



SHIFT 2017

A Festival of American Orchestras

March 27–April 2, 2017

SHIFT is a week-long spotlight on North American orchestras of all sizes that celebrates the vitality, identity, and extraordinary artistry of orchestras and chamber orchestras by creating an immersive festival experience in the nation's capital.

Two premier presenting organizations, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington Performing Arts, are collaborating to present the festival, each providing expertise and profile to the festival's mission. The week-long festival is comprised of mini-residencies, with each orchestra presenting education, symposia, and community events in venues around Washington, D.C., along with full-orchestra performances in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. These main stage concerts will be ticketed at \$25, alongside ticketed and free events throughout the city.

The festival's title, SHIFT, recognizes the dynamic, evolving work of orchestras in the 21st century and expresses a commitment to shifting pre-conceived notions about orchestras. Both the Kennedy Center and Washington Performing Arts believe that American orchestras offer a breadth of innovative and creative ideas that create powerful connections with audiences in their local communities, both on stage and off. Accordingly, SHIFT provides a platform for orchestras to share a sampling of their best work—to be creative, interesting, provocative, and to present work that embodies each orchestra's identity, heritage, standards, and artistic vision.

The SHIFT festival is an invitation to audiences to experience a swath of creativity, in back-to-back events. Orchestras will be encouraged, where possible, to interact with each other through symposia on topics of interest suggested by the participating orchestras.

The festival's presence in Washington also provides an opportunity for orchestras to interact with their respective elected representatives in order to educate members of Congress about the value of the arts and orchestras in particular. The League of American Orchestras will partner with SHIFT to facilitate concerts and discussions on Capitol Hill.

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A CO-PRESENTATION OF


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Participating Orchestras

BOULDER PHILHARMONIC

Kennedy Center concert (March 28, 2017)

"Nature and Music" is the programmatic theme, inspired by Boulder's natural beauty and an example of how the orchestra responds to its location. The concert features a Boulder Philharmonic commission of a work by Stephen Lias, with projected photographic images of the Rocky Mountains, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service. The program also includes the mandolin concerto "From the Blue Ridge" composed by and featuring mandolinist Jeff Midkiff. The concert finale is Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, presented with projections and the aerialist dance troupe Frequent Fliers.

Residency activities

Activities will highlight the orchestra's theme of "Nature and Music" by carefully selecting outdoor spaces around monuments and parks for the inventive format, informative "Guided Hikes" with musicians and nature professionals geared toward the general public.

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

Kennedy Center concert (March 29, 2017)

The North Carolina Symphony offers an innovative program, deeply evocative of North Carolina, represented in particular by four composers with ties to the state: Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Mason Bates, and Robert Ward. Snider's work is a North Carolina Symphony commission, premiering in fall of 2015, which includes a multimedia meditation on her family's home in rural North Carolina.

Residency activities

All activities have an "Americana" focus, whether in schools or in alternative venues.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kennedy Center concert (March 31, 2017)

For their mainstage concert, ASO presents "Creator/Creation," by Christopher Theofanidis. Commissioned by the ASO, it is a theatrical and multimedia oratorio with soloists, a 180-piece choir and full orchestra. The work explores creation and the creative process using texts from philosophy, science, religion, poetry, and literature. Christopher Theofanidis is one of ASO's "Atlanta School of Composers," a group of composers nurtured and commissioned by the ASO over many years.

Residency activities

Activities will be informed by the theme and personnel of "Creator/Creation," including chamber concerts and choral workshops, the latter a particularly great match for Washington, DC considering its rich choral tradition.

THE KNIGHTS

Kennedy Center concert (April 1, 2017)

The Knights are a deeply collaborative and creative chamber orchestra, and their program includes the San Francisco Girls Chorus, led by Lisa Bielawa, who is also writing a work commissioned by The Knights. The evening is rounded out with works by Brahms, Vivaldi, Aaron Jay Kernis, and a piece written collaboratively by the orchestra.

Residency activities

Activities focus on mentoring young people through side-by-sides and informal career conversations with aspiring young musicians, and a chamber concert in a non-traditional venue.

Note: All Residency activities are currently works-in-progress.