 9

Opening Weekend: Pinchas Zukerman!

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Pinchas Zukerman, violin

MacMillan: *Britannia* (Pittsburgh Symphony premiere)

Bruch: Concerto No. 1 in G minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 26

Elgar: Variations on an Original Theme, Opus 36 "Enigma Variations"

Legendary violinist and longtime friend of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Pinchas Zukerman will dazzle with Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. Composer of the Year Sir James MacMillan's work bursts onto the Pittsburgh scene with the bustling, patriotic orchestral fantasy, *Britannia*, a kaleidoscopic collection of march tunes, Irish reels, jigs and even a Cockney drinking song. Veiled in tantalizing mystery, Elgar's colorful *Enigma Variations*, a musical portrait of "friends pictured within" closes the program, nearly 100 years after Elgar himself led the Pittsburgh Symphony in this very work.

October 14-16

Video & Music: Dvořák's "New World"

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Beethoven: Overture to *Egmont*, Opus 84

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"Cosmos — An HD Odyssey"

Featuring **Dvořák**: Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95 "From the New World"

MacMillan: Symphony No. 4 (U.S. premiere)

The Pittsburgh Symphony completes a trilogy of NASA films, and gives the U.S. premiere of 2016-2017 Composer of the Year Sir James MacMillan's Symphony No. 4. First taken to outer space by Neil Armstrong on Apollo 11, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," will be performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony and Manfred Honeck paired with high-definition footage of the cosmos. The program opens with Beethoven's striking Overture to *Egmont*.

NOVEMBER

November 4 & 6

American Classics: *Porgy & Bess*

Leonard Slatkin, conductor

Simone Porter, violin (debut)

Barber: Overture to *The School for Scandal*

Barber: *Adagio for Strings*

Barber: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 14

Williams: *Sound the Bells* (Pittsburgh Symphony premiere)

Slatkin: *Kinah* (Pittsburgh Symphony premiere)

Gershwin: A Symphonic Picture of *Porgy & Bess*

Lights, camera, action! The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra presents a weekend of music recognizing the city of Los Angeles. Between the music, American conductor Leonard Slatkin will delight the audience with stories of his life in L.A. and his family ties to Hollywood. The first half presents works by Samuel Barber, including his most beloved *Adagio for Strings* and his Violin Concerto to be performed by debuting rising star Simone Porter. More crowd pleasers follow, including a work by film composer John Williams, Leonard Slatkin's own *Kinah* (Elegy) and, to close, Gershwin's A Symphonic Picture of *Porgy & Bess*, premiered first by the Pittsburgh Symphony and Fritz Reiner in 1943.

November 11 & 13

Fountains of Rome

Gianandrea Noseda, conductor

Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida, oboe



Berlioz: *Roman Carnival* Overture, Opus 9

Mozart: Concerto in C major for Oboe and Orchestra, K. 285d [314]

Respighi: *La fontane di Roma* (*The Fountains of Rome*)

Rota: Symphony No. 3 in C major (Pittsburgh Symphony premiere)

Beloved Italian conductor and newly appointed music director of the National Symphony Orchestra, Gianandrea Noseda returns to conduct Respighi's wonderful symphonic poem, *The Fountains of Rome*, the first in his "Roman trilogy"; each of the four movements depicting one of Rome's fountains at different times of the day. Berlioz's *Roman Carnival* opens the program. Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida performs Mozart's charming Concerto for Oboe in C Major, a lively showcase for the orchestra's talented principal oboe.

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Weekend: Hélène Grimaud

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Hélène Grimaud, piano

Ravel: Concerto in G major for Piano and Orchestra

Popular Waltzes and Polkas

Audience favorite Hélène Grimaud returns to spend Thanksgiving with the Pittsburgh Symphony, performing Maurice Ravel's dazzling Piano Concerto in G. Ravel believed that the music of a concerto should be "lighthearted and brilliant," and his concerto does not disappoint, from the jaunty opening piccolo solo to the rip-roaring finale. Manfred Honeck rounds out the program with musical gems from the waltz and polka tradition.

DECEMBER

December 2 & 4

Haydn's "Creation"

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Vocal Soloists (TBD)

The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Samuel Helfrich, stage director

Haydn: *The Creation*, H. XXI:2

Based on the Biblical story, Haydn gives musical life to the six most famous days in history. Haydn's love of nature is everywhere apparent and his deep religious faith illuminates, as well. It is no wonder that *The*



Creation was Haydn's most beloved composition during his lifetime and Music Director Manfred Honeck, the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra offer a unique twist on this shining masterpiece with an original theatrical presentation realized by acclaimed Stage Director Samuel Helfrich.

JANUARY

January 13 & 15

Beethoven's Seventh

Jukka-Pekka Saraste, conductor

Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A major, Opus 92

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5 in E-flat major, Opus 82

Described "with bravura, finesse and an intelligence that makes these versions a true celebration of Beethoven's genius," Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony's latest recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 has been met with outstanding critical acclaim. This weekend, Finnish conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste returns to Pittsburgh to conduct this remarkable work, composed in 1813. Composed a little more than 100 years later, Sibelius' Symphony No. 5 premiered in celebration of the composer's 50th birthday in 1915. The work opens with a four-note theme in the horns that is developed seamlessly throughout, expanding into an exhilarating rush of energy to the end.

FEBRUARY

February 3 & 5

Midori!

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Midori, violin

Mozart: Symphony No. 35 in D major, K. 385, "Haffner"

Mendelssohn: Concerto in E minor for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 64

Brahms: Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 68

Since skyrocketing onto the scene as a dazzling young virtuoso capturing the hearts and minds of audiences around the world, violin sensation Midori has always made people stand up and take notice. She makes her long awaited return to the Pittsburgh Symphony in a performance of Mendelssohn's poetic and lyrical Violin Concerto. Mozart's ingenious "Haffner" Symphony opens the program. This program begins the season-long Brahms Cycle beginning with the triumphant Symphony No. 1. This long-awaited work, nearly 14 years in the making, announced Brahms' arrival as a symphonist in dramatic style.



February 10 & 12

Sleeping Beauty

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Edward Stephan, percussion

Prokofiev: *Classical* Symphony, Opus 25 (Symphony No. 1)

MacMillan: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

Tchaikovsky: Suite from *Sleeping Beauty*

Tchaikovsky's score captures the true magic of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The composer himself thought it to be one of his best works. It is a "dancing symphony" about fate and life, woven from an old tale of a princess who pricks her finger and is put under a 100-year spell to be awakened only by the kiss of a handsome prince. The Pittsburgh Symphony's own principal timpanist Edward Stephan takes the stage to perform Composer of the Year Sir James MacMillan's dazzling and sensational percussion concerto, *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, one of his most performed works. Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony open the program with Prokofiev's much-loved *Classical Symphony*.

February 24-26

Rhapsody in Blue

Omer Meir Wellber, conductor

Jon Kimura Parker, piano

Copland: Symphony No. 3

Gershwin: *Rhapsody in Blue*

Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony and conductor Omer Meir Wellber as they perform landmark works honoring the city of New York by America's most celebrated composers. Combining his classic American sound with the symphonic form, Copland's Symphony No. 3 is the quintessential American symphony, and quotes the famous *Fanfare for the Common Man* in the fourth movement. Pianist Jon Kimura Parker joins the orchestra for *Rhapsody in Blue*, Gershwin's iconic jazz-concerto, filled with driving rhythms and rich melodies. Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* brings the program to a rousing close.

MARCH

March 10 & 12

Mozart in Prague

Juraj Valčuha, conductor

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Francesco Piemontesi, piano (debut)

Smetana: "The Moldau," No. 2 from *Má vlast*

Dvořák: Concerto in G minor for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 33

Mozart: Symphony No. 38 in D major, K. 504, "Prague"

Dvořák: *Carnival Overture*, Opus 92

Slovakian conductor Juraj Valčuha returns to Pittsburgh with a program inspired by Prague, from Smetana's famous *Moldau*, depicting the river flowing through the city, to Mozart's Symphony No. 38, premiered in Prague in 1787. This weekend also features the debut of Swiss pianist Francesco Piemontesi performing Dvořák's Piano Concerto, last heard in Heinz Hall over a decade ago. The program closes with Dvořák's colorful *Carnival Overture*, in which the composer depicts a city at nightfall, filled with "shouts of joy and unrestrained hilarity."

March 17-19

Bolero!

Yan Pascal Tortelier, conductor

Stravinsky: *Pétrushka* (1947 revision)

Offenbach: Selections from *La Gaité Parisienne*

Ravel: *Boléro*

An evening of French music to enchant! Coincidentally, all of it was originally written for ballet. French conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier returns to the Pittsburgh Symphony to celebrate the city of Paris. The second half offers movements from Offenbach's *La Gaité Parisienne*, depicting a scene from a fashionable Parisian café in the mid-1800s. To follow, the orchestra will perform Ravel's pulsating *Boléro*, which premiered at the Paris Opera in November 1928. Tortelier opens the performance with Stravinsky's *Pétrushka*, which tells the story of the loves and jealousies among three puppets. Maestro Tortelier chose to perform the 1947 version, which is the same year of his birth, in celebration of his 70th birthday!

APRIL

March 31 & April 2

Pictures at an Exhibition

Long Yu, conductor

Randolph Kelly, viola

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition*



Paganini: Sonata per la Grand Viola

Puccini: Excerpts from *Turandot*

Currently artistic director and chief conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, music director of the Shanghai Symphony and artistic director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, distinguished Chinese conductor Long Yu makes his Pittsburgh Symphony debut with *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Mussorgsky's showpiece for piano, later orchestrated by Ravel, vividly depicts 10 paintings by Mussorgsky's friend Viktor Hartmann. Principal viola Randolph Kelly takes center stage for Paganini's virtuosic Sonata per la Grand Viola, which incidentally was given its Pittsburgh premiere by Kelly.

April 7 & 9

Dohnányi Conducts Brahms

Christoph von Dohnányi, conductor

Schumann: Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Opus 120

Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 73

World-renowned German conductor Christoph von Dohnányi returns to conduct the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra after more than a decade. Widely admired for his interpretations of Romantic music, *Gramophone* described his recording of Schumann's Symphony No. 4 as "easily the best and most vital of his series, spontaneous in its forward-looking energy." Paired with Schumann, Dohnányi also will present the second chapter of the season-long Brahms cycle with a performance of his rustic Symphony No. 2.

April 21-23

Viennese Celebration: Beethoven Piano Concertos

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Till Fellner, piano

Works to include:

Beethoven: Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 19

Beethoven: Concert No. 3 for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 37

April brings a two-week Viennese celebration with a festival designed by Music Director Manfred Honeck to explore one of the most artistically fruitful moments in music history. Early 19th-century Vienna was the greenhouse where Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert all creatively blossomed and composed some of their most delightful and best-loved orchestral works. Maestro Honeck conducts a program of surprises and



highlights, complete with the return of fellow Austrian and Pittsburgh favorite, pianist Till Fellner, who will enchant and charm with Beethoven's Piano Concertos No. 2 and 3.

April 28

Viennese Celebration: Buchbinder Birthday Concert

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Works to include:

Mozart: Concerto No. 20 in D minor for Piano and Orchestra, K. 466

Beethoven: Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 73 "Emperor"

One of the world's foremost pianists, and in celebration of his 70th birthday, Rudolf Buchbinder takes the stage to perform not one but three concerti — beginning with the serene Mozart Piano Concerto No. 20 K. 466, a favorite of the composer. Beethoven's last piano concerto, the "Emperor" will not disappoint, named a "symphonic concerto" with its grandiose and sublime movements ending with an exuberant allegro.

April 30

Viennese Celebration: Majestic Bruckner

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Bruckner: Symphony No. 8 in C minor

Join Manfred Honeck for his second weekend of the Viennese Celebration and a look into the latter half of the Romantic period, as he takes the stage with Bruckner's majestic Symphony No. 8. Sometimes nicknamed *The Apocalyptic*, the Eighth Symphony rises from a doom-laden opening to a noble third movement, and is some of the most ecstatic music the composer has ever created.

MAY

May 19 & 21

Romantic Brahms

David Zinman, conductor

Maximilian Hornung, cello (debut)

Randolph Kelly, viola

Brahms: Symphony No. 3 in F major, Opus 90

Strauss: *Don Quixote*, Opus 35



The Brahms cycle continues with American conductor David Zinman and the Pittsburgh Symphony joining forces for the Third Symphony, also known as Brahms's *Eroica*. It is filled with conflicts and warm resolutions, turbulence, gentle sentiment and a twilight serenity. Rising cellist Maximilian Hornung makes his Pittsburgh Symphony debut to perform Strauss' famous tone poem, *Don Quixote*. In Strauss' score, the knight himself, Don Quixote de la Mancha, comes to life in the solo cello. In the finale, the Don is ready for death and Strauss reflects the scene in six brief, gentle measures, which convey a mood touchingly similar to that of the final passages of the Brahms Third Symphony.

JUNE

June 2-4

Mahler's *Resurrection*

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Christina Landshamer, soprano

Gerhild Romberger, mezzo-soprano

Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Mahler: Symphony No. 2 in C minor, "Resurrection"

"Why have you lived? Why have you suffered? Is it all some huge, awful joke? We have to answer these questions somehow if we are to go on living – indeed, even if we are only to go on dying!" Mahler raises these questions in the first movement of his Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection," questions that are later answered in the finale. Manfred Honeck leads the orchestra, along with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and outstanding soloists Christina Landshamer and Gerhild Romberger, in a performance of this monumental symphony.

June 9 & 11

Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concert

Vasily Petrenko, conductor (debut)

Behzod Abduraimov, piano (debut)

Tchaikovsky: Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 23

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 8 in C minor, Opus 65

Get the final stamp in your passport when chief conductor of the Royal Liverpool and Oslo Philharmonic, Vasily Petrenko debuts in a program to honor the city of St. Petersburg. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8 was written at a turning point in the war, and although a great sense of achievement and pride spread across the



nation, Shostakovich was not so optimistic, fearing that this would give further rise to Stalin. As a result, the symphony ends with a less-than-hopeful tone, thus leaving it unpopular and useless for propaganda purposes in his home country. This same weekend, enjoy another debut with rising star Behzod Abduraimov in a performance of Tchaikovsky's much-loved Piano Concerto No. 1. The concerto had its Russian premiere in St. Petersburg in November 1875 and has one of the most iconic openings of any classical work.

June 23-25

Season Finale! Honeck Conducts Beethoven & Brahms

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin

Beethoven: Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61

Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Opus 98

Violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann, regarded worldwide as one of the foremost violinists of his generation, will put his unmatched brilliance on full display with a probing performance of "the Mount Everest of violin concertos," Beethoven's Violin Concerto. To close the season, join Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony musicians in the final symphony of the Brahms cycle, Symphony No. 4. A brilliant culmination of mind and heart, emotion and intellect, this completely engrossing last symphonic statement will cement what is celebrated around the world as one of the finest artistic partnerships today, Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts is owned and operated by Pittsburgh Symphony, Inc., a non-profit organization, and is the year-round home of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The cornerstone of Pittsburgh's Cultural District, Heinz Hall also hosts many other events that do not feature its world-renowned orchestra, including Broadway shows, comedians, speakers and much more. For a full calendar of upcoming non-symphony events at the hall, visit heinzhall.org.

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