

## **THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA REPLACED BY ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR SPRING 2024 CALIFORNIA TOUR**

(Los Angeles, CA) July 24, 2023—Due to unforeseen circumstances, The Philadelphia Orchestra has canceled all scheduled appearances in California in spring 2024. The Philadelphia Orchestra was scheduled to tour with pianist Haochen Zhang under the direction of its principal guest conductor Nathalie Stutzmann. Instead, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra—for which Stutzmann serves as music director—has been secured to replace The Philadelphia Orchestra for the tour, with the conductor and soloist to remain unchanged.

As a result, The Soraya’s “The Philadelphia Orchestra Plays All Beethoven,” event has been modified to the “Atlanta Symphony Orchestra” and will now take place on [Saturday, March 9, 2024](#). The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73, “Emperor,” featuring pianist Haochen Zhang, and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9 in E minor, “From the New World.” Ticketholders to the affected performance will automatically have their tickets moved to the new date.

“The universe of touring orchestras continues to seek solid footing post-pandemic. Unfortunately, the Philadelphia Orchestra is canceling its California tour originally scheduled in spring 2024. We were so looking forward to their Soraya debut. For those who purchased the Classical Series or event package, this seems particularly disappointing, I’m sure,” said [Thor Steingraber](#), The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director.

“But there’s great news: we’ve confirmed a replacement. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, led by Nathalie Stutzmann, will join us. Yes – the same conductor, but with a new orchestra! It’s a coup. Stutzmann is the Music Director of the world-class ensemble from Atlanta.”

Stutzmann was named the new Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in its 2022/23 season and made history as only the second woman to lead a major American orchestra. She has also been the Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 2021.

“When Philadelphia canceled, (Ms. Stutzmann) sprang into action and squeezed the dates into their busy calendar. Witnessing her lead her own orchestra, especially under the condition of her heroic ‘save,’ will be a triumph,” said Steingraber.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Ticketholders to the affected performance will automatically have their tickets moved to the new date. If they cannot make this date, they are asked to contact the Ticket Office by email at [thesoraya-ticketing@csun.edu](mailto:thesoraya-ticketing@csun.edu) or by calling (818) 677-3000. Office hours are Tues-Sat 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **For press tickets, interview requests, and general information, please contact:**

- The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada \(marie.estrada@csun.edu\)](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)
- PR Consultant [Gary Murphy \(garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com\)](mailto:garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)
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### **FOR LISTINGS**

Sat Mar 9 | 8pm

[Atlanta Symphony Orchestra](#)

[Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director and Conductor](#)

[Haochen Zhang, piano](#)

Repertoire:

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5 “Emperor”

Dvořák Symphony No. 9

### **About Nathalie Stutzmann**

Nathalie Stutzmann was named the new Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in its 2022/23 season and made history as only the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She has also been the Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 2021.

Stutzmann is considered one of the most outstanding musical personalities of our time. Charismatic musicianship, combined with unique rigor, energy, and fantasy, characterizes her style. A rich variety of strands form the core of her repertoire: Central European and Russian romanticism is a strong focus — ranging from Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, and Dvorak through to the larger symphonic forces of Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Mahler, Bruckner, and Strauss — as well as French 19th-century repertoire and impressionism. Her first season of partnership with The Philadelphia Orchestra attracted outstanding accolades from the press with particular praise for her “memorable reading” (Bachtrack) of Tchaikovsky’s Pathétique Symphony and “terrific ideas” (The Philadelphia Inquirer) in Schubert’s Great Symphony.

Having also established a strong reputation as an opera conductor, Nathalie has led celebrated productions of Wagner’s Tannhäuser in Monte Carlo and Boito’s Mefistofele at the Orange Festival. She will begin the 22/23 season with a new production of Tchaikovsky’s Pikovaya Dama in Brussels’ La Monnaie and will make her debut at the Metropolitan Opera this season with two productions of

Mozart: Die Zauberflöte and Don Giovanni. She will also reunite with Wagner's Tannhäuser for a production at the Bayreuth Festival in 2023.

Stutzmann started her studies at a very young age in piano, bassoon, and cello and studied conducting with the legendary Finnish teacher Jorma Panula. She was mentored by Seiji Ozawa and Sir Simon Rattle, who says "Nathalie is the real thing. So much love, intensity, and sheer technique. We need more conductors like her."

Also, one of today's most esteemed contraltos, she studied the German repertoire with Hans Hotter, and she has done more than 80 recordings and received the most prestigious awards. Her last album released in January 2021, *Contralto*, was awarded of Scherzo's 'Exceptional' seal, Opera Magazine's Diamant d'Or and radio RTL's Classique d'Or. She is an exclusive recording artist of Warner Classics/Erato.

Stutzmann was named "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur", France's highest honor, and "Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French government.

### About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate, and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs celebrate anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra celebrates 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

### About Haochen Zhang

Since his gold medal win at the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009, Haochen Zhang has captivated audiences in the United States, Europe, and Asia with a unique combination of deep musical sensitivity, fearless imagination, and spectacular virtuosity. In 2017, Zhang received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, which recognizes talented musicians with the potential for a major career in music.

Zhang has already appeared with many of the world's leading festivals and orchestras including the BBC Proms with Long Yu and the China Philharmonic; the Munich Philharmonic with the late Lorin Maazel in a sold-out tour in Munich and China; The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nézet-Séguin; the Sydney Symphony and David Robertson in a China tour; and the NDR Hamburg and Thomas Hengelbrock in a tour of Tokyo, Beijing, and Shanghai.

In recent seasons, Zhang debuted with the New York Philharmonic and Lucerne Festival Orchestra, toured Asia with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and performed with the Dover Quartet at Kennedy Center. He has given extensive recital and concerto tours in Asia with performances in China, Hong Kong, and Japan. In October 2017, Zhang gave a concerto performance at Carnegie Hall with the NCPA Orchestra, which was followed by his recital debut at Carnegie's Zankel Hall.

In 2019, Zhang released his debut concerto album on BIS Records performing Prokofiev's second piano concerto and Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under Dima Slobodeniouk. His debut solo album was released by BIS in February 2017, which includes works by Schumann, Brahms, Janacek, and Liszt.

Zhang has performed with Munich Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Sydney Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Mariinsky Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, Taiwan Philharmonic, and Hong Kong Philharmonic orchestras, among others. In recital, he has performed at Spivey Hall, La Jolla Music Society, Cliburn Concerts, and Wolf Trap Discovery Series, among others.

Zhang is an avid chamber musician, collaborating with colleagues such as the Dover, Shanghai, Tokyo, and Brentano Quartets. He is frequently invited by chamber music festivals in the United States including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and La Jolla Summerfest.

### **About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**

The Soraya's 2023-24 Season boldly advances the best of The Soraya—the immersive sound of big orchestras; the free flow of jazz; a dizzying array of dance; new works alongside the tried and true, and a cultural bounty drawn from the well of world traditions.

The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the World.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University, Northridge in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student opportunities in the arts and performing arts. This partnership fosters academic opportunity and artistic excellence, elevating the talents of CSUN's students.

A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring The Soraya was completed and opened in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. The relationship between The Soraya and the Mike Curb College continues to grow, with robust offerings for students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

**When:** Saturday, March 9 | 8pm

**Where:** Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: [www.thesoraya.org](http://www.thesoraya.org)

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