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A scary start and a suspect orchestra commence the first half of New England Philharmonic's 20th season under the direction of Richard Pittman
Season will feature premieres by local composers Nathan, Rakowski, Hoffer and Currier

BOSTON — [The New England Philharmonic](#), under the direction of [Richard Pittman](#), will step up their commitment to commission and perform new works by locally based composers during the 2017-18 season. The season celebrates Maestro Pittman's 20th season with the NEP and features premiere performances from a host of composers with regional ties such as **the late Steven Stucky**, NEP Composer-in-Residence **David Rakowski**, **Bernard Hoffer**, **Eric Nathan** and **Sebastian Currier**. The season will include the U.S. premiere of "Spiritus" by **Lachlan Skipworth**, winner of their 33rd annual Call for Scores, and a performance from the winner of their annual Young Artist Competition. The NEP's season will also include a performance of **Amy Beach's** Grand Mass in E-flat, op. 5 (1890) with the **Commonwealth Chorale** on November 11 at the Church of the Holy Name in West Roxbury.

The NEP's **Halloween-themed season kickoff concert, Eerie Company** on October 28 at the Tsai Performance Center, **invites attendees to come dressed as their favorite classical music icon, "living, dead, or fictional."** The concert will feature Peter Child's "Punkie Night," an NEP commission from their 2006 Halloween concert, Igor Stravinsky's "Petrushka," Joseph Schwantner's "Magabunda 'Four Poems of Agueda Pizarro,'" and from Halloween birthday boy Andrew Norman, "Sacred Geometry."

The NEP's annual family concert on December 10, **The Usual Orchestral Suspects** will feature Lemony Snicket's **"The Composer is Dead"** with music by Nathaniel Stookey, and **invites the audience to help solve a murder mystery** with each section of the orchestra under suspicion.

The remaining concerts, **Ancient, Modern and Bernstein** on March 3, and **Dancing in Time** on April 28, will feature premieres from **the late Steven Stucky** – "Symphony" (2012), Boston premiere; **Lachlan Skipworth** – "Spiritus" (2017), U.S. premiere, Call for Scores winner; **David Rakowski** – "Water Music" (2018), world premiere; **Sebastian Currier** – "Time Machines" (2007), Boston premiere; **Bernard Hoffer** – "Three Pieces for Orchestra" (2018), world premiere.

October 28, 2017

Tsai Performance Center, 8 p.m.

EERIE COMPANY

Andrew Norman – "Sacred Geometry" (2003)

Joseph Schwantner – "Magabunda 'Four Poems of Agueda Pizarro'" (1983)

Sarah Pelletier, soprano

Peter Child - "Punkie Night" (2006)

Igor Stravinsky – "Petrushka" (1947 version)

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December 10, 2017

Tsai Performance Center, 3 p.m.

THE USUAL ORCHESTRAL SUSPECTS

Annual Family Concert

John Adams - "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" (1986)

Aaron Copland - "Old American Songs," set 1 (1954)

Cambridge Children's Chorus, Wendy Silverberg, Director

Nathaniel Stookey - "The Composer Is Dead" (2006)

Concerto performed by the NEP's 23rd annual Young Artist Competition Winner

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March 3, 2018

Tsai Performance Center, 8 p.m.

ANCIENT, MODERN AND BERNSTEIN

Claude Debussy – “Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune” (1894)

Eric Nathan – “Paestum” (2013), World premiere of orchestral version

Ferruccio Busoni – “Indian Fantasy,” for piano and orchestra, op. 44 (1914)

Jeffrey Swann, piano

Leonard Bernstein - “Three Dance Variations” from “Fancy Free” (1944)

Steven Stucky – “Symphony” (2012), Boston premiere

Lachlan Skipworth – “Spiritus” (2017), U.S. premiere, Call for Scores winner

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April 28, 2018

Tsai Performance Center, 8 p.m.

DANCING IN TIME

David Rakowski – “Water Music” (2018), World premiere

Sebastian Currier – “Time Machines” (2007), Boston premiere

Danielle Maddon, violin

Bernard Hoffer – “Three Pieces for Orchestra” (2018), World premiere

Maurice Ravel – “Bolero” (1928)

All concerts take place at the Tsai Performance Center. For more information and tickets for all of NEP's performances, visit www.NEPhilharmonic.org.

NEP Chamber Players

During the 2017-18 season, the **NEP Chamber Players** will revisit their acclaimed **Meet the Family** series in partnership with the **Boston Children's Museum**, at 2 p.m. on **November 12, 19 and 26**, introducing audiences of all ages to the different instrument families that make up an orchestra. More NEP Chamber Players' performances will be added soon, please visit <http://nephilharmonic.org/chamber-players-series/> for more information.

About the New England Philharmonic: Now entering its 41st season, the NEP, under the direction of Richard Pittman, is internationally renowned for its daring programming encompassing both contemporary and traditional works. The volunteer orchestra has earned nine ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming and was named Best Local Musician(s) of the Year in 2016 by The Arts Fuse. The orchestra's illustrious past includes the installation of three landmark programs. The NEP became the first orchestra of its size to support a composer-in-residence (1985), introduce a Call for Scores program (1985), and establish a Young Artist Competition (1994), legacies that endure today.

Press Inquiries

Interviews & High Resolution Images

Dayla Arabella Santurri

781.479.6951 @DaylaArabella

Dayla@DaylaArabella.com

For Tickets & More Info

www.nephilharmonic.org

General Inquires Contact

Sarah Borgatti

sborgatti@nephilharmonic.org