



Press Release
February 27, 2020

National Symphony Orchestra Announces Cancellation of Concerts in Japan Due to Risks Related to Coronavirus

(WASHINGTON)—The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) tour to Japan with Music Director Gianandrea Noseda has been canceled due to the rapidly changing developments related to COVID-19. The tour, scheduled from March 3–12, 2020, was set to be the NSO’s first international performances under Noseda’s leadership.

Out of respect for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s recent recommendation that major cultural events be cancelled for the next two weeks, and careful consideration of the situation in collaboration with its colleagues at Japan Arts Corporation, the NSO arrived at the unfortunate conclusion that the tour cannot proceed.

“We are deeply disappointed that the National Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Noseda are unable to take this tour to Japan,” said NSO Executive Director Gary Ginstling. “However, after multiple consultations with officials at U.S. government agencies and recommendations from the Japanese government, it became clear that these evolving circumstances are beyond our control. We thank Japan Arts, our partner in Japan, as well as the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the U.S. Consulate in Osaka, and The Japanese Embassy here in Washington, for their hard work, collaboration, and understanding.”

“My heart is filled with sorrow about the cancellation of the National Symphony Orchestra’s tour of Japan, the very first international tour planned since I became music director of this incredible group of musicians,” said NSO music director Gianandrea Noseda. “Japan is truly one of my favorite countries and the Japanese audience among the most dedicated. Performing in Japan is

among the most gratifying experiences as an artist and we have been preparing musically for this tour for months, and planning for years. At this time the most important thing is to focus on everyone's health and we send our best wishes to everyone.”

The Japan portion of the tour was scheduled to include five concerts with Japanese violinist Akiko Suwanai in Fukui, Osaka (Sakai), and Hiroshima, followed by two concerts in Tokyo. The concert in Hiroshima was to be preceded by a ceremony at the Peace Memorial Park with Maestro Noseda, NSO board and staff leadership, and NSO musicians laying flowers at the monument, and offering thousands of origami cranes made by schools, orchestras, and cultural centers across the United States in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Orchestra's original itinerary also included three concerts in China, which were canceled several weeks ago.

The NSO hopes to schedule some orchestra and chamber music activities in the Washington, D.C. region in the coming weeks; additional details will be announced shortly.

TOUR SCHEDULE

JAPAN

Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m.

Harmony Hall, Fukui, Japan

Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m.

Fenice Sacay, Sakai (near Osaka)

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

HBG Hall, Hiroshima

Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m.

Metropolitan Art Space, Tokyo

CHINA

Friday March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Shanghai

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.

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit kennedy-center.org.



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