Led by music director Giancarlo Guerrero, the Nashville Symphony has been an integral part of the Music City sound since 1946. The 83-member ensemble performs more than 150 concerts annually, with a focus on contemporary American orchestral music through collaborations with composers including Jennifer Higdon, Terry Riley, Joan Tower and Aaron Jay Kernis. The orchestra is equally renowned for its commissioning and recording projects with Nashville-based artists including bassist Edgar Meyer, banjoist Béla Fleck, singer-songwriter Ben Folds and electric bassist Victor Wooten.

An established leader in Nashville's arts and cultural community, the Symphony has facilitated several community collaborations and initiatives, most notably Violins of Hope Nashville, which spotlighted a historic collection of instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. This community-wide effort engaged tens of thousands of Middle Tennesseans in 2018 through concerts, exhibits, lectures and more, and represents one of the largest initiatives ever organized around the Violins of Hope. As part of the project, the Nashville Symphony commissioned Jonathan Leshnoff’s Symphony No. 4 “Heichalos” for the Violins of Hope. The orchestra’s recording of this work, which was premiered during a string of sold-out performances in Nashville, is now available on Naxos.

The Nashville Symphony remains one of the most prolific recording orchestras in the U.S., with more than 30 releases on Naxos, the world’s largest independent classical label. Encompassing a wide range of repertoire, from Beethoven to Bernstein to Joan Tower, these recordings have earned 13 GRAMMY® Awards and 25 nominations. Award-winning recordings include Tower’s Made in America, Stephen Paulus’ Three Places of Enlightenment and Michael Daugherty’s Metropolis Symphony and Tales of Hemingway. Released in 2015, the orchestra’s recording of Ben Folds’ Piano Concerto debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical and Classical Crossover charts, and stayed in the Classical Crossover Top 20 in the first year of its release. Recording projects planned for the current season include collections devoted to the work of John Adams and Gabriela Lena Frank. Recording projects featuring the music of Christopher Rouse and Aaron Jay Kernis are scheduled for release on Naxos in summer 2020.

Education and community engagement have been at the core of the Nashville Symphony’s mission since its founding. Each year the organization reaches tens of thousands of children and adults through an array of free and low-cost programs, including Young People’s Concerts for K-12 students; sectional lessons for band and orchestra students; free Community Concerts; and “Is It a Fiddle or a Violin?,” its signature collaboration with the Country Music Hall of Fame® & Museum. In 2016, the Nashville Symphony launched Accelerando, an initiative designed to prepare young musicians from underrepresented ethnic communities for collegiate study and professional orchestra careers. Currently, 20 participating students receive individual instrument instruction, performance opportunities, and guidance on applying to colleges and conservatories, all offered free of charge.

Schermherhorn Symphony Center, the orchestra’s home since 2006, is considered one of the world’s finest acoustical venues. Named in honor of former music director Kenneth Schermerhorn and located in the heart of downtown Nashville, the building boasts distinctive neo-Classical architecture incorporating motifs and design elements that pay homage to the history, culture and people of Middle Tennessee. Within its intimate design, the 1,800-seat Laura Turner Hall contains several unique features, including soundproof windows, the 3,500-pipe Martin Foundation Concert Organ, and an innovative mechanical system that transforms the hall from theater-style seating to a ballroom configuration.

In addition to its classical and education programming, the Nashville Symphony performs and presents a wide variety of pop, jazz, country and family performances at the Schermerhorn and at Ascend Amphitheater. The Schermerhorn has become an in-demand venue for artists including Sheryl Crow, Tony Bennett, Diana Ross, Alabama, Frankie Valli and Boyz II Men, all of whom have performed with the Nashville Symphony.

For more information, visit NashvilleSymphony.org

### Nashville Symphony by the Numbers

- Founded: 1946
- Musicians: 83
- Chorus members: 160
- Recordings: 35
- Commissions and co-commissions: 30
- World premieres: 36
- GRAMMY® Awards: 13
- GRAMMY® nominations: 25
- Performances: 155
- Local audience reach*: 656,471
- Total audience reach*: 3,929,182
- Education and community engagement reach*: 55,945
- Education and community engagement service hours*: 98,140

*Figures reflect Nashville Symphony’s completed 2018/19 season
2019/20 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Classical Series includes Beethoven 250th birthday celebration; the Nashville debut and live recording of Gabriela Lena Frank’s Conquest Requiem; an appearance by Musical America’s 2018 Artist of the Year Daniil Trifonov; and the return of former Nashville Symphony Artistic Advisor Leonard Slatkin for a guest-conducting appearance.

Featured soloist appearances include pianists Yulianna Avdeeva, Barry Douglas, Stephen Hough, Garrick Ohlsson and Daniil Trifonov; violinists Karen Gomyo and Bomsori Kim; and organist Paul Jacobs. Guest-conductors include JoAnn Falletta, Thierry Fischer, Lawrence Foster and Leonard Slatkin.

Other highlights include Pops Series appearances by Trisha Yearwood, Foreigner and Celtic Journey; Jazz Series appearances by Ahmad Jamal and Gregory Porter; and Movie Series concerts featuring live orchestral accompaniment to Disney’s Coco, Star Wars: Return of the Jedi and more.

Special events with orchestra include appearances by Johnny Mathis, India.Arie, Patti LaBelle and Michael W. Smith. Presentations without orchestra include America, Boyz II Men, The O’Jays and Jonny Lang, as well as a performance by NFM Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland led by Giancarlo Guerrero.

Five live recordings:
- John Adams – My Father Knew Charles Ives (October 25-27, 2019)
- Horatio Parker – Organ Concerto (November 21-23, 2019)
- Jennifer Higdon – Low Brass Concerto (March 6-7, 2020)
- Brad Warnaar – Cornet Concerto (March 6-7, 2020)
- Gabriela Lena Frank – Conquest Requiem (March 19-21, 2020)

Two new releases on Naxos:
- Aaron Jay Kernis – Color Wheel/Symphony No. 4 “Chromelodeon” (June 2020)
- Christopher Rouse – Symphony No. 5/Concerto for Orchestra/Supplica (July 2020)

The Nashville Symphony’s Composer Lab & Workshop welcomes five composers from around the country to participate in this unique initiative designed to discover and cultivate the next generation of American composers. While in Nashville, participants receive mentoring and feedback from by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis, Symphony Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero and others. (Sept. 3-5, 2019)

Five new Middle Tennessee students have been added to the Accelerando music education initiative, bringing the total number of students in the program to 20.
The Nashville Symphony is one of the most active recording orchestras in the United States, with more than 30 internationally distributed recordings. To date, these releases have earned a total of 13 GRAMMY® Awards and 25 GRAMMY® nominations.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Jonathan Leshnoff – Symphony No. 4 “Heichalos” (Naxos, 2019)

John Harbison – Requiem (Naxos, 2018)

Ticheli, Warnaar & Ranjbaran – Wind Concertos (Naxos, 2018)

Terry Riley – The Palmian Chord Ryddle / At the Royal Majestic (Naxos, 2017)

Jennifer Higdon – All Things Majestic (Naxos, 2017)

Michael Daugherty – Tales of Hemingway (Naxos, 2016)

Ben Folds – So There (New West Records, 2015)

Joan Tower – Violin Concerto (Naxos, 2015)


Roberto Sierra – Sinfonia No. 4 (Naxos, 2013)

Béla Fleck – The Impostor (Decca/Deutsch Grammophon, 2013)

Joseph Schwantner – Chasing Light... (Naxos, 2011)

Michael Daugherty – Metropolis Symphony (Naxos, 2009)

Joan Tower – Made in America (Naxos, 2007)

Benjamin Britten – Six Metaphors (Naxos, 2005)

Additional Recordings:

Richard Danielpour – Songs of Solitude / War Songs (Naxos, 2016)


Roberto Sierra – Sinfonia No. 4 (Naxos, 2013)

Stephanie Tubbs–Vega – Written in the Air (Naxos, 2012)

DAVE FELIPE
Publicist & Communications Manager
Nashville Symphony
1 Symphony Place | Nashville, TN 37201
615.687.6565
dfelipe@nashvillesymphony.org
NashvilleSymphony.org

MEDIA CONTACT