

**National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, 2013 Artist Bios**

**Valery Gergiev**

Conductor Valery Gergiev leads the debut international tour of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, an orchestra founded by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Following tour preparation in residence at Purchase College, State University of New York, Mr. Gergiev and the orchestra perform in Washington, DC, Moscow, St. Petersburg, and London, with Joshua Bell as violin soloist.

Now celebrating both his 60th birthday and 25 years with the Mariinsky Theatre, Mr. Gergiev has taken Mariinsky ballet, opera, and orchestra ensembles to more than 45 countries, garnishing universal acclaim. The Mariinsky Concert Hall opened in 2006 and the new Mariinsky Theatre opens in May 2013, alongside the historical Mariinsky Theatre.

A prominent figure in all the world's major concert halls, Mr. Gergiev is the artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre, founder and artistic director of the Stars of the White Nights Festival and New Horizons Festival in St. Petersburg, the Moscow Easter Festival, the Gergiev Rotterdam Festival, the Mikkeli International Festival, and the Red Sea Festival in Eilat, Israel, as well as principal conductor of the World Orchestra for Peace. Principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra since 2007, Mr. Gergiev performs with the LSO at the Barbican, the BBC Proms, and the Edinburgh Festival, as well as on extensive tours of Europe, North America, and Asia. In 2016, he assumes the post of principal conductor of the Münchner Philharmoniker.

Mr. Gergiev's record releases with the Mariinsky Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra continually win awards in Europe, Asia, and America. Recent releases include a Mahler symphony cycle, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, Massenet's *Don Quichotte*, Shchedrin's *The Enchanted Wanderer*, Wagner's *Parsifal* and *Die Walküre*, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7.

Mr. Gergiev has led numerous composer-centered concert cycles in New York, London, and other international cities, including series focusing on Berlioz, Brahms, Dutilleux, Mahler, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky, as well as Wagner's *Ring* cycle, and he has introduced audiences around the world to several rarely performed Russian operas.

Mr. Gergiev's many awards include the Dmitri Shostakovich Award, Netherland's Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, and the French Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur.

**Joshua Bell**

Joshua Bell is one of the world's most celebrated violinists. His stunning virtuosity, beautiful tone, and charismatic stage presence have brought him universal acclaim. Among numerous awards and honors, Mr. Bell is an Avery Fisher Prize recipient and Musical America's 2010 Instrumentalist of the Year. Recently appointed music director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, he is the first person to hold this title since Sir Neville Marriner, who formed the orchestra in 1958. His first recording with the Academy as music director and conductor was released February 12, 2013, featuring Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 4 and 7.

Mr. Bell's Summer 2012 highlights included the premiere and tour of Edgar Meyer's new concerto for violin and double bass—including performances at Tanglewood, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Hollywood Bowl—and appearances at Festival del Sole and the Ravinia, Verbier, Salzburg, Saratoga, and Mostly Mozart festivals. Mr. Bell then launched the San Francisco Symphony's fall season, followed by orchestral performances in Philadelphia, Boston, Seattle, Cincinnati, and Detroit. Additional fall 2012 highlights included a South African tour, a European tour with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, and a recital tour with pianist Sam Haywood.

In 2013, Mr. Bell tours the US with The Cleveland Orchestra, Europe with the New York Philharmonic, and performs with the Tucson, Pittsburgh, San Diego, and Nashville symphony orchestras.

An exclusive Sony Classical artist, Mr. Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs, garnering Mercury, Grammy, Gramophone, and Echo Klassik awards. Recent releases include *French Impressions* with pianist Jeremy Denk, the eclectic *At Home with Friends*, the *Defiance* soundtrack, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Berliner Philharmoniker. His discography encompasses critically acclaimed performances of most of the major violin repertoire in addition to John Corigliano's Oscar-winning soundtrack to *The Red Violin*.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Mr. Bell received his first violin at age four and at 12 began studying with revered violinist Josef Gingold at Indiana University. Two years later, Mr. Bell came to national attention in his debut with Riccardo Muti and The Philadelphia Orchestra and, at age 17, made his Carnegie Hall debut. Bell's extensive career has now spanned more than 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, and conductor.

Bell performs on the 1713 "Huberman" Stradivarius.

### **National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America**

Created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA) is a new program that annually brings together 120 of the most talented young musicians (ages 16–19) from across the United States for an intensive training residency and tour, led each year by a different world-renowned conductor. The first national youth orchestra in modern US history, NYO-USA is an opportunity for high school aged musicians to participate in a professional-level performance program, forge personal and artistic bonds with peers, and represent both their own communities and the US as their country's musical ambassadors.

The inaugural NYO-USA features players from 42 of the 50 states. Chosen through a rigorous application and review process, they share an exceptional level of musical achievement while coming to the orchestra from a wide range of backgrounds, mirroring the country's rich diversity. Because it is a tuition-free program, acceptance into NYO-USA is based solely on merit, and financial aid is available for travel costs to and from New York.

Prior to their tour each summer, the NYO-USA musicians come together for a two-week residency at Purchase College, State University of New York, where they are coached by first-chair players from some of America's greatest orchestras and prepare the tour program with conductor James Ross of The Juilliard School and the University of Maryland. Faculty members

in 2013—who mentor the young players through individual instrument and sectional rehearsals, as well as sessions on broader dimensions of musical and personal development—are drawn from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Chicago, Houston, St. Louis, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras.

In July 2013, Valery Gergiev—celebrated conductor and music director of the Mariinsky Theatre—leads NYO-USA in its final set of rehearsals and in debut performances at Purchase College’s Performing Arts Center and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. He then takes the orchestra to his native Russia for concerts in Moscow and St. Petersburg, followed by a performance in London. American violinist Joshua Bell is the soloist throughout the 2013 tour.

NYO-USA will tour to different parts of the world each summer, incorporating cultural exchange opportunities into its itinerary as often as possible. In 2014, two of America’s most acclaimed artists, conductor David Robertson and violinist Gil Shaham, will join NYO-USA for a coast-to-coast US tour, including the orchestra first’s Carnegie Hall performance.

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