

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Jersey Symphony to present a series of holiday events across the Garden State

NEWARK, NJ—New Jersey Symphony is your place to celebrate the holiday season, with many great events throughout the Garden State. Experience the magic of Christmas Disney's *The Muppet Christmas Carol* in Concert, performed in Morristown, Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick. Some concerts are almost sold out, but great seats remain at the two NJPAC in Newark concerts at 3 pm and 7:30 pm on December 7. At all concerts you'll be greeted by the Yuletide Carolers, singing holiday classics in the lobby (free for ticketholders).

Also in Newark, A Gospel Holiday will be performed at Science Park High School, featuring the New Jersey Symphony and the New Jersey Symphony Gospel Chorus, directed by Gwen Moten. Come ready to sing, dance and clap along!

Hear more holiday tunes from the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players at Newark's Winter Village in the Mulberry Commons, and at NJ TRANSIT's Newark Penn Station lobby.

Handel's *Messiah* returns to Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, which is a beloved family tradition for many. Two performances of *Messiah* will also be presented in Princeton. The concert will be conducted by the GRAMMY-winning conductor Jeannete Sorrell and features guest vocalists: Sonya Headlam, soprano; John Holiday, countertenor; Ed Lyon, tenor; and Kevin Deas, bass-baritone. Holiday, who gained fame as a contestant on NBC's "The Voice."

Everyone's favorite *Nutcracker* production returns to Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, led by NJ Ballet with New Jersey Symphony playing the memorable musical score.

The holiday season continues into January with the Lunar New Year Celebration, an evening of community and cultural exchange that is wonderful for families and children, as we celebrate the Year of the Snake. Music Director Xian Zhang, pianist Min Kwon, the Peking University Alumni Chorus, the Starry Arts Children's Chorus and the

Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team all return for this joyous concert, plus a special appearance by opera star Michael Fabiano! Upgrade your evening with the VIP event experience, featuring early access to the Cultural Exchange Festival, a VIP reception and premier seating for the Celebration Concert.

The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Morristown → Thursday, Dec 5, 2024, 7:30 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center

Red Bank → Friday, Dec 6, 2024, 7:30 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

Newark → Saturday, Dec 7, 2024, 3 pm & 7:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

New Brunswick → Sunday, Dec 8, 2024, 3 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

Music in Motion

Presented in collaboration with NJ TRANSIT

New Jersey Symphony Brass Quintet

Newark → Tuesday, Dec 10, 4:45 pm, Newark Penn Station

Featuring a mix of upbeat brass quintet tunes and holiday favorites!

Newark Winter Village

Neighborhood Concerts

New Jersey Symphony Brass Quintet

Newark → Wed, Dec 11, 4 pm, Mulberry Commons

Featuring a mix of upbeat brass quintet tunes and holiday favorites!

New Jersey Ballet's *Nutcracker* with New Jersey Symphony **Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with Mayo Performing Arts Center and New Jersey Symphony**

Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor
New Jersey Ballet
New Jersey Symphony

Morristown → Mayo Performing Arts Center

Friday, Dec 13, 2024, 7:30 pm
Saturday, Dec 14, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm
Sunday, Dec 15, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm
Friday, Dec 20, 2024, 7:30 pm
Saturday, Dec 21, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Sunday, Dec 22, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm
Monday, Dec 23, 2024, 1 pm
Tuesday, Dec 24, 2024, 1 pm
Thursday, Dec 26, 2024, 1 pm & 6 pm

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker*

Based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E.T.A. Hoffman

A Gospel Holiday

New Jersey Symphony Family Concert

Gregory D. McDaniel conductor

New Jersey Symphony Gospel Chorus | Gwen Moten, director

New Jersey Symphony

Newark → Saturday, Dec 14, 2024, 2 pm, Science Park High School

Various / arr. Johnie Dean *Calypso Christmas Medley*

Jason Webb / arr. Brad Henderson “Hallelujah to the King of Glory”

Leroy Anderson Selections from *Suite of Carols*

Traditional / arr. Michael McElroy & Joseph Joubert “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Michael O’Shields / arr. B. Dexter Allgood “O, Magnify the Lord”

Traditional / arr. Morton Gould *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Traditional / arr. Luther Henderson *Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*

Traditional / arr. Jack Gale *Deck the Halls*

Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Traditional / arr. Michael McElroy & Joseph Joubert “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

B. Dexter Allgood “Hallelujah (to the Newborn King), Jesus is Born”

Handel’s Messiah

New Jersey Symphony Holiday Tradition

Jeannette Sorrell conductor

Sonya Headlam soprano

John Holiday countertenor

Ed Lyon tenor

Kevin Deas bass-baritone

Montclair State University Singers | Heather J. Buchanan, director

New Jersey Symphony

Princeton → Friday, Dec 20, 2024, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Princeton → Saturday, Dec 21, 2024, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Newark → Sunday, Dec 22, 2024, 7 pm, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

George Frideric Handel *Messiah*

2025 Lunar New Year Celebration with Xian Zhang

Celebration of the Year of the Snake

Xian Zhang conductor

Min Kwon piano

Michael Fabiano tenor

Peking University Alumni Chorus

Starry Arts Children's Chorus | Rebecca Shen, director

Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team

New Jersey Symphony

Newark → Friday, Jan 25, 2025, 7:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Li Huanzhi *Spring Festival Overture*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Selections from Piano Concerto No. 23

Traditional *Arirang*

Traditional "Yuan Ri"

Traditional arr. Nicholas Hersh "The Red Dragonfly"

Giacomo Puccini "E Lucevan le stelle" from *Tosca*

Giacomo Puccini "Che gelida manina" from *La Bohème*

Giacomo Puccini Selections from *Turandot*

More information on concerts and tickets: njsymphony.org/events.

About New Jersey Symphony

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of the Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 60 concerts at mainstage venues across the state, including Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank and Morristown as well as schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion while providing students across the state unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other outreach programs. In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit our website at njsymphony.org or our newsroom for press releases and photos.

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The New Jersey Symphony's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts for The Muppets Christmas Carol in Concert. The December 8 performance of The Muppets Christmas Carol in Concert is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

The December 10 performance is held in collaboration with NJ TRANSIT.

The New Jersey Symphony Brass Quintet's appearance on December 11 is supported by Newark Winter Village, the Municipal Council of Newark and the Newark City Parks Foundation, Inc. and is sponsored by the TD Charitable Foundation.

Gregory D. McDaniel is the 2024-25 Colton Conducting Fellow, made possible by the generous support of Judy and Stewart Colton.