

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bringing Coppola's Masterpiece to Life with a Live Symphony Orchestra

The Classic Film Will be Screened with Nino Rota's Iconic Score
Performed Live by New Jersey Symphony at NJPAC and
Count Basie Center for the Arts (August 16 & 18)

Tickets on sale now at njsymphony.org/godfather

NEWARK, NJ—*The Godfather Live* brings Francis Ford Coppola's masterpiece to music venues for the first time, making its premiere at NJPAC in Newark on Friday, August 16 at 7:30 pm; and Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank on Sunday, August 18 at 3 pm. Winner of three Academy® Awards and countless other honors, *The Godfather* remains one of the greatest films in the history of cinema. Nino Rota's iconic score, accompanied by the film's traditional Italian folk music and jazz comes to life on stage, performed live by the New Jersey Symphony while the film is simultaneously shown in high definition on the big screen.

Tickets are available at njsymphony.org/godfather.

This concert is produced by CineConcerts.

The Godfather, released by Paramount Pictures in 1972 to popular and critical acclaim, tells the story of the Corleones and their rivalry with other New York crime families between 1945 and 1955, as the title character (Marlon Brando) hands over the reins of power to his youngest son (Al Pacino). Also starring James Caan, John Cazale, Robert Duvall and Diane Keaton, the film won three Academy® Awards—including Best Picture and Best Actor (Marlon Brando)—and established Coppola’s reputation as one of the exciting new breed of directors who revolutionized Hollywood from the late 1960s onwards. In 2008, an *Empire* magazine vote saw *The Godfather* named as the greatest film ever made, a distinction also awarded by *Entertainment Weekly* and *Metacritic*. It came second in *Sight & Sound*’s 2002 list and *Time Out*’s 2003 readers’ poll and is currently ranked at number two in IMDb’s all-time list.

Composer Nino Rota achieved international acclaim in the 1950s and 1960s for his work with Italian directors Federico Fellini and Luchino Visconti, scoring the likes of *White Nights*, *The Leopard*, *La Dolce Vita* and *8 ½*. His music for *The Godfather*, including its immortal “Love Theme from ‘The Godfather,’” was ranked at #5 in the American Film Institute’s list of the greatest scores ever written.

“We are proud to embrace the evolution of live experience, and we hope that this concert honors the many talented musicians that bring the music of the movies to life, while giving everyone the ability to re-live one of the great masterpieces in Cinema.”

For music lovers, filmgoers and anyone looking for an exciting and unique concert experience.

For more information visit: njsymphony.org.

Content warning: This film contains Graphic Violence, Adult Content and Profanity that some viewers may find offensive or triggering. Rated R.

Presentation licensed by CineConcerts.

The Godfather Live in Concert **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

Newark → Friday, August 16, 2024, 7:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Red Bank → Sunday, August 18, 2024, 3 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

Nicholas Hersh conductor

New Jersey Symphony

About CineConcerts - [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

CineConcerts is one of the leading producers of live and digital music experiences performed with visual media, and continues to redefine entertainment. Founded by Producer/Conductor Justin Freer and Producer/Writer Brady Beaubien, CineConcerts will engage over 4.8 million people worldwide in concert presentations in over 3,000 performances in 48 countries through 2025, and recently launched [CineConcerts +PLUS](#)—a global digital network and app suite with hundreds of exclusive podcast episodes and produced content. continues to work with some of the most prestigious orchestras and venues in the world including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra and more. Recent and current [live and digital concert experiences](#) include *Elf in Concert*, *The Pinball Concert* (Digital), *The Polar Express in Concert*, *Rudy in Concert*, *The Passion of the Christ in Concert*, *The Da Vinci Code in Concert*, *The Harry Potter Film Concert Series*, *Gladiator Live*, *The Godfather Live*, *It's a Wonderful Life in Concert*, *DreamWorks Animation In Concert*, *Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage 50th Anniversary Concert Tour*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's in Concert* and *A Christmas Dream Live*.

About Paramount Pictures Corporation

Paramount Pictures Corporation (PPC), a global producer and distributor of filmed entertainment, is a unit of Viacom (NASDAQ: VIAB, VIA), a leading content company with prominent and respected film, television and digital entertainment brands. Paramount controls a collection of some of the most powerful brands in filmed entertainment, including Paramount Pictures, Paramount Animation, Paramount Vantage, Paramount Classics, Insurge Pictures, MTV Films and Nickelodeon Movies. PPC operations also include Paramount Home Media Distribution, Paramount Pictures International, Paramount Licensing Inc. and Paramount Studio Group.

About Nicholas Hersh (Conductor)

American conductor Nicholas Hersh is music director of the Modesto Symphony, having been appointed in August 2023 with immediate effect. Across the country, Nicholas has earned critical acclaim for his innovative programming and natural ability to connect with musicians and audiences alike, and he was the unanimous choice of the search committee in Modesto.

In the 2023–24 season, Hersh returns to the National, Houston, Baltimore, Colorado and New Jersey Symphonies, while making debuts with the Springfield Symphony and Wintergreen Festival. Recent include engagements with the Detroit, Grand Rapids, New World, North Carolina, Phoenix, Portland (ME), Richmond, Tucson, Utah and Winston-Salem symphony orchestras, Louisiana and Rochester Philharmonics, and the Florida and Sarasota Orchestras.

Over a remarkable tenure as Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Hersh created the BSO Pulse series, through which he brought together

indie bands and orchestral musicians in unique collaborations; he led the BSO in several subscription weeks and concerts in and around Baltimore; and he directed the BSO's educational and family programming, including the celebrated Academy for adult amateur musicians. Hersh also maintains a close relationship with the National Symphony Orchestra, leading concerts throughout Washington, DC. He stepped in to replace an indisposed Yan Pascal Tortelier, on subscription, to great acclaim.

Hersh is frequently in demand as an arranger and orchestrator, with commissions from orchestras around the globe for adaptations of everything from classical solo and chamber music to popular songs. His orchestration of Beethoven's Cello Sonata Op. 69 was premiered by the Philharmonie Zuidnederland in January 2022, while his symphonic arrangement of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" continues to see worldwide success as a viral YouTube hit. He also serves as arranger and editor for the James P. Johnson Orchestra Edition.

Hersh grew up in Evanston, Illinois and started his musical training as a cellist. He earned a bachelor's degree in Music from Stanford University and a master's degree in Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Hersh is also a two-time recipient of the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award. Nicholas lives in Philadelphia with his wife Caitlin and their two cats, and in his free time enjoys baking (and eating) sourdough bread.

New Jersey Symphony

The Emmy and GRAMMY Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of our organization—all to better reflect and serve our vibrant communities. Since 2021, Music Director Xian Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current music director in 2016. Since her arrival at the New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

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