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The New England Philharmonic celebrates three 'local' composers past and present and salutes Richard Pittman on 20 seasons as music director

March 3, 8 p.m. | Tsai Performance Center

BOSTON — [The New England Philharmonic](#), under the direction of [Richard Pittman](#), has stepped up its commitment to commission and perform new works by locally based composers. All season long the NEP is celebrating Maestro Pittman's 20th season as music director by featuring premiere performances from a host of composers with regional ties, including NEP Composer-in-Residence **David Rakowski**, **Bernard Hoffer** and **Sebastian Currier**.

On March 3, the NEP's **Ancient, Modern and Bernstein** concert at the Tsai Performance Center will keep the focus on local talent. The concert will include **Bernstein's** "Three Dance Variations" from "**Fancy Free**," the Boston premiere of the late **Steven Stucky's** "Symphony," and the world premiere of the orchestral version of **Eric Nathan's** "Paestum."

Pittman recalled his last conversation with Stucky, from December of 2016. Stucky was thrilled about the work of one of his recent students, Eric Nathan. "The conversation started like so many we'd had before. Steven was a great advocate for the next generation of composers, some of whom were his former students. Over the years he would guide me on whom I should be paying more attention to, and on this occasion, one was Eric Nathan." Pittman continued, "With the NEP performing both the Boston premiere of Steven's 'Symphony' and the world premiere of Eric's 'Paestum' at this concert, we are paying tribute to Steven's talent as a composer and his legacy as a teacher."

The March 3 concert will also include **Ferruccio Busoni's** "Indian Fantasy," for piano and orchestra, op. 44 (1914) with pianist **Jeffrey Swann** and **Claude Debussy's** "Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune" (1894).

The NEP's 2017-18 season concludes with **Dancing in Time** on April 28, featuring the world premieres of **David Rakowski's** "Water Music" (2018) and **Bernard Hoffer's** "Three Pieces for Orchestra" (2018).

Tickets and information available at www.NEPhilharmonic.org.

About the New England Philharmonic: Now performing 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.

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