



# Advance Program Notes

Czech National Symphony Orchestra  
*100 Years of Leonard Bernstein*  
Friday, February 22, 2019, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

## Czech National Symphony Orchestra *100 Years of Leonard Bernstein*

John Mauceri, conductor  
Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

**A Musical Toast!** *Happy Birthday, Lenny!*

**Meditation no. 3** from *Mass* for cello and orchestra

Cello soloist (from orchestra)

*Music I Heard with You*—from *Songfest*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

**Three Early Songs** (arranged by Sid Ramin)

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

*I. Piccola Serenata*

*II. So Pretty*

*III. Silhouette*

**1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Concert Suite**

### INTERMISSION

**Overture**—*Candide*

*Dream with Me*—from *Peter Pan*

*What a Movie!*—from *Trouble in Tahiti*

*Take Care of This House*—from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

**Symphonic Dances**—from *West Side Story*

*Program subject to change*

# *Czech National Symphony Orchestra Roster*

## **VIOLIN**

Martin Bialas  
Katarina Durkechova  
Zdenek Hackl  
Zuzana Hutnikova  
Katerina Janalova  
Stanislav Joni  
Jiri Kohoutek  
Filip Kottek  
Frantisek Kosina  
Ivana Morysova  
Alexej Rosik  
Karel Selmeczi  
Filip Silar  
David Sroubek  
Marta Sutora  
Matej Sutora  
Petar Tasev  
Simon Tosovsky

## **VIOLA**

Michal Demeter  
Jan Forest  
Boris Goldstein  
Ivo Gorlich  
Filip Kimel  
Miroslav Novotny  
Vladimir Paulen  
Marketa Sadecka

## **VIOLONCELLO**

Olga Bilkova  
Martin Havelik  
Petr Janek  
Jan Pospíšil  
Stepanka Rudolfova  
Viktor Vondracek

## **DOUBLE BASS**

Juraj Bajus  
Jaromir Gardon  
Silvia Gerykova  
Pavel Slamenka

## **FLUTE**

Hana Francova  
Martina Kustarova  
Nina Sivosova

## **OBOE**

Ondrej Balhar  
Pavel Korbicka  
Anna Skreptacova

## **CLARINET**

Jozef Kamencay  
Lubomir Legemza  
Dusan Mihely

## **BASSOON**

Eva Karbanova  
Rudolf Krula  
Tadeas Matucha

## **FRENCH HORN**

Krisztian Bodor  
Jana Kiselova  
Petr Kozel  
Jan Vitek

## **TRUMPET**

Jan Hasenöhr  
Jan Hykrda  
Roman Kubat  
Igor Vasil

## **TROMBONE**

Michal Jasko  
Michal Sulovsky  
Vladimir Trofimovic

## **TUBA**

Iva Pecova

## **PERCUSSION**

Antonin Donat  
Kristian Janocko  
Daniel Pitra  
Lukas Tvrdy

## **PIANO**

Robert Fuchs

## **HARP**

Aneta Okenkova

# Biographies

## LEONARD BERNSTEIN AND JOHN MAUCERI

John Mauceri met Leonard Bernstein during the summer of 1971 when Mauceri was a 25-year-old conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Academy. Mauceri was hired the next summer to assist Bernstein at the Metropolitan Opera for a new production of *Carmen* and its recording on Deutsche Gramophone, which won a Grammy for "Best Opera Recording."

Mauceri, who was on faculty at Yale, was given permission by the composer to produce and conduct Bernstein's *Mass* on campus and then at Vienna's Konzerthaus for its 1973 European premiere and a worldwide television broadcast produced by the BBC, Austrian television, and PBS. (In 1981, for the work's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mauceri was once again tapped to conduct and supervise another new production of *Mass* for the Kennedy Center, directed by Tom O'Horgan and broadcast live on PBS.)

In 1973 Bernstein appointed Mauceri to be musical supervisor of a new production of *Candide* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, to be directed by Hal Prince, with a new book by Hugh Wheeler and additional lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The production transferred to Broadway where it won four Tony Awards, including one for its "outstanding contribution to the artistic development of the musical theatre."

Mauceri then supervised an expanded *Candide* for the New York City Opera in 1982, and won a Grammy for his recording. In 1988, a definitive *Candide* at Scottish Opera brought Mauceri an Olivier Award and it is this version that the composer recorded shortly before his death in 1990.

Mauceri's work with Bernstein included touring, editing, orchestrating, and taking charge of music festivals in Tel Aviv, London, Milan's La Scala, Paris, the Kennedy Center, and at Bernstein's 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> birthday galas. He was, for 18 years, Bernstein's first choice to edit, conduct, and supervise his music.

## CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) has gained a position among both Czech and Europe's top symphonic ensembles. Renowned for its versatility, the orchestra presents annually a broad program ranging from classical music concerts through contemporary genre, film scores, jazz, or musicals.

In its new era, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra also organizes the summer Prague Proms Festival, which annually attracts some of the greatest international performers. Such composers, conductors, and performers as Ennio Morricone, Lalo Schifrin, James Morrison, Branford and Wynton Marsalis, Pino Donnagio, Giuliano Taviani, José Carreras, Danny Elfman, Vince Mendoza, Giuseppe Tornatore, and Carl Davis repeatedly come back to Prague to either record with the orchestra or perform in the beautiful Smetana Hall of Prague's Municipal House, the home concert stage of the orchestra.

Highlights of the CNSO's recent seasons include a European tour with the legendary Ennio Morricone and a concert in Prague with Anna Netrebko. Recent studio engagements include Plácido Domingo's latest album and Ennio Morricone's score for *The Hateful Eight*, directed by Quentin Tarantino. Morricone won an Oscar for the score after 500 movie credits. The soundtrack was recorded live and released by Tarantino, Morricone, and the CNSO at Abbey Road Studios in December 2015. As a result of a collaboration with Columbia Artists Management Inc. (CAMI), the orchestra toured the U.S. in February and March 2016.

The CNSO has renewed its long-time collaboration with Andrea Bocelli and has accompanied Rolando Villazon and Jonas Kaufmann. The orchestra has collaborated with some of the most important pop artists of our time, such as Sting, George Michael, and Natalie Cole, among others.

Successful tours have taken the CNSO to the British Isles, the U.S., Canada, France, Spain, Dubai, Japan,

# *Biographies, continued*

Meico, China, Korea, Oman, Australia, and New Zealand. The orchestra's recordings are on sale worldwide, and the orchestra takes pride in having produced several Gold CDs (for more than 30,000 copies sold). Other accolades include the Gustav Mahler Prize, awarded for the interpretation of Mahler's works, and the prestigious arrangement that the orchestra signed with IMG Artists London for worldwide representation. The achievements also include the long-standing recording project in association with Tokyo media company Victor Entertainment.

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra was established in 1993 by trumpet player Jan Hasenöhr. A spiritual father at the birth of the CNSO was the legendary conductor Zdeněk Košler. In 1996 Paul Freeman took over as chief conductor and remained in this position for a fantastic 10 years. At the beginning of 2007 Libor Pešek was named the chief conductor, and he still remains in the position today.

## **JOHN MAUCERI**, *conductor*

John Mauceri, world-renowned conductor, educator, and writer, has appeared with the world's greatest opera companies and symphony orchestras and on the musical stages of Broadway and Hollywood, as well as at the most prestigious hall of academia. Mauceri served as music director (*direttore stabile*) of the Teatro Regio in Turin, Italy for three years after completing seven years (22 productions and three recordings) as music director of Scottish opera, and he is the first American ever to have held the post of music director of an opera house in either Great Britain or Italy. He was music director of the Washington Opera (The Kennedy Center) as well as the Pittsburgh Opera, and was the first music director of the American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall after its legendary founding director, Leopold Stokowski, with whom he studied. For 15 years he served on the faculty of his alma mater, Yale University, and returned in 2001 to teach and conduct the official concert celebrating the university's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2016 he celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yale Symphony, which he helped to found, with concerts in New Haven and at Carnegie Hall.

For 18 years, Mauceri worked closely with Leonard Bernstein and conducted many of the composer's premieres at Bernstein's request. He is the founding director of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, which was created for him in 1991 by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. Breaking all records at the bowl, he conducted over 300 concerts at the 18,000-seat amphitheatre with a total audience of four million people.

For seven years (2006-2013) he served as chancellor of the University of North Carolina's School of the Arts, America's first public arts conservatory-university. He has conducted at New York's Metropolitan Opera, London's Royal Opera House (Covent Garden), Milan's Teatro alla Scala, Berlin's Deutsche Oper, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and all the major London orchestras, as well as l'Orchestre Nationale de France and the Tokyo Philharmonic.

On Broadway, he was co-producer of *On Your Toes* and served as musical supervisor for Hal Prince's production of *Candide*, as well as Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song and Dance* with Bernadette Peters. He also conducted the orchestra for the film version of *Evita*.

Deeply committed to preserving two American art forms—the Broadway musical and Hollywood film scores—he has edited and performed a vast catalogue of restorations and first performances, including a full restoration of the original 1943 production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*; performing editions of Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*, *Girl Crazy*, and *Strike up the Band*; Bernstein's *Candide* and *A Quiet Place*; Blitzstein's *Regina*; and film scores by Miklos Rozsa, Franz Waxman, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Max Steiner, Elmer Bernstein, Jerry Goldsmith, Danny Elfman, and Howard Shore.

As one of two conductors in Decca Records' award-winning series *Entartete Musik*, Mauceri made a number of historic first recordings of music banned by the Nazis. The intersection of the "degenerate composers" of Europe and the refugee composers of Hollywood is the subject of much of his research and his writings. In addition, Mauceri has conducted significant premieres of works by Verdi, Debussy, Hindemith, Ives, Stockhausen, Blitzstein, and Weill.

# *Program Notes, continued*

In articles, speeches, radio, and television appearances, Mauceri has taken his passion for music and the importance of the arts to audiences throughout the world. These include Harvard University, Yale University, the Smithsonian Institution, the NEA, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, *Gramophone Magazine*, NPR, BBC, PBS, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Huffington Post*, where he regularly writes a blog.

Mauceri is one of the world's most accomplished recording artists, having released over 75 audio CDs, and is the recipient of a Grammy, a Tony, an Olivier Award, a Drama Desk Award, an Edison Klassiek Award, three Emmy Awards, two Diapasons d'Or, Cannes Classique, an ECHO Klassik, a Billboard Award, and four Deutsche Schallplatten awards. In 1999 Mauceri was chosen as a "Standard-bearer of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" for WQXR, the America's most listened to classical radio station. According to WQXR, "These are a select number of musical artists who have already established themselves as forces to be reckoned with and who will be the Standard Bearers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's music scene." The recipients were chosen for "their visionary talent and technical virtuosity." In addition, CNN and CNN International chose Mauceri as a "Voice of the Millennium." Mauceri was recently awarded the Ditson Conductor's Award for his five decades of commitment to performing and editing American music.

He is currently writing a book on the art and alchemy of conducting for Alfred A. Knopf.

## **ISABEL LEONARD**, *mezzo-soprano*

Highly acclaimed for her "passionate intensity and remarkable vocal beauty," the multiple Grammy Award-winning Isabel Leonard continues to thrill audiences both in the opera house and on the concert stage. In repertoire that spans from Vivaldi to Mozart to Thomas Ades, Leonard has graced the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Salzburg Festival, Bavarian State Opera, Carnegie Hall, Glyndebourne Festival, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Charlotte in *Werther*, Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Costanza in *Griselda*, and the title roles in *La Périochole* and *Der Rosenkavalier*, as well as Sesto in both Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* and Handel's *Giulio Cesare*.

She has appeared with some of the foremost conductors of her time, including James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Charles Dutoit, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Yannick Nézet-Seguin, Franz Welser-Möst, Plácido Domingo, Edward Gardner, Edo de Waart, James Conlon, Michele Mariotti, Harry Bicket, and Andris Nelsons with the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Vienna Philharmonic, among others.

Leonard is in constant demand as a recitalist and is on the board of trustees at Carnegie Hall. She is a multiple Grammy Award winner, most recently for Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with Seiji Ozawa on Decca and *The Tempest* from the Metropolitan Opera on Deutsche Grammophon, both Best Opera Recording. Leonard is the recipient of the Richard Tucker Award and joined the supporters of the Prostate Cancer Foundation to lend her voice in honor of her father, who died from the disease when she was in college.

Her 2016-2017 season highlights include her role debut as Adalgisa in *Norma* at the Canadian Opera Company; her role debut as Charlotte in *Werther* at Teatro Comunale di Bologna with Juan Diego Florez and Michele Mariotti, followed by *Werther* at the MET; and her role debut as Donna Elvira in a new production of *Don Giovanni* at Festival D'Aix-en-Provence.

# *Engagement Events*

Thursday, February 21, 2019

## **MASTER CLASS: ISABEL LEONARD**

Prior to her performance with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard conducted a master class with Virginia Tech vocal students.

Friday, February 22, 2019

## **LENNY AT 100: LEONARD BERNSTEIN AND THE SHAPE OF AMERICAN MUSIC**

The conductor, composer, educator, and pianist Leonard Bernstein had an outsize impact on the American musical scene but was never content with his own contributions. Directly before the performance, patrons learned more about Bernstein and his legacy at this talk by Richard Masters, assistant professor of piano in the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech.

*Special thanks to Pay Hyer, Lifelong Learning Institute, and Richard Masters*

## *Go Beyond*

Considering how prolific Leonard Bernstein was as a composer, what is your impression of the Czech National Symphony Orchestra's selection of repertoire to feature? What unifies the pieces, and what does their performance contribute to the composer's legacy?

# *In the Galleries*

## **ARBOREAL**

Thursday, January 24-Saturday, March 23, 2019

*All galleries*

Majestic, sustaining, enduring, but increasingly vulnerable—these words only begin to describe one of Earth's most critical life forms: trees. This stunning selection of works by artists from Australia, Spain, Israel, Japan, and the United States explores the imagery of trees and their symbolic resonance. *Arboreal* features photography, video, painting, works on paper, and ceramic, wood, and stainless steel sculpture.

## **JOIN US!**

### **GALLERY TALKS**

#### ***Micro to Macro—All About Trees***

Join us for a series of gallery talks presented by Virginia Tech faculty that explores a broad variety of topics relating to the world of trees, from sustainability and conservation to dendrochronology and invasive species. Each talk is approximately 30 minutes each and is free and open to the public. Talks will be held in the Ruth C. Horton Gallery.

#### **Saturday, February 16, 2019, 5:30 PM**

*Art Through the Eyes of an Arborist*: Eric Wiseman, Ph.D.

#### **Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 6:30 PM**

*Charismatic Trees*: Lynn Resler

#### **Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 6:30 PM**

*Invasive Species—Trees as Victim and Victor*: Jacob Barney, Ph.D.

### **GALLERY HOURS**

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at [megh79@vt.edu](mailto:megh79@vt.edu).