

**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 7, 2018

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and  
Washington Performing Arts present the**

***2018 SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras***

- In its second year, Washington, D.C. Festival provides national platform to spotlight four American orchestras—**Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra**—and the creative ways they engage with their communities
- Extensive festival offerings feature appearances by: soloists **Augustin Hadelich, Joyce Yang, Carol Jantsch, Alisa Weilerstein, Time for Three**, and others; singers **Clarice Assad, Theo Bleckmann, Erin Wall, Renee Tatum, Alyssa Martin, Thomas Cooley**, and **Liudas Mikalauskas**; dancers from **Texas Ballet Theater**; conductors **Miguel Harth-Bedoya, David Alan Miller, Krzysztof Urbański**, and **Gianandrea Noseda**

**April 9 – April 15, 2018**

(WASHINGTON)—The second *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras* takes place at the Kennedy Center and a variety of additional venues throughout Washington, D.C. from April 9 through April 15, 2018. Building on the creative programming of the orchestras in the inaugural *SHIFT* Festival, this year's participating orchestras – Albany Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra – offer programs across all four quadrants of D.C., featuring living composers and East Coast and D.C. premieres, encapsulating each orchestra's hometown identity. *SHIFT* is a collaboration between the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts.

*SHIFT* is a weeklong spotlight on North American orchestras of all sizes that celebrates the vitality, unique identity, connections to their respective communities, and extraordinary artistry of the participating orchestras by creating an immersive festival experience in the nation's capital. The inaugural *SHIFT* Festival in 2017 was praised by *The New Yorker* as “an ambitious new festival” and by *The New York Times* for its “joy and artistic excellence . . . infused with an additional note of urgency.”

In addition to compelling and diverse full-orchestra concerts performed in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, each of the four orchestras will engage in residency activities, interacting with the local community through education and engagement activities, and community events in venues throughout Washington, D.C. Kennedy Center Concert Hall performances are ticketed at a flat price of \$25 (reserved seating), alongside a variety of free events throughout the city.

### **Concerts and Residency Activities**

The **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra** kicks off the *SHIFT* Festival with programs inspired by literature, history, and geography, with nods to Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya's Peruvian heritage. Their concert at the Kennedy Center (April 10) includes the East Coast premiere of a Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra commission, Jimmy López's *Bel Canto: A Symphonic Canvas*, based on Ann Patchett's 2001 novel of the same name. Also on the program, in honor of the great American composer, conductor, and educator Leonard Bernstein's centennial, is the composer's *Serenade [after Plato's "Symposium"]*, with violinist and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Artistic Partner Augustin Hadelich as soloist. Closing the program is the East Coast premiere of Anna Clyne's *RIFT*, a symphonic ballet choreographed by Kitty McNamee with dancers from Texas Ballet Theater.

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra continues its celebration of Latin-American culture in its two residency activities. A small ensemble of musicians from the orchestra under the direction of Miguel Harth-Bedoya present *Caminos del Inka*, a free performance at

the National Museum of the American Indian's Potomac Theater (April 9). The program spotlights the rich tradition of South American music, with repertoire spanning traditional, classical, and contemporary music from the continent, particularly the Andean region, by composers such as Osvaldo Golijov, Gabriela Lena Frank, Jimmy López, and more. A chamber ensemble from the orchestra along with dancers from Texas Ballet Theater will give a bilingual performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* at THEARC for local, predominantly Spanish-speaking students (April 11, not open to the public).

With a program entitled "The River Flows Through Us," the **Albany Symphony** under the direction of David Alan Miller explores the history of upstate New York through the theme of bodies of water that surround and connect communities. The Kennedy Center program (April 11) features music by all living composers, including three pieces commissioned by the Albany Symphony: Joan Tower's *Still/Rapids* – a reworking of her earlier meditation on water and rapids – with Joyce Yang as soloist; Dorothy Chang's delightful mini-oratorio for children's chorus and orchestra, with young singers drawn from DCPS choruses, *The Mighty Erie Canal*; and Michael Torke's homage to the George Washington Bridge, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Queensboro Bridge, *Three Manhattan Bridges*, also featuring Yang as soloist. Michael Daugherty's *Reflections on the Mississippi*, a rare tuba concerto featuring The Philadelphia Orchestra's Carol Jantsch as soloist, rounds out the program.

Albany Symphony's residency activities build on the joys of contemporary music and song-creation. First, the orchestra brings its popular local educational initiative *Songwriter Idol* to middle school students at KIPP DC. Singer and composer Clarice Assad, along with members of the Albany Symphony, will lead workshops with the students on improvisation, body percussion, and hip hop songwriting (April 11, not open to the public; Assad will also visit the classroom in the weeks preceding this workshop). That evening, the students of *Songwriter Idol* bring their new works to life on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, joined by Assad. Albany Symphony's composers collective Dogs of Desire, joined by Theo Bleckmann, give a free performance at Blind

Whino (April 12), exploring the world of American popular culture. The show includes both acoustic and amplified works commissioned by Dogs of Desire, with atmospheric visual accompaniment and lighting by video artist Hannah Wasileski.

The **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra** brings to D.C. a program reflecting the orchestra's mission of engaging performers of all ages, as well as introducing classic and contemporary works from Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski's home country of Poland to the orchestra and its audiences. On this concert (April 13), cellist Alisa Weilerstein joins the orchestra for a performance of Lutoslawski's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra. Penderecki's rarely-heard *Credo* will feature a collaboration with the Indianapolis Symphony Choir and the Indianapolis Children's Choir, along with soloists Erin Wall (soprano), Renee Tatum (mezzo-soprano), Alyssa Martin (mezzo-soprano), Thomas Cooley (tenor, also heard with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in last year's SHIFT Festival), and Liudas Mikalauskas (bass).

With three ambitious residency events, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra honors its commitment to music education for all ages and unique collaborations. Through the one-of-a-kind program Second Chance Strings, adults with no musical background get to experience the rush of their first performance within an hour of picking up an instrument. Participants will rehearse for 30-45 minutes alongside musicians of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (a family development program of the ISO), then all will perform side-by-side together in the finale of Pachelbel's *Canon in D* on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage (April 13). MYO will round out the rest of the hour on their own. The next morning, musicians from the ISO will give an interactive performance of "The Garden Symphony," written by ISO violinist Victoria Griswold and early childhood specialist Linda Noble, for families with young children ages 3-6, at Brookland's Busboys and Poets. Finally, the ISO Artists-in-Residence, string trio Time for Three, give a pop-up performance at The LINE Hotel (April 14) treating audiences to their high-energy arrangements drawing on folk, bluegrass, and rock.

D.C.'s own **National Symphony Orchestra** brings the SHIFT Festival to a close with a program conducted by new Music Director Gianandrea Noseda (April 14). This program filled with Russian and Italian inspirations reflects new NSO Music Director Gianandrea Noseda's Italian heritage as well as his experience at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, where he held his first important conducting post. The concert is also dedicated to the memory of Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, who had originally been scheduled to appear as a soloist before his death last November. Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* is a reaction to Italian composer Pergolesi, whose original music was for a *commedia dell'arte* libretto. Vocal soloists, drawn from Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, will be announced at a later date. The second half of the program offers solo piano music by Russian composers Mily Balakirev (*Islamey*) and Sergei Rachmaninoff (*5 Études-Tableaux*), colorfully orchestrated by Italian composers Alfredo Casella and Ottorino Respighi respectively.

For its residency activities, the National Symphony Orchestra embraces its role as D.C.'s hometown orchestra with several of its popular "In Your Neighborhood" concerts. Free concerts take place at the Congressional Ceremony, a 206-year-old National Historic Landmark (April 9); Union Station, with easily recognizable excerpts from works by Beethoven, Rossini, Dvořák, and others (April 11); the Loft Bar at The Hamilton (April 12); the Anacostia Community Museum for an artistic exchange with a local go-go band (April 14); and the National Zoo (April 15), for an animal-themed program and instrument petting zoo geared toward young audiences.

The curators of the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage have chosen local orchestras to participate on the evenings not already occupied by the visiting SHIFT orchestras, including the Prince William Youth Orchestra (April 9), Elite Chamber Orchestra (April 10), University of Maryland's Hip-Hop Orchestra (April 12), the American Youth Philharmonic (April 14), and the Air Force Chamber Orchestra (April 15). All Millennium Stage performances take place at 6 p.m. daily and are free and open to the public.

### **2018 SHIFT Festival Concert Calendar (Public Events)—Chronological**

**Monday, April 9, 2018, at 2 p.m.**

National Museum of the American Indian, Potomac Theater (4th St. SW & Independence Ave. SW)

**Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra: *Caminos del Inka: A Musical Journey***

A 15-20 piece ensemble of musicians from the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Miguel Harth-Bedoya, presents a program created to share the rich tradition of South American music. Program to include works by Osvaldo Golijov, Gabriela Lena Frank, Jimmy López, and more, with a multimedia component.

**FREE**

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**Monday, April 9, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**Prince William Youth Orchestra**

**FREE**

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**Monday, April 9, 2018, at 7 p.m.**

Congressional Cemetery (1801 E St. SE)

**NSO "In Your Neighborhood"**

NSO musicians perform chamber music at the Congressional Cemetery, a 206-year-old National Historic Landmark.

**FREE**

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**Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 3 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**ArtChangeUS@SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras**

ArtChangeUS@SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras will bring together an accomplished group of artist leaders to advance diversity and cultural equity issues in the orchestral and larger arts field. The forum will start with TED-style presentations by artists and cultural organizers who are boldly transforming the arts. This event will engage much-needed questions about the universal challenges facing orchestras as the audience landscape changes, communities call out for more engagement from their non-profits, and the art form seeks its place amidst the currents of contemporary American life.

Panelists and speakers to include:

Roberta Uno – Director, Arts in a Changing America

Garrett McQueen – Bassoonist, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra & Host, WUOT Knoxville

Alison Carey – Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Eun Lee - Producer, The Dream Unfinished

Francisco Núñez – Artistic Director & Founder, Young People's Chorus of New York City

Lee Koonce - President & Artistic Director, Gateways Music Festival  
Ian David Moss – CEO, Knowledge Empower & Founder, Createquity  
Jeri Lynne Johnson - Founder & Artistic Director, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra  
David Alan Miller – Music Director, Albany Symphony  
Gary Ginstling – Executive Director, National Symphony Orchestra  
Alexander Liang - Principal Clarinet, The Phoenix Symphony  
Ravi Rajan – President, California Institute of the Arts

**FREE livestream of the event will be available at <https://youtu.be/AiQaaRPtuB8>**

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**Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage  
**Elite Chamber Orchestra**

**FREE**

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**Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 8 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Concert Hall  
**Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra**

**Miguel Harth-Bedoya, conductor**  
**Augustin Hadelich, violin**  
**Texas Ballet Theater**  
**Kitty McNamee, choreographer**

Jimmy López	<i>Bel Canto: A Symphonic Canvas</i> (East Coast premiere; Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra commission)
Leonard Bernstein	<i>Serenade [after Plato's "Symposium"]</i> Augustin Hadelich, violin
Anna Clyne	<i>RIFT (A Symphonic Ballet)</i> Texas Ballet Theater, dancers Kitty McNamee, choreographer

**Tickets: \$25**

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**Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 1 p.m.**

Union Station (50 Massachusetts Ave. NE)  
**NSO "In Your Neighborhood"**

Led by Music Director Gianandrea Noseda, the full National Symphony Orchestra performs a free lunch-time "Pop-Up" concert in the Main Hall of D.C.'s iconic Union Station.

**FREE**

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**Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**Albany Symphony: *Songwriter Idol* Showcase with Clarice Assad**

Composer and singer Clarice Assad joins students from KIPP DC for a performance of the students' songs created during the Albany Symphony's *Songwriter Idol* program.

**FREE**

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**Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 8 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**Albany Symphony**

**David Alan Miller, conductor**

**Joyce Yang, piano**

**Carol Jantsch, tuba**

"The River Flows Through Us"

Joan Tower

*Still/Rapids*

Joyce Yang, piano

(D.C. premiere, Albany Symphony commission)

Michael Daugherty

*Reflections on the Mississippi*

Carol Jantsch, tuba

Dorothy Chang

*The Mighty Erie Canal*

Children's choir from local DC-area choruses

(D.C. premiere, Albany Symphony commission)

Michael Torke

*Three Manhattan Bridges*

Joyce Yang, piano

(D.C. premiere, Albany Symphony commission)

**Tickets: \$25**

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**Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**University of Maryland's Hip-Hop Orchestra**

**FREE**

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**Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.**

Blind Whino (700 Delaware Ave. SW)

**Albany Symphony: *Dogs of Desire* & Theo Bleckmann**

*Dogs of Desire*, Albany Symphony's composers collective, explores the world of American popular culture through the creation of new works by young American composers, often with other art forms. They've commissioned close to 200 works. Both acoustic and amplified works



will be accompanied by atmospheric visual effects and lighting, created by video artist Hannah Wasileski.

**FREE. Reservations required. Please call Washington Performing Arts Ticket Services at (202) 785-9727 or visit [washingtonperformingarts.org](http://washingtonperformingarts.org).**

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**Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 10:30 p.m.**

The Loft Bar of The Hamilton (600 14th St. NW)  
NSO "In Your Neighborhood"

NSO musicians perform a late-night chamber concert at the Loft bar of the Hamilton restaurant.

**FREE**

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**Friday, April 13, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra: Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and Second Chance Strings**

The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO), a youth and family development program of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, is designed to use the life skills learned through music instruction to engage youth in activities that discourage at-risk behaviors and keep them committed to staying in school. As part of their performance on the Millennium Stage, the ensemble will be joined by adult members of the Second Chance Strings workshop for a performance of Pachelbel's *Canon in D*. MYO performs the remainder of the program on their own.

**FREE**

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**Friday, April 13, 2018, at 8 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**

**Krzysztof Urbanski, conductor**

**Alisa Weilerstein, cello**

**Indianapolis Symphonic Choir**

**Indianapolis Children's Choir**

**Erin Wall, soprano**

**Renee Tatum, mezzo-soprano**

**Alyssa Martin, mezzo-soprano**

**Thomas Cooley, tenor**

**Liudas Mikalauskas, bass**

Witold Lutoslawski

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Krzysztof Penderecki

*Credo*

**Tickets: \$25**

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**Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

Busboys & Poets, Brookland location (625 Monroe St. NE)

**Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra: “The Garden Symphony” for young audiences**

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra brings its popular Teddy Bear Concerts to Busboys & Poets’ Rise + Rhyme series, introducing preschool and kindergarten students (ages 3–7) to the orchestra through an interactive performance featuring story, movement, and live music. Featuring five musicians from the ISO and narration, “The Garden Symphony” follows a ladybug’s search through the garden for her own special song and explores how music creates a sense of place and home.

**FREE**

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**Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 2 p.m.**

Anacostia Community Museum (1901 Fort Pl. SE)

**NSO “In Your Neighborhood”**

Classical meets go-go, D.C.’s indigenous funk music, as NSO musicians perform in an artistic exchange with a local band at the Anacostia Community Museum.

**FREE**

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**Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 5 p.m.**

The LINE Hotel (1770 Euclid St. NW)

**Pop-Up Concert: Time for Three (Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Artists-in-Residence)**

**FREE**

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**Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**American Youth Philharmonic**

**FREE**

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**Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 8 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

**National Symphony Orchestra**

**Gianandrea Noseda, conductor**

Dedicated to the memory of Dmitri Hvorostovsky

Igor Stravinsky (after Pergolesi)

*Pulcinella*

Mily Balakirev (orch. Casella)  
Sergei Rachmaninoff (orch. Respighi)

*Islamey*  
*5 Études-Tableaux*

**Tickets: \$25**

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**Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 1 p.m.**

The National Zoo (3001 Connecticut Ave. NW)

**NSO “In Your Neighborhood”**

NSO musicians perform an animal-themed program and host a musical instrument “petting zoo” for a Day of Music at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park.

**FREE**

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**Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 6 p.m.**

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

**Air Force Chamber Orchestra**

**FREE**

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### **ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America’s living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman David M. Rubenstein, and President Deborah F. Rutter, the nine theaters and stages of the nation’s busiest performing arts facility attract more than three million visitors to more than 2,000 performances each year, while center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts reach 40 million more around the world.

The Center produces and presents performances of music, dance, comedy, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the Center has produced more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works, in addition to hosting numerous international cultural festivals. The Center’s Emmy® and Peabody Award-winning The Kennedy Center Honors is broadcast annually on CBS and annual The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor is broadcast on PBS.

The education programs of the Kennedy Center, including those of its affiliate VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, have become models for communities across the country and have unlocked the door to learning for millions of young people. Education at the Kennedy Center produces and presents age appropriate performances and educational events, and fosters innovative programming, curriculum, and professional development for students, teachers, and families.

The Center and its affiliates stage more than 400 free performances by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center’s main stages, and every day of the year at 6 p.m. on its Millennium Stages, which are also streamed live, online. The Center also offers reduced and

complimentary tickets to young people, active members of the military, and the underserved through its MyTix program and offers a Specially Priced Tickets program for students, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others with fixed low incomes.

To learn more about the Kennedy Center, please visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).

## **ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts celebrated its 50th Anniversary in the 2016/17 season, building upon a distinguished history of serving artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we present a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and dance.

Washington Performing Arts nourishes communities throughout the region by partnering with local organizations and other arts institutions, staging concerts and arts activities in the neighborhoods, involving internationally known main-stage performers in community programs, and presenting locally based artists to a wider audience. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through sustained residencies and educational programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with two Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We embark upon our next half-century with the goals of expanding our commitment to excellence and rededicating ourselves to the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

## **FUNDING CREDITS**

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## **SHIFT FESTIVAL COLLABORATORS**

*SHIFT* is a collaboration between the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts.

The *SHIFT Festival* is presented in cooperation with the League of American Orchestras.



**#SHIFTmusic**

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

The Kennedy Center  
Rachelle Roe  
(202) 416-8443  
rbroe@kennedy-center.org

Maria Rodriguez  
(202) 416-8442  
mtrdriguez@kennedy-center.org

Washington Performing Arts  
Amanda Sweet/Bucklesweet  
(202) 636-3507  
amanda@bucklesweet.com

Caroline Heaney/Bucklesweet  
(202) 636-3503  
caroline@bucklesweet.com

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