

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2024–2025 POPS SEASON

Highlights Include:

- **DECLASSIFIED®: Ben Folds Presents Rob Thomas, Madison Cunningham, and Yasmin Williams, Steven Reineke Conducts, September 6**
- **DC ORIGINALITY: Showcasing the Cultural Beat of Capital City with Anthony Anderson, Carlos Simon, Ginuwine, Kenny Lattimore, Afro Blue, Imani-Grace Cooper, Christylez Bacon, D.C. Go-Go All Stars, and The String Queens, September 10–11**
- **Sara Bareilles, September 24–25**
- **Ben Folds: Recorded Live with the NSO in the Concert Hall, October 25–26**
- **A Holiday Pops! with Jessica Vosk, December 6–7**
- **Cody Fry & Friends Featuring LANY and Sleeping at Last, February 11–12**
- **Matilda in Concert with Danny DeVito as Narrator, April 25–26**
- **A Peacock Among Pigeons: Celebrating 50 Years of Pride, May 21–22**

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) announces its 2024–2025 Pops season with programming that continues to build on the Orchestra’s legacy of innovation and efforts to reach beyond strictly classical music audiences. Steven Reineke leads the NSO in his 14th season as Principal Pops Conductor.

“I’m thrilled to perform with the NSO and a tremendous variety of artists this season,” Principal Pops Conductor **Steven Reineke** said. “This season has so much to offer, from folk to Broadway to R&B and beyond. It’s a joy to perform with the NSO, and I’m excited for audiences to experience this fun and innovative music as it comes to life on the Concert Hall stage.”

FALL PROGRAMMING

- NSO Artistic Advisor Ben Folds presents three-time Grammy Award® winner and Matchbox Twenty frontman **Rob Thomas** in the **DECLASSIFIED®** series on **September 6, 2024**, joined by Grammy®-winning singer-songwriter **Madison Cunningham** and acclaimed acoustic fingerstyle guitarist **Yasmin Williams**.
- Lauded Broadway star (*The Lion King*, *Aida*, *The Color Purple*) and Grammy Award®-winning R&B artist **Heather Headley** will perform Broadway and R&B music with the NSO in a program led by Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke, **September 7, 2024**.
- Conductor Kellen Gray will lead **DC ORIGINALITY: Showcasing the Cultural Beat of Capital City**, celebrating the NSO’s history of musical partnerships with the D.C. community. Curated by Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence **Carlos Simon** and hosted by Emmy® and Golden Globe–

nominated actor **Anthony Anderson**, the program will feature D.C. legends including **Ginuwine**, **Kenny Lattimore**, **The String Queens**, **D.C. Go-Go All Stars**, **Afro Blue**, **Imani-Grace Cooper**, **Christylez Bacon**, and more in tribute to the diverse musical heritage and unwavering spirit of Washington, D.C. on **September 10–11, 2024**.

- Singer, songwriter, and actress **Sara Bareilles**, creator and star of Broadway's *Waitress* and hit songs such as, "Love Song" and "Brave," makes her return to the Kennedy Center, performing a career-spanning program on **September 24–25, 2024**. This program will be recorded live for *NEXT at the Kennedy Center* on PBS.
- Grammy Award®-winning singer-songwriter **Aoife O'Donovan** shares the stage in a double bill of indie-folk Americana with acclaimed folk band **Bonny Light Horseman** on **October 22, 2024**.
- Indie icon and NSO Artistic Advisor **Ben Folds** will perform some of his classic songs and new music with the NSO at his first live solo recording since 2002 on **October 25–26, 2024**.
- ***The Voice of Whitney: A Symphonic Celebration*** is a multimedia tribute to the legendary artist, **Whitney Houston**, featuring never-before-seen footage of the artist in a unique audiovisual experience on **November 8, 2024**. The program will showcase hits from Houston's discography in new orchestral arrangements in collaboration with the Estate of Whitney Houston, Park Avenue Artists, and Primary Wave Music.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

- Holiday programming kicks off with the beloved family film ***Elf™ in Concert***. John Debney's score will be performed live by the NSO, **November 29–December 1, 2024**.
- After selling out two shows at Carnegie Hall, Broadway star **Jessica Vosk**—who has played many roles including Elphaba in *Wicked*—joins the NSO and The Heritage Signature Chorale in ***A Holiday Pops! with Jessica Vosk***, a holiday sing-along celebration held in the festively decorated Concert Hall, **December 6–7, 2024**.
- The multi-platinum Irish singing sensations **Celtic Woman** return to the Kennedy Center for the ***White Christmas Symphony Tour***, a festive performance of Yuletide favorites, on **December 13–14, 2024**.

SPRING PROGRAMMING

- After two sold-out performances in the Concert Hall alongside Ben Rector last year, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist **Cody Fry** returns to the Kennedy Center with his signature fusion of pop and luminous orchestration in a program featuring indie band **Sleeping at Last** and pop-rock group **LANY** on **February 11–12, 2025**.
- The NSO brings another classic film to the stage, ***Matilda in Concert***, with a live narration by acclaimed actor, producer, and director **Danny DeVito**, conducted by the film's composer, **David Newman**, on **April 25–26, 2025**.
- Composer **Max Richter** will partner with the **American Contemporary Music Ensemble** for a live performance of Richter's genre-defying solo albums, *The Blue Notebooks* and *In A Landscape*, on **May 2, 2025**. *Please note: the NSO does not perform on this program.*
- Hosted in Washington, D.C., WorldPride 2025 celebrates the 50th anniversary of Pride. As part of the celebration, the NSO will join **John Bucchino** and an array of special guests on **May 21–22, 2025** for the orchestral premiere of Bucchino's choral work, ***A Peacock Among Pigeons***, based on the book by Tyler Curry and Clarione Gutierrez.

ABOUT STEVEN REINEKE

Steven Reineke is one of North America's leading conductors of popular music and is in his second decade as Music Director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, he is Principal Pops Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Principal Pops Conductor of the Houston and Toronto Symphony Orchestras.

Reineke is a frequent guest conductor and can be seen on the podium with the Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, San Francisco, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

On stage, Reineke creates and collaborates with a range of leading artists including Maxwell, Common, Kendrick Lamar, Nas, Ne-Yo, Barry Manilow, Cynthia Erivo, Sutton Foster, Ben Rector, Cody Fry, and Ben Folds, among others.

As the creator of hundreds of orchestral arrangements, Reineke's work is performed worldwide and can be heard on numerous Cincinnati Pops Orchestra recordings. His wind ensemble compositions are published by the C.L. Barnhouse Company and are performed by concert bands perennially.

FUNDING CREDITS

AARP is the presenting sponsor of the NSO Pops.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets may be purchased online at kennedy-center.org, in-person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, or by calling (202) 467-4600. Tickets for all performances will be available for Kennedy Center Members on June 27 and for public sale on July 2.

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PROGRAM LISTINGS

***DECLASSIFIED*[®]: BEN FOLDS PRESENTS ROB THOMAS, MADISON CUNNINGHAM, AND YASMIN WILLIAMS**

Friday, September 6, 2024, 9 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

Rob Thomas, vocalist

Madison Cunningham, vocalist/guitarist

Yasmin Williams, guitarist

NSO Artistic Advisor Ben Folds' popular late-night series returns with more of today's hottest artists! This Kennedy Center-exclusive concert features international superstar, multi-Grammy Award[®] winner and Matchbox Twenty frontman Rob Thomas, 27-year-old Grammy Award[®]-winning singer-songwriter and guitarist Madison Cunningham, and acclaimed acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Yasmin Williams.

DECLASSIFIED[®] goes beyond the traditional orchestra concert by offering great live music—both classical and contemporary—in a laid-back, casual setting. Come early and stay late for drink specials, live shows, karaoke, and more!

HEATHER HEADLEY

Saturday, September 7, 2024, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

Heather Headley, vocalist

Grammy[®] and Tony[®] Award winner Heather Headley performs an evening of show-stopping hits! Fresh off her performance of the Broadway revival of *Into the Woods*, Headley sings favorites from her spectacular stage career including *Aida*, *The Lion King*, *The Color Purple*, *The Bodyguard*, and beyond—along with more iconic music we love. Don't miss the voice *Billboard* Magazine says "absolutely astounds with its intensity... one of the great entertainers of the day."

DC ORIGINALITY: SHOWCASING THE CULTURAL BEAT OF CAPITAL CITY

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Kellen Gray, conductor

Anthony Anderson, host/speaker

Carlos Simon, composer/curator

Ginuwine

Kenny Lattimore

The String Queens

D.C. Go-Go All Stars

Afro Blue

Imani-Grace Cooper

Christylez Bacon

Hosted by Emmy®– and Golden Globe–nominated actor Anthony Anderson and curated by Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Carlos Simon, this electrifying concert event spotlights homegrown heroes including Ginuwine, Kenny Lattimore, The String Queens, Afro Blue, D.C. Go-Go All Stars, and Kellen Gray in tribute to the diverse musical heritage of Washington, D.C. Join the NSO in celebrating the music of D.C. natives Marvin Gaye, Chuck Brown, Duke Ellington, John Philip Sousa, and much more!

SARA BAREILLES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

Sara Bareilles, vocalist

Sara Bareilles makes her return to the Concert Hall for a career-spanning night! Since her first mega-hit “Love Song,” Bareilles has become one of the most acclaimed singers and songwriters of her era. The two-time Grammy® winner was nominated for Album of the Year for *The Blessed Unrest* and made her Broadway debut in 2016 with *Waitress*, which she starred in and for which she wrote the music and lyrics, picking up a pair of Tony® nominations in the process. *This performance will be recorded for a live broadcast of PBS’ NEXT at the Kennedy Center.*

AOIFE O'DONOVAN AND BONNY LIGHT HORSEMAN

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 8 p.m.

Steven Reineke, conductor
Aoife O'Donovan, vocalist/guitarist
Bonny Light Horseman

Superstars share the stage at an unforgettable double bill of indie-folk Americana. Grammy Award®-winning singer-songwriter Aoife O'Donovan, deemed “a vocalist of unerring instinct” by *The New York Times*, mines a century of women’s rights on her latest album *All My Friends*. Comprised of Anaïs Mitchell (*Hadestown*), Eric D. Johnson (Fruit Bats, The Shins), and Josh Kaufman (The National, Hiss Golden Messenger) folk band Bonny Light Horseman performs music from its acclaimed new album *Keep Me on Your Mind/See You Free*—an “ode to the blessed mess of our humanity.”

BEN FOLDS: RECORDED LIVE WITH THE NSO IN THE CONCERT HALL

Friday, October 25, 2024, 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 26, 2024, 8 p.m.

Steven Reineke, conductor
Ben Folds, vocalist/composer

Indie icon and NSO Artistic Advisor Ben Folds performs hits and new music with the NSO at his first live solo recording since 2002. The Emmy®-nominated artist is widely regarded as one of the major music influences of our generation. His enormous body of genre-bending sound includes pop anthems with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and numerous collaborative records. His latest album, 2023’s *What Matters Most*, is a blend of piano-driven pop-rock songs, while his 2015 Concerto for Piano and Orchestra soared to #1 on both the *Billboard* classical and classical crossover charts.

THE VOICE OF WHITNEY: A SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION

Friday, November 8, 2024, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

Experience Whitney Houston’s astounding musical legacy like never before. This new concert tribute features original master recordings of Houston’s vocals set to new orchestrations of her biggest hits—including “I Wanna Dance with Somebody,” “Higher Love,” and “I Will Always Love You”—accompanied by home movies, film performances, and never-before-seen footage. Presented in collaboration with the Estate of Whitney Houston, Park Avenue Artists, and Primary Wave Music.

ELF™ IN CONCERT

Friday, November 29, 2024, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 30, 2024, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 1, 2024, 3 p.m.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. This holiday season, relive this heartwarming holiday classic on a giant screen as every note of John Debney's wonderful score is played live to picture in: *Elf™* in Concert.

ELF and all related characters and elements © & ™ New Line Productions, Inc. (s24)

A HOLIDAY POPS! WITH JESSICA VOSK

Friday, December 6, 2024, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Steven Reineke, conductor

Jessica Vosk, vocalist

The Heritage Signature Chorale

Washington, D.C.'s most dazzling holiday concert returns! Get ready to sing along, laugh, and embrace the magic of the season with sparkling renditions of your favorite holiday classics, Broadway showstoppers, and beyond. This year, The Heritage Signature Chorale and Broadway darling Jessica Vosk—celebrated for her sold-out Carnegie Hall performances and star turn as Elphaba in *Wicked*—light up the festively decorated Concert Hall as special guests.

CELTIC WOMAN: WHITE CHRISTMAS SYMPHONY TOUR

Friday, December 13, 2024, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Lloyd Butler, conductor

Celtic Woman

Experience the magical sound of Celtic Woman this holiday season! This brand-new symphony show features the all-female ensemble's favorite Yuletide songs: "Silent Night," "Carol of the Bells," "Sleigh Ride," "Deck the Halls," and more—along with iconic Celtic Woman classics including "Danny Boy," "Amazing Grace," and "You Raise Me Up."

CODY FRY & FRIENDS FEATURING LANY AND SLEEPING AT LAST

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

Cody Fry, vocalist

Sleeping at Last

LANY

Cody Fry’s genre-bending fusion of pop and cinematic symphonic music has made him a global sensation—from *American Idol*, to TikTok, to the Grammys, and now to the Concert Hall stage. Following his electric, sold-out collaboration with Ben Rector and the NSO last season, Fry brings more of today’s most innovative artists to the Kennedy Center for a performance “simultaneously familiar and breathtaking” (*American Songwriter*).

Pop-rock group LANY has been captivating audiences at major arenas around the world with their energetic, rafter-reaching anthems. Their standout single “XXL” exploded on social media and earned performances from the band on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and the *TODAY* Show.

Sleeping at Last is the moniker of singer-songwriter, producer, and composer Ryan O’Neal. His music’s atmospheric textures and melodic vocals convey emotive depth and have been featured on over 100 popular movies, television shows, and adverts and in over 20 albums and EPs.

MATILDA IN CONCERT

Friday, April 25, 2025, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 7 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

David Newman, conductor

Danny DeVito, host

Hosted and narrated by *Matilda* director and star Danny DeVito, the beloved modern fairytale comes to life on the big screen as David Newman conducts his enchanting score live-to-picture! Based on the book by Roald Dahl and screenplay by Nicholas Kazan & Robin Swicord, *Matilda* tells the larger-than-life story of a little girl gifted with genius intelligence and magical powers—which she uses to survive her self-absorbed parents and an evil headmistress.

MAX RICHTER

Friday, May 2, 2025, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Max Richter, composer

American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)

Clarice Jensen, cello & artistic director

Ben Russell & Laura Lutzke, violins

Kyle Miller, viola

Claire Bryant, cello

Max Richter is one of the most influential and acclaimed composers of all time. His fusion of classical technique and electronic technology—heard across genre-defying solo albums and countless scores for film, dance, art, and fashion—has won him legions of fans around the world and blazed a trail for a generation of musicians. *Please note: the NSO does not perform on this program.*

A PEACOCK AMONG PIGEONS: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PRIDE

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Steven Reineke, conductor

John Bucchino, composer/lyricist

As Washington, D.C. hosts WorldPride 2025, the NSO proudly presents a concert celebration of love, diversity, and the vibrant spirit of the LGBTQ+ community. Joined by iconic songwriter John Bucchino and special guests, the NSO performs the orchestral premiere of Bucchino's choral work *A Peacock Among Pigeons*, based on the book by Tyler Curry and Clarione Gutierrez, along with music by groundbreaking LGBTQ+ artists, allies, and more!

For more information about the Kennedy Center, please visit our [website](#).

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