



**National Symphony Orchestra**  
The Kennedy Center

**Gianandrea Noseda**  
Music Director

Press Release  
February 4, 2020

## **National Symphony Orchestra Revises Asia Tour Itinerary due to Coronavirus in China**

**First International Tour with  
Music Director Gianandrea Noseda Shortened to Five Concerts  
in Japan in Fukui, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Tokyo  
March 3-12, 2020**

**NSO is First American Orchestra to Perform in Hiroshima in  
50 Years; Concert Honors 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of End of WWII**

(WASHINGTON)—Music Director Gianandrea Noseda and the National Symphony Orchestra will take their first international tour together to Japan in March, with acclaimed Japanese violinist Akiko Suwanai as soloist; however, the originally scheduled itinerary—which included three concerts in China—has changed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

“The National Symphony Orchestra and Gianandrea Noseda deeply regret that they will not be able to travel to China for their performances in Beijing and Shanghai next month,” said NSO Executive Director Gary Ginstling. “The escalating concerns regarding the spread of the coronavirus have caused the Center for Disease Control and U.S. Department of State to raise their warnings to the highest levels, and major American airlines have preemptively cancelled flights to and from China through the end of March, including the NSO’s scheduled flights. Between these logistical developments and the fact that our top priority is the health and well-being of our musicians and artists, it became clear to the NSO that its visit to China would not be

possible. The NSO very much looks forward to the opportunity to reschedule its visit to China and our thoughts are with all those impacted by this global health crisis.”

The tour was to include two concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing and one at the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center with Chinese pianist Haochen Zhang, the co-Gold Medal winner of the 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Due to U.S. State Department travel restrictions and the cancellation of flights to and from China related to the coronavirus, the tour itinerary has been shortened to only include concerts in Japan.

“In our first international tour together, the National Symphony Orchestra and I look forward to bringing our artistry to Japan,” said NSO music director Gianandrea Noseda. “I have had a close relationship with Japanese audiences for many years and the NSO joins me in expressing much excitement for the forthcoming tour. The NSO and I are disappointed that we will not be able to perform in China as originally planned. We wish our presenters and the Chinese people well in this challenging time and we hope to be able to return and perform there in the future.”

The Japan tour begins with a concert on March 6 at Harmony Hall in Fukui, and continues on March 7 with a performance in the new concert hall in Sakai (Osaka), the Fenice Sacay. Noseda and the Orchestra then travel to Hiroshima, where their concert on March 8 at HBG Hall marks the first performance there by an American orchestra in more than 50 years. Prior to the concert, a group comprising Maestro Noseda, NSO board and staff leadership, and NSO musicians will visit the Peace Memorial Park to recognize the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the ensuing decades of friendship between the U.S. and Japan. The historic visit will include laying flowers at the monument, and an offering of 1,000 paper cranes—made by schools, orchestras, and cultural centers across the United States—to the Children’s Peace Monument, continuing the tradition started more than seven decades ago.

“The National Symphony Orchestra and Gianandrea Noseda are honored by the invitation to perform in Hiroshima, Japan, 75 years following the end of World War II,” said Ginstling. “In recent years, U.S. leaders have visited Hiroshima to recognize its importance as an enduring symbol of world peace, and the NSO is looking forward to making a similar visit. The NSO

believes in the power of music to bring people together, and it is our hope that this concert in this special place will unite people in friendship and harmony.”

The tour will conclude with two performances in Tokyo—one at Suntory Hall on March 10 and one at Metropolitan Art Space on March 11. Tour repertoire includes Barber’s First Essay, Mahler’s Fifth Symphony, Schubert’s “Unfinished” Symphony, Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto, and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9, “From the New World,” which is also featured on the NSO’s new CD, to be released worldwide on February 21 on its new label. Gianandrea Noseda will sign copies of the new recording following performances in Tokyo and in other tour cities to be determined.

Complete tour details and programs follow.

### **TOUR SCHEDULE – March 3–12, 2020**

#### **JAPAN**

National Symphony Orchestra  
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor  
Akiko Suwanai, violin

#### **Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m.**

Harmony Hall, Fukui, Japan  
BARBER First Essay  
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto  
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, “From the New World”

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#### **Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m.**

Fenice Sacay, Sakai (near Osaka)  
BARBER First Essay  
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto  
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, “From the New World”

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#### **Sunday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m.**

HBG Hall, Hiroshima  
\*\*NSO is the first US orchestra to perform in Hiroshima in 50 years.  
Concert honoring 75th anniversary of end of World War II

BARBER First Essay  
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto  
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, “From the New World”

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**Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m.**

Suntory Hall, Tokyo

BARBER	First Essay
TCHAIKOVSKY	Violin Concerto
DVOŘÁK	Symphony No. 9, “From the New World”

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**Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m.**

Metropolitan Art Space, Tokyo

SCHUBERT	Symphony No. 8, “Unfinished”
MAHLER	Symphony No. 5

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**[ABOUT GIANANDREA NOSEDA](#)**

**[ABOUT AKIKO SUWANAI](#)**

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The 2019–2020 season marks the National Symphony Orchestra’s 89th, and Gianandrea Nosedà’s third as its music director. The Italian conductor serves as the Orchestra’s seventh music director, joining the NSO’s legacy of distinguished leaders. Its artistic leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds.

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 performs year-round. The NSO’s community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO *In Your Neighborhood*, an annual week of approximately 50 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 tuition-free Summer Music Institute. For more information, visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).

**FUNDING CREDITS**

Support for the NSO’s 2020 Asia Tour is provided by ANA, All Nippon Airways; Jennifer and David Fischer; Stephen and Christine Schwarzman; and The Starr Foundation.

The NSO’s performance at Suntory Hall is sponsored by United Technologies Corporation.

Friends of the Asia Tour: Amway Japan; The Honorable Barbara H. Franklin and Mr. Wallace Barnes; Glen S. and Sakie T. Fukushima; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries; and Tanaka Memorial Foundation.

**For more information about the NSO, visit [nationalsymphony.org](http://nationalsymphony.org).**

**For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).**



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