



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 18, 2015

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH

TO BECOME NSO CONDUCTOR LAUREATE

WITH 2017-2018 SEASON

Music Directorship of National Symphony and Kennedy Center

Will Conclude with the 2016-2017 Season

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The National Symphony Orchestra and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced today that Christoph Eschenbach will not extend his position as Music Director after the conclusion of the 2016-2017 season. He will then have completed seven seasons as Music Director and an additional season as Music Director Designate. With the 2017-2018 season he will become Conductor Laureate of the National Symphony for a three-year term.

“I am proud of the legacy I leave and I am deeply grateful to the musicians who have joined with me to create an internationally prominent and unified ensemble,” stated Maestro Eschenbach. “By 2017 I will have served as Music Director of American orchestras for almost 30 years, and it makes sense to step away from these obligations. Nevertheless I am happy to accept this new role as Conductor Laureate which will allow our collaboration to continue and flourish in the years to come.”

Jeanne Ruesch, Chairman of the National Symphony Orchestra Association Board of Directors, commented, “Christoph has successfully raised the artistic quality and standing of the National Symphony Orchestra. He has given NSO audiences many thrilling nights in our

concert hall. The entire board joins me in thanking him for his contributions and commitment to our beloved orchestra.”

Executive Director Rita Shapiro added, “We are deeply grateful for Maestro Eschenbach’s work with the National Symphony Orchestra, particularly in the engagement of new musicians. His tenure has greatly strengthened the NSO, and we look forward to the continued relationship.”

The position as Conductor Laureate will begin in 2017-2018, and will end with the 2019-2020 season. During each of those seasons he will spend a minimum of two weeks with the NSO.

Christoph Eschenbach came to the National Symphony as Music Director Designate in 2009, and formally became Music Director of the NSO and the Kennedy Center with the 2010-2011 season. Steeped in the standard repertoire, he is widely credited with re-focusing the NSO’s approach to the core canon of Central European orchestral music. Additionally, under his leadership, the NSO has commissioned or co-commissioned 11 works by the end of the current season, eight of them by American composers.

The Orchestra’s board will form a search committee to begin the process of finding the next Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

2012

Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

2013

France, Germany, Oman, Spain

NSO MEMBERS ENGAGED BY CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH

Violins:

Joel Fuller 2009
Alexandra Osborne 2009

Contrabasses:

Alexander Jacobsen 2013
Charles Nilles 2013

Harp:

Adriana Horne, Principal 2013

Flute:

Aaron Goldman*, Principal 2013
Leah Arsenaault, Assistant Principal 2014

Oboe:

Nicholas Stovall, Principal, Tenured 2011
Jamie Roberts, Assistant Principal, 2011

Horn:

Abel Pereira, Principal 2014

Trumpet:

William Gerlach, Principal 2014

Trombone:

Craig Mulcahy*, Principal 2010
Barry Hearn, Assistant Principal 2009
David Murray 2014

Percussion:

Eric Shin, Principal 2012

Timpani:

Jauvon Gilliam, Principal 2010

Librarian:

Elizabeth Schnobrick, Principal 2014

*Already in NSO, won audition for Principal

COMMISSIONED AND CO-COMMISSIONED WORKS

Lieberson, Peter

Remembering JFK: An American Elegy
A Hechinger commission,
World premiere, January 2011

Hussain, Zakir

Concerto for Four Soloists, an NSO commission,
World premiere, March 2011

Thomas, Augusta Read

Violin Concerto No. 3 (“Juggler in Paradise”)
An NSO Hechinger co-commission,
U.S. premiere, June 2011

Glanert, Detlev

Shoreless River, An NSO co-commission*
U.S. premiere, January 2012

Banfield, William

Symphony No. 10, “Affirmations,”* April 2012

Shepherd, Sean	<i>Blue Blazes</i> , A Hechinger commission, World premiere May 2012
Walker, George	Sinfonia No. 4, "Strands" An NSO co-commission, Washington premiere, January 2013
Reynolds, Roger	<i>george WASHINGTON</i> , An NSO co-commission A Hechinger commission, world premiere, October 2013
Neikrug, Marc	Bassoon Concerto* An NSO co-commission, May 2014
Rihm, Wolfgang	Piano Concerto No. 2, January 2015 North American premiere An NSO co-commission
Akiho, Andy	Steelpan Concerto, scheduled June 2015* A Hechinger commission, world premiere

*Led by guest conductors

ADDITIONAL PREMIERES

Pintscher, Matthias	<i>Herodiade-Fragmente</i> , Washington premiere, October 2010
Shchedrin, Rodion	<i>Slava, Slava</i> , U.S. premiere, May 2013
Dorman, Avner	<i>Frozen in Time</i> , East Coast premiere, January 2014
Widmann, Jörg	Violin Concerto, U.S. premiere, February 2014
Pintscher, Matthias	<i>Mar'eh</i> *, North American premiere, February 2015 (scheduled)

*Led by the composer

ADDITIONAL KENNEDY CENTER APPEARANCES

On the Millennium Stage:

October 8, 2010 with Christian Tetzlaff

June 8, 2011 with Jennifer Koh and NSO Principal Oboe Nicholas Stovall

February 28, 2012 with NSO Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef

March 24, 2012 with The Last Stand Quartet (all NSO members)

February 8, 2014 with NSO Wind Principals

Scheduled:

March 14, 2015 with Leticia Moreno

On the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts Series

March 5, 2012 Recital with Matthias Goerne

March 12, 2012 Recital with Dan Zhu

January 27, 2014 Recital with Matthias Goerne

Scheduled:

May 11, 2015 Recital with Leonidas Kavakos

With the Kennedy Center Chamber Players

June 3, 2012

Additional Chamber Music Performances

November 2, 2012 Recital with NSO Principals, Kennedy Center Concert Hall

November 7, 2012 Duo Recital with Lang Lang, Kennedy Center Concert Hall

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

October 2010 Coaching Sessions with chamber musicians and vocalists at the
University of Maryland

March 2011 Coaching Session with University of Maryland Chorus

February 2012 Coaching Session with University of Maryland Orchestra

January 2013 NSO In Your Neighborhood: U St./Howard Univ./Shaw/Logan Circle
celebrating the centenary of Howard University Music
Department

January 2015 NSO In Your Neighborhood: Brookland to NoMa
celebrating 50th anniversary of Catholic University's
Benjamin T. Rome School of Music

YOUTH TRAINING

Throughout his career, Maestro Eschenbach has taken an interest in working with young musicians. While his work in mentoring young performers has been often noted, he has been an active presence in the NSO's Youth Fellowship Program, the NSO's full scholarship training program for high school students. In his second season 2011-2012, Christoph Eschenbach instituted side-by-side sessions with Youth Fellows in an NSO rehearsal. To date he has led six such sessions, with three more scheduled during the current season.

November 15, 2011	Beethoven Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")
June 5, 2012	Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5
January 15, 2013	Brahms Symphony No. 2
January 21, 2014	Dvořák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"
June 3, 2014	Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"
November 4, 2014	Brahms Symphony No. 2
January 13, 2015	Berlioz <i>Symphonie fantastique</i>
January 27, 2015	Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4
Scheduled:	
April 28, 2015	Beethoven Symphony No. 5

Maestro Eschenbach has also participated in seven Q&As with the NSO's Youth Fellowship Program, alone or with other artists, and with area high school and middle school students also included in several.

January 19, 2011, also open to middle and high school students
February 2, 2012, also open to middle and high school students
May 31, 2012
November 8, 2012, with Lang Lang, also open to middle and high school students
May 2, 2013, with Alisa Weilerstein, also open to middle and high school students
December 5, 2013, with NSO Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef
February 27, 2014, with Christian Tetzlaff

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit www.kennedy-center.org.

For more information about the NSO, please visit www.nationalsymphony.org.

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Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets.

For more information, visit www.kennedy-center.org/mytix

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