

CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

100 Years of Leonard Bernstein



 **STATE** | THEATRE
NEW JERSEY

**SYMPHONY
SCHOLARS
KEYNOTES**

State Theatre New Jersey is delighted to welcome our Symphony Scholars to the performance of the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. The young musicians in this exciting program have been preparing for the big event by studying and listening to the music, exploring the composer, the performers, and the works on the program, and learning about what to expect at a live symphony concert.

These *Keynotes* provide helpful information and some fun details to make the concert a memorable experience—one that we hope will be the start of a lifelong love of classical music.



photo: Jason Paddock

CONTENTS

- Welcome! 2
- About the Orchestra 3
- Meet the Artists 4
- Meet Lenny! 5
- The Program Page 6
- Notes on the Program 7-11
- Going to the Concert 12



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State Theatre New Jersey—creating extraordinary experiences through the power of live performance.



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CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ČESKÝ NÁRODNÍ SYMFONICKÝ ORCHESTR

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra was established in 1993 in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Since 2007, Libor Pešek has served as Chief Conductor. The orchestra is known for the wide range of music it performs—everything from classical to contemporary music, as well as film scores, jazz, pop music, and musical theater. In 2003, at a Symphonic Game Music concert in Germany, the Czech National Symphony became the first orchestra outside of Japan to give a live concert of music written for video games. They have made many recordings, including the soundtrack to the film, *The Hateful Eight*, directed by Quentin Tarantino.

HOW TO SAY IT:
CZECH - "check"

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra makes its home in Smetana Hall in Prague's Municipal House. They have performed around the world, in countries including Great Britain, the U.S., Canada, France, Spain, Dubai, Japan, Mexico, China, Korea, Oman, Australia, and New Zealand.



Smetana Hall, home of the Czech National Symphony Orchestra

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- The Czech Republic is a country in Central Europe. Sharing borders with Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Poland, it is almost entirely surrounded by mountains.
- Beginning in 1918, it was part of a country called Czechoslovakia. On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia was peacefully divided into the independent countries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- The country has a population of over 10.5 million.
- The official language is Czech.
- The Czech Republic became a full member of the European Union (EU) in 2004.
- Famous for its beauty and its history, the Czech Republic's capital, Prague, is one of the most visited cities in Europe.
- Prague castle is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest ancient castle in the world by area.
- Famous Czechs include scientist Gregor Mendel, composers Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák, painter Alphonse Mucha, author Franz Kafka, and tennis champions Martina Navratilova and Ivan Lendl.
- Beer has been brewed in the Czech Republic since the year 1118. The Czech people drink the most beer per person in the world!
- Traditional Czech foods include *knedíky* (dumplings), *guláš* (a spicy stew made with beef or pork), *smažák* (breaded fried cheese), and *koláče* (a sweet fruit-filled pastry).
- The Czechs are big sports fans. The most popular sports are soccer and ice hockey.





**JOHN
MAUCERI,
CONDUCTOR**

John Mauceri (pronounced mao-CHAIR-ee), a native of New York City, has conducted some of the world's greatest opera companies and symphony orchestras, on Broadway, and in Hollywood. He is also a respected writer, producer, arranger, and music educator. He has served as music director at opera companies in the U.S. and Europe, and as chancellor of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

John Mauceri started piano lessons at an early age with his Sicilian-born grandfather. He went on to study music theory and composition at Yale University, and later became music director of their symphony orchestra. In 1971, he was invited to study conducting at the famous Tanglewood Music Center in western Massachusetts, where he first met Leonard Bernstein. For 18 years, he worked closely with Bernstein and conducted the premiere performances of many of the composer's works.



John Mauceri with Leonard
Bernstein

He is well known for performing and preserving important musical works that have been neglected, forgotten, unknown, or underappreciated—not only classical music, but especially Broadway musicals and Hollywood film music, including the music of Leonard Bernstein. He has made over 70 recordings, including two different recordings of Bernstein's *Candide*. In 2017 he published a book called *Maestros and Their Music: The Art and Alchemy of Conducting*. Mauceri has received many awards and honors, including a Tony, Grammy, Billboard, Olivier, and two Emmys.



**ISABEL
LEONARD,
MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard was born in New York City. Her mother is Argentinian, and so Isabel grew up in a bilingual household. As a child, she sang with the Manhattan School of Music children's chorus, and from age five studied dance at the Joffrey Ballet School. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music at New York's famous Juilliard School.

MEZZO-SOPRANO
(MET-zo so-PRAN-o) - The second-highest woman's voice, slightly lower than a soprano.

Leonard made her professional opera debut in 2007. Since then, she has sung at opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, San Francisco Opera, Salzburg Festival, and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Isabel Leonard has performed in the world premieres of two operas based on movies: *Cold Mountain* and *Marnie*. She has made two children's recordings: *The Polar Express* & *Dr. Seuss's Gertrude McFuzz* and *Dr. Noize: Phinease McBoof Crashes the Symphony*. She has won two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording.

ISABEL SAYS...

- She can't live without chocolate.
- She loves jazz. Her all-time favorite singer is Ella Fitzgerald.
- Being Latina has helped her when it comes to being an opera singer, because many operas are sung in Italian and French—languages that are similar to Spanish.

Watch Isabel Leonard talk about opera with Murray Monster and Ovejita from *Sesame Street*!



www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Xrab76v5zU

MEET LENNY!



HOW DO YOU SAY HIS NAME?

Growing up, Lenny pronounced his last name bern-STEEN. Later on in his career, he changed the pronunciation to bern-STINE. Whenever people said it the other way he would correct them and say, “You wouldn’t say Albert Eensteen, would you?” So it’s bern-STINE.

THE BERNSTEIN STYLE

Leonard Bernstein was famous for his conducting style. He conducted with every part of his body, from head to toes: jumping, wiggling his hips, frowning, and throwing his arms wide.

Watch Lenny conduct the London Symphony Orchestra in the overture to *Candide*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=422-yb8TXj8>

And here he conducts the Berlin Philharmonic using nothing but his facial expressions!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kke4SyaP25c>



Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.

— Leonard Bernstein

LEONARD BERNSTEIN was a man of many talents: conductor, composer, pianist, educator, lecturer, and political activist. He was enormously successful in all of these areas, winning dozens of awards, including two Tony Awards, seven Emmy Awards, 16 Grammy Awards, and the Kennedy Center Honors.

Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1918, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. His father, Sam, often took him to orchestra concerts. At one of these concerts, Leonard heard a piano performance that was so incredible that it made him want to become a pianist. But his father didn’t want him to become a musician.

Fortunately, this didn’t stop Leonard from pursuing his dream. After studying music at Harvard University, Bernstein studied piano, conducting, and composing at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He could have had a great career as a pianist, but he loved conducting. In 1943, when he was only 25, he became assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic—one of the most famous orchestras in the world. That year, he stepped in at the last minute to conduct one of their concerts at Carnegie Hall when the principal conductor got sick. The concert was broadcast on the radio to audiences all over the country. Bernstein got rave reviews, and soon orchestras from around the world were inviting him to conduct.

At the same time, Bernstein was also composing. He wrote symphonies, ballet music, music for film, chamber music, operas, and songs. He is best known for his Broadway musicals, which included *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, and—above all—*West Side Story*.

Bernstein believed teaching young students was one of the most important things he ever did. With the New York Philharmonic, he starred in the CBS television series, *Young People’s Concerts*. In these shows, he talked to the audience about topics such as the great composers, how music is written, and how to listen to it. He talked about all kinds of music—not just classical music—but also opera, jazz, musicals, and even rock and roll! He especially loved American music and showed audiences how it was influenced by music from many different cultures.

Bernstein was a political activist who spoke out against war, economic and racial injustice, nuclear weapons, and other causes. He and his wife, the Chilean-born actress Felicia Montealegre, had three children. He died in 1990, at age 72, of a heart attack brought on by lung disease.

The program book (or playbill) contains helpful information about the performance. It lists the pieces the orchestra will play in the order they will play them. If you're not familiar with a piece, the program will help you keep track of what's going on and know when the piece is finished. The program page for the Czech National Symphony Orchestra's concert looks like this:

CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUN, FEBRUARY 24, 2019 AT 3PM

JOHN MAUCERI, conductor
ISABEL LEONARD, mezzo-soprano

PROGRAM

A Musical Toast: *Happy Birthday, Lenny!*

Three Meditations from *Mass* for Cello and Orchestra

Halil – Nocturne for Flute and Orchestra

“Music I Heard With You” from *Songfest*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

Three Early Songs (arr: Sid Ramin)

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

I. “Piccola Serenata”

II. “So Pretty”

III. “Silhouette”

—Intermission—

Overture from *Candide*

“Dream with Me” from *Peter Pan*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

“What a Movie!” from *Trouble in Tahiti*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

“Take Care of This House” from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*

Isabel Leonard, mezzo-soprano

Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

ORCHESTRA SERIES UNDERWRITER



The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

A Musical Toast: *Happy Birthday, Lenny!*

The orchestra plays a musical tribute to Leonard Bernstein in celebration of the centenary of his birth in 1918.

How long is it? About two minutes.



Three Meditations from *Mass* for Cello and Orchestra

Leonard Bernstein wrote *Mass* to be played at the grand opening of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in 1971. The piece was inspired by the Roman Catholic Mass; but Bernstein also used words, music, dances, and ideas from other cultures and religions.

Later, Bernstein took three parts of the *Mass* called “Meditations,” and turned them into a special piece for solo cello and orchestra. He said that he wanted this music to bring together people of all different religions and beliefs to pray and reflect, and—hopefully—create peace and understanding around the world.

How long is it? About 18 minutes.



A 2018 performance of *Mass* at Lincoln Center in New York City

Halil – Nocturne for Flute and Orchestra

Halil (pronounced ha-LEEL), is the Hebrew word for flute. Bernstein wrote this piece to honor the memory of Yadin Tenenbaum, a 19-year-old flute student and soldier who was killed during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. Bernstein said, “I never knew Yadin Tennenbaum, but I know his spirit.”

Bernstein said *Halil* is about “wars and the threat of wars, the overwhelming desire to live, and the consolations of art, love, and the hope for peace.” You can hear the struggle in the music, as the solo flute goes up against five percussionists playing angry-sounding snare drums, bass drum, tom toms, cymbals, gongs, chimes, tam-tam, triangles, woodblocks, whip, xylophone, glockenspiel, and vibraphone. Other instruments in this piece include piccolo, alto flute, harp, strings, and timpani.

Bernstein called *Halil* a “nocturne,” which is a piece of music that sounds like nighttime. He said he wanted the listener to imagine “an ongoing conflict of nocturnal images: wish-dreams, nightmares, repose, sleeplessness, night-terrors and sleep itself, Death’s twin brother.”

How long is it? About 16 minutes.



Yadin Tenenbaum



Conrad Aiken

“Music I Heard With You” from Songfest

To celebrate America’s Bicentennial Year (1976), Leonard Bernstein took 13 poems by American poets and set them to music. He called this group of songs *Songfest*. One of these, “Music I Heard With You,” is set to a poem by Conrad Potter Aiken. The speaker in the poem has recently lost his beloved. He will remember her every time he listens to music, eats a meal—anything that they once did together.

How long is it? About four minutes.

MUSIC I HEARD

*Music I heard with you was more than music,
And bread I broke with you was more than bread;
Now that I am without you, all is desolate;
All that was once so beautiful is dead.*

*Your hands once touched this table and this silver,
And I have seen your fingers hold this glass.
These things do not remember you, beloved,
And yet your touch upon them will not pass.*

*For it was in my heart that you moved among them,
And blessed them with your hands and with your eyes;
And in my heart they will remember always,
—They knew you once, O beautiful and wise.*

— Conrad Potter Aiken (1889-1973)

Three Early Songs

How long is it? About six minutes for the three songs..

“Piccola Serenata”

“Piccola Serenata” means “little serenade.” Bernstein wrote this song in 1979 to celebrate the 85th birthday of his good friend, the German conductor Karl Böhm. It’s a playful, silly song with nonsense syllables for the words: “Da ga da ga dum da lai la lo.”



Leonard Bernstein and
Karl Böhm

“So Pretty”

Leonard Bernstein wrote “So Pretty” for a concert titled “Broadway For Peace, 1968,” which protested against America fighting the Vietnam War. It was sung by Barbra Streisand, with Bernstein accompanying her on the piano. In the song, a student is trying to understand why the war is happening.



Leonard Bernstein and
Barbra Streisand

“Silhouette”

Bernstein wrote “Silhouette” in 1951, as a birthday present for his friend, mezzo-soprano Jennie Tourel. It uses part of an old Lebanese folk song. The Arabic words at the end mean, “The boys run under the olive tree.” “Silhouette” originally had just a piano accompaniment; sometime later, Sid Ramin created a version with full orchestra.



Leonard Bernstein and
Jennie Tourel

“SO PRETTY”

We were learning in school today
All about a country far away
Full of lovely temples painted gold,
Modern cities, jungles ages old.
And the people are so pretty there
Shining smiles, and shiny eyes and hair...
Then I had to ask my teacher why
War was making all those people die.
They're so pretty, so pretty.
Then my teacher said, and took my hand,
“They must die for peace, you understand.”
But they're so pretty, so pretty.
I don't understand.

— Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

“SILHOUETTE”

A last little bird on a palm feather riding,
Black and clean in the afterglow.
A lone little girl in the olive grove hiding,
Crooning soft as the sun sinks low:
oo, oo, oo, oo. Hu! hu! 'rr'fáh! oo, oo!

An old little jeep through the mountains crawling,
Tough and tiny against the sun,
A young Arab shepherd upon his knees falling,
Allah, Allah, the day is done,
ee, ee, ee, ee: Hee! hee! 'rr'fáh! ah, ah!

The boys in the dark olive groves assemble,
Hand in hand in a dancing ring,
Their eyes to the sun and their lips atremble,
Drunk with love and the chant they wing:
Walah ela 'Una, walad ela 'Una,
Norkod taht el zetuna!
Walah ela 'Una, walad ela 'Una,
Norkod taht el zetuna!
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!
Ha! ha! 'rr'fáh!

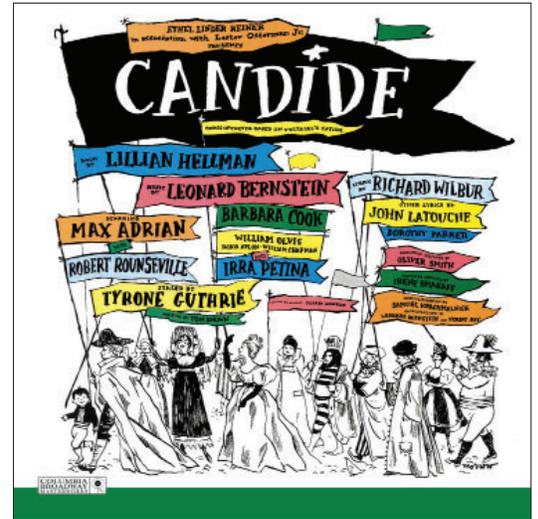
— Lyrics by Leonard Bernstein

Overture from *Candide*

An **OVERTURE** is a piece of music played at the beginning of an opera or musical as a kind of introduction. It will sometimes include tunes that the audience will hear again later on in the show. This overture comes from Leonard Bernstein's 1956 Broadway musical, *Candide*. It uses melodies from three songs in the show, as well as music heard only in the overture. It is very fast and lively, with a rhythm that might make you want to dance!

How long is it? About five minutes.

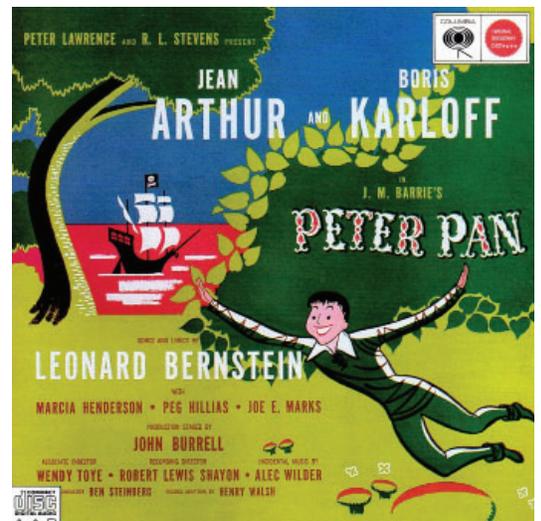
The overture to *Candide* is performed by orchestras more than any other music Bernstein wrote.



"Dream With Me" from *Peter Pan*

A lot of people know the Broadway musical, *Peter Pan*, which was first performed in 1954. But most people would be surprised to hear that four years before that, Leonard Bernstein wrote the music and lyrics for a different *Peter Pan* musical. The song "Dream With Me" is sung by Wendy Darling. For some reason, "Dream With Me" was originally left out of the show. It wasn't put back in until 50 years later!

How long is it? About five minutes.



"What a Movie!" from *Trouble in Tahiti*

Bernstein wrote the opera *Trouble in Tahiti* in 1951. It tells the story of the unhappy relationship between a married couple named Dinah and Sam. In "What a Movie!" Dinah tells her psychiatrist about a movie she just saw called *Trouble in Tahiti*. She says it was a stupid and boring movie about a Tahitian princess and an American man who fall in love. She sings a romantic song from the movie called "Island Magic." Even though she seems to like the song, she insists that it was "a terrible, awful movie!!!"

How long is it? About five minutes.



Leonard Bernstein rehearsing the orchestra for *Trouble in Tahiti*

“Take Care of This House” from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*

In 1976, Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Alan Jay Lerner wrote a musical to celebrate America’s Bicentennial. The show was called *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*. It told the story of the White House and the people who lived there during the 1800s—not only the Presidents, but also the African American servants. One of the songs from the show, “Take Care of This House,” became very popular. It is sung by Abigail Adams; she and her husband, John Adams, have moved into the White House while it is still being built. She is singing to a young black slave named Lud. Lud will eventually grow old working at the White House under other Presidents, and live to see the Emancipation Proclamation.

How long is it? About six minutes.



A scene from the original Broadway production of *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*

Here is part of a speech given by First Lady Michelle Obama. If she and Abigail Adams could travel through time and meet, what do you think they would say to each other?

...[This] is the story of this country... the story of generations of people who felt the lash of bondage, the shame of servitude, the sting of segregation, but who kept on striving and hoping and doing what needed to be done so that today I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves. And I watch my daughters, two beautiful, intelligent, black young women playing with their dogs on the White House lawn.

“TAKE CARE OF THIS HOUSE”

*Here in this shell of a house
This house that is struggling to be
Falling through the hall
Coming straight through the wall
Is hope staring down at me
But there’s nothing you can see
Sadness will flow down a cheek
Courage stand out like a tree
Joy, joy is as bright
As a comet in flight
But hope isn’t easy to see*

— Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

The Broadway musical *West Side Story* was considered very unusual when it was written, because it dealt seriously with themes you wouldn’t normally see in a Broadway musical, like gang violence and racial prejudice. The show tells the story of two rival gangs in New York City: the Sharks, who are Puerto Rican, and the Jets, a white gang. Trouble arises when Tony, who used to belong to the Jets, falls in love with Maria, the sister of the leader of the Sharks.

West Side Story was a huge hit when it opened in 1957. It was praised not only for Bernstein’s music, but also for the dramatic **CHOREOGRAPHY** (dances) of Jerome Robbins. In 1961, the show was made into a movie that won ten Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Bernstein took some of the music from the show and arranged it into a **SUITE** (pronounced “sweet”)—a set of short pieces of dance music that are played one after the other. It is played just by the orchestra, without any dancers or singers. Each tune flows right into the next one, with no breaks in between.

How long is it? About 24 minutes.



Tony and Maria

WHAT DO I DO?

Here are some answers to questions people often ask about attending a concert. Knowing what to expect will help you enjoy the show even more!

Q: What should I wear to the concert?

A: A lot of people like to dress up to go to an orchestra concert. Treat the concert like a special occasion. If you're not sure what to wear, your school uniform will be fine.

Q: How early should I get to the theater?

A: You should arrive at least 30 minutes before the show starts.

Q: Where do I get my ticket?

A: When you walk in the front door, there will be someone from the State Theatre or your teacher in the lobby to give you your ticket. Do not go to the ticket window.

Q: How will I know where to go when I get inside the theater?

A: Your ticket shows where you are sitting. It shows the section: the orchestra level is downstairs, and upstairs is the balcony. It also shows the row (which will have a letter) and your seat number. If this sounds complicated, don't worry! The ushers are there to help you find your seat.

Q: Where do I get a program book (also called a playbill)?

A: An usher will give you a program when you go to your seat.

Q: I was invited to attend a special reception after the show. Where do I go, and what do I do?

A: The reception is in the upstairs lobby of the theater. You can go there right after the show ends. If you came with a family member, they can go, too. There will be food served. Keep in mind the food is for everyone; don't take more than your share.

The reception is a great place to meet new people and practice your social skills; don't be shy about making conversation with the other guests. They would love to hear about you and how you liked the concert!

RULES TO REMEMBER!

Arrive on time. If you get to the theater after the concert has started, you will probably have to wait in the lobby until the end of a piece. The usher will tell you then you can go in.

Don't talk or use your phone during the concert. If you turn on your phone at intermission, remember to turn it off again before the second half of the concert starts.

Do not eat or drink inside the audience chamber. You can purchase snacks and beverages at the theater, but you will have to put them away when you go to your seat.

Be sure to use the bathroom before the show starts or at intermission. You are being rude to the rest of the audience if you leave your seat while the music is playing.

Don't take pictures or make a recording during the concert. You can take pictures—except when the orchestra is playing.



MEET THE SYMPHONY SCHOLARS TEACHER

Michael Avagliano was born and raised in New Jersey. He serves as music director of the Central Jersey Symphony and the Summit Symphony. Michael has also conducted orchestras in New York and Oregon, and also in Italy and the Czech Republic.

As a violinist and violist, Michael has performed with the New Jersey Symphony, the Singapore Symphony, and other orchestras. He is part of the Madison String Quartet, a group that has performed throughout the U.S. Michael also teaches at Drew University and directs the university's orchestra.

You can learn more about Michael Avagliano at www.michaelavagliano.com.