

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO THE BRAVO! VAIL MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR A SIX-CONCERT RESIDENCY JULY 7–15, LED BY MUSIC DIRECTOR YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN

*Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève conducts the first three concerts, which include a screening of the classic Steven Spielberg–directed film *E. T.* set to a live performance of John Williams’s Academy Award–winning score; Tchaikovsky’s *Violin Concerto*, featuring James Ehnes; Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto No. 4*, featuring Haochen Zhang; and the world premiere of a Bravo! Vail commission by French composer Guillaume Connesson. Nézet-Séguin leads Gil Shaham in Mozart’s *Violin Concerto No. 3* and Yefim Bronfman in Prokofiev’s *Piano Concerto No. 2*, and he conducts Mason Bates’s innovative symphony for orchestra and electronica, *Alternative Energy*.*

Vail, CO (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) – Under the leadership of Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, The Philadelphia Orchestra returns for a six-concert residency **July 7–15** featuring works that are cornerstones of the orchestra’s programmatic vision, offering audiences in Vail the best of everything the orchestra has accomplished this season. The residency includes popular orchestral pieces, an award-winning film score, a world premiere, and internationally acclaimed guest artists.

Stéphane Denève, the orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor, begins the first concert of the residency on July 7 with two works by **Tchaikovsky**: the folk-song-infused **Andante Cantabile** (arranged from a string quartet by former Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Leopold Stokowski) and the brilliant **Violin Concerto**, featuring Grammy Award–winning violinist and frequent Denève collaborator **James Ehnes**. The concert concludes with a showcase for the legendary “Philadelphia Sound” with **Sibelius’s** stirring **Symphony No. 2**, which the composer called “a confession of the soul.”

For its second program, on July 8, the orchestra presents a **screening** of the 1982 Steven Spielberg–directed film *E. T. The Extra Terrestrial*, with a live performance of **John Williams’s Academy Award–winning score**, conducted by **Denève**. This charming film about childhood wonder and magic is made all the more moving by Williams’s enchanting score, and the whole experience promises to be truly heart-warming for audiences of all ages.

On July 9, **Denève** leads the **world premiere** of *Le Tombeau des Regrets*, a Bravo! Vail commission by French composer **Guillaume Connesson**, followed by **Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 4**, featuring **Haochen Zhang** in his Bravo! Vail debut. (In 2009, four days after his nineteenth birthday, Zhang became the youngest musician to win the Gold Medal in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.) **Beethoven’s** regal **Symphony No. 7** — which the composer once described as “one of my best works” — closes out the program.

Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** leads the orchestra’s July 13 concert, which features two works each by Bach and Brahms. The program begins with selections from **Brahms’s Eleven Chorale Preludes**, beautifully transcribed from their original organ setting and commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra. Next are well-known orchestrations by Stokowski of organ works by **Bach: the Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor** and the **Tocatta and Fugue in D minor** (the opening piece of Disney’s original *Fantasia* film). The program concludes with **Brahms’s** glorious **Symphony No. 2**, full of pastoral themes and joyful intensity.

For the concert on July 14, **Nézet-Séguin** conducts works that span the Classical, Romantic, and modern eras, beginning with **Tchaikovsky's** tragic tone poem *Francesca da Rimini*, which draws inspiration from Dante's *Divine Comedy*. The program continues with Grammy Award–winning violinist **Gil Shaham** joining the orchestra for **Mozart's** exuberant **Violin Concerto No. 3**, written when the composer was nineteen years old. Closing out the program is music from **Stravinsky's** ballet *Petrushka*, which the orchestra recently recorded live in Philadelphia for future release on the Deutsche Grammophon label.

The orchestra's residency concludes on July 15 with **Nézet-Séguin** conducting four powerful works. The program begins with selections from **Beethoven's** only ballet, *The Creatures of Prometheus*, followed by **Prokofiev's** forward-looking **Piano Concerto No. 2**, featuring Grammy Award–winning pianist **Yefim Bronfman**. In the second half of the program, the orchestra performs **Mason Bates's** *Alternative Energy*, a unique work that utilizes technology and innovative orchestration to give the performance a spatial effect which *The San Francisco Chronicle* described as “formidable and inventive,” and the *L. A. Times* called “fascinating.” The program concludes with **Tchaikovsky's** popular **1812 Overture**, which is justly famous for its rousing finale.

IF YOU GO

What: The Philadelphia Orchestra in residence at Bravo! Vail

When: 6:00PM on July 7, July 8 (special time -7:30PM), July 9, July 13, July 14, and July 15

Price: Lawn tickets \$28, Pavilion seats: \$44-\$129

How to Buy: bravovail.org or 877.812.5700