

**National Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Music Director Gianandrea Noseda
To Release Second Installment of Complete
Beethoven Symphony Cycle with Symphonies Nos. 4 & 5**

Available May 19, 2023



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(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra will release the second of three installments of its complete Beethoven Symphony Cycle conducted by Music Director Gianandrea Noseda, **May 19, 2023**. *Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 4 & 5* is available for pre-order now.

Music Director Gianandrea Noseda will lead the **National Symphony Orchestra** as they complete their Beethoven cycle, with performances of the remaining symphonies as part of the NSO's *Beethoven & American Masters* festival, May 12–June 3, 2023. The first installment, Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3 was released digitally on September 16, 2022. The first and second installments were recorded in the 2021–2022 season.

Music Director Gianandrea Noseda on the second installment of the NSO's Beethoven cycle: "The second part of this Beethoven cycle is both a snapshot in time and an argument for the universality of Beethoven's music. Captured in this beautiful recording is the collective feeling of gratitude and joy in reconnecting with audiences and with each other during the first full season back after the pandemic. It also captures how Beethoven's music contains universal truths that can affect us anew even though these works were written more than 200 years ago. Incredible music-making and playing by the musicians of the NSO."

The complete Beethoven Symphonies continue the legacy of the NSO's rich recording history, which began in the 1970s. In recent NSO history the orchestra released two recordings on its new label, starting in 2020 with a pairing of Copland's Suite from *Billy the Kid* and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World." The second album, George Walker's Sinfonia No. 4, "Strands," was the first of the NSO's complete collection of George Walker's Sinfonias and was released in June 2022 and the orchestra's recording of Walker's Sinfonia No. 1 was released in October 2022.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Mo Willems, the inaugural Kennedy Center Artist-in-Residence from 2019–2022, is an author, illustrator, animator, and playwright. He collaborated on projects ranging from classical music, opera, comedy, dance, and painting to digital works with the National Symphony Orchestra, Gianandrea Nosedà, Ben Folds, Yo-Yo Ma, and others.

Inspired by a concert of Beethoven's works, Willems created nine pieces of art as visual responses to each of the nine symphonies. These vibrant artworks became the focal imagery on the NSO's Beethoven albums.

"The idea of creating art specifically to view while listening to Beethoven's symphonies, compelled me to spend a year researching, listening, and painting. The result is nine abstractions, a visual art piece for each symphony, rendered in panels, whose sizes represent the lengths of each movement. Through this project, I got to know Beethoven in a new way."
— Mo Willems

RELEASE SCHEDULE

The National Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Gianandrea Nosedà launched their cycle of Beethoven recordings in September 2022. This second album, ***Beethoven: Symphonies Nos. 4 & 5***, will be released on **Friday, May 19, 2023**, and available to pre-order from Friday, April 21, 2023.

The remaining symphonies will be released as digital albums, continuing with ***Symphonies Nos. 6 & 8*** and ***Symphonies Nos. 2 & 7*** later in 2023, and ***Symphony No. 9*** in early 2024. At the conclusion of the cycle, a physical **box set of all nine symphonies** will be made available.

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Watch the video [here](#).

ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA

Gianandrea Nosedà is one of the world's most sought-after conductors, equally recognized for his artistry in both the concert hall and opera house. The 2022–2023 season marks his sixth as Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Nosedà became general music director of the Zurich Opera House in September 2021. An important milestone will be two complete Ring Cycles in 2024 in a new production by Andreas Homoki. Since April 2022, his performances of the Ring operas have been praised by critics and in February 2023 he was recognized as "Best Conductor" by the jury of the German Oper! Awards with a special citation for his Wagner interpretations.

Nosedà has been principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra since September 2016. In addition to regular appearances with the LSO at the Barbican and on tour,

he has an extensive discography on LSO Live. He and the LSO are in the midst of a multi-year project to record the complete Shostakovich Symphonies along with other works.

Nosedà's artistic leadership has inspired and reinvigorated the National Symphony Orchestra. This artistic partnership continues to flourish with a new recording label distributed by LSO Live. Current projects include the Five Sinfonias of George Walker (a Washington, D.C. native), and a Beethoven cycle, both of which saw their first releases during 2022. Nosedà's critically-acclaimed discography counts more than 70 recordings on a range of labels including Chandos and Deutsche Grammophon.

As part of his commitment to working with the next generation of musicians, in 2019 he became music director of the Tsinandali Festival and Pan-Caucasian Youth Orchestra in the village of Tsinandali, Georgia.

Nosedà has conducted the world's most important orchestras and at the leading opera houses and festivals. Some of his significant roles with international institutions include leading the BBC Philharmonic from 2002–2011; principal guest conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra from 2011–2020; principal guest conductor (Victor de Sabata Chair) of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra from 2010–2014; and principal guest conductor of the Mariinsky Theatre from 1997–2007.

From 2007 until 2018, Nosedà served as music director of Italy's Teatro Regio Torino where he ushered in a transformative era for the company matched with international acclaim for its productions, tours, recordings, and film projects. His leadership resulted in a golden era for this opera house.

A native of Milan, Nosedà is Commendatore al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, marking his contribution to the artistic life of Italy. He has been honored as *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year (2015) and International Opera Awards Conductor of the Year (2016).

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The 2022–2023 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra's 92nd season, and Gianandrea Nosedà's sixth season as its music director. The Italian conductor serves as the Orchestra's seventh music director, joining the NSO's legacy of such distinguished leaders as Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Antal Doráti, Howard Mitchell, and Hans Kindler. Its artistic leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds.

Since assuming the leadership of the NSO, Gianandrea Nosedà has brought a renewed sense of energy and focus to the orchestra, which has resulted in wide-ranging recognition from local, national, and international publications, increases in subscription and single ticket sales, and the expansion of the Orchestra's reach through live streamed concerts and recordings. *The New York Times* called the NSO and Nosedà's 2019 Carnegie Hall appearance "spectacular," while the *Washington Post* wrote that "There's a certain flair going on at the National Symphony Orchestra," consistently reinforcing that this artistic partnership continues to gain momentum.

The National Symphony Orchestra label was launched in 2020 with its first release, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9. Both George Walker's Sinfonia No. 4, the first of the NSO's complete

collection of George Walker's Sinfonias, and the initial release of the NSO's Beethoven Symphony cycle (Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3) was released in 2022.

Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has always been committed to artistic excellence and music education. In 1986, the National Symphony became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it has performed a full season of subscription concerts since the Center opened in 1971. The 96-member NSO regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including official holiday celebrations through its regularly televised appearances on PBS on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, live-streamed performances from the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on medici.tv, and local radio broadcasts on Classical WETA 90.9 FM, making the NSO one of the most-heard orchestras in the country.

Additionally, the NSO's community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including *NSO In Your Neighborhood*, an annual week of performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other unexpected venues; *Notes of Honor*, which offers free performances for active, veteran, prior service, and retired members of the military and their families; and *Sound Health*, a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its affiliated organizations. Career development opportunities for young musicians include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its acclaimed, tuition-free Summer Music Institute.

FUNDING CREDITS

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