



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 27, 2023

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Contact

Ashley Mirakian, [ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org](mailto:ashley.mirakian@atlantasymphony.org)

**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES CALIFORNIA TOUR FOR MARCH 2024**

**ATLANTA** – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has announced that it will **embark on a four-city tour of** southern California during the week of March 3, 2024.

The Philharmonic Society of Orange County in Costa Mesa; Palm Springs Friends of Philharmonic; Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts in Northridge; and the Community Arts Music Association of Santa Barbara (CAMA) will host the ASO, led by Music Director **Nathalie Stutzmann** and featuring pianist **Haochen Zhang**, Gold Medalist of the 2009 Van Cliburn Competition, as soloist.

The ASO last toured California in 2006 for performances at the Ojai Music Festival. This will be the first tour with Nathalie Stutzmann, who began her tenure as Music Director in the Fall of 2022.

The concert program for all dates will be conducted by Nathalie Stutzmann and include the following works:

- **BEETHOVEN:** Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73, “Emperor”; Haochen Zhang, piano
- **DVOŘÁK:** Symphony No. 9 in E minor, “From the New World”

The tour was originally planned to feature Nathalie Stutzmann conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra, which had to be canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Concert dates are as follows.

- **Wednesday, March 6**, McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert presented by the [Palm Springs Friends of Philharmonic](#).
- **Thursday, March 7**, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, presented by the [Philharmonic Society of Orange County](#).
- **Friday, March 8**, Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara presented by [Community Arts Music Association of Santa Barbara \(CAMA\)](#)

- **Saturday, March 9**, [Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts \(The Soraya\)](#) in Northridge.

Ticketholders at each venue have been contacted about changes in artists and schedules.

### **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 Youth Symphony 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 Nathalie Stutzmann**

Nathalie Stutzmann is the new Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from the 2022/23 season and 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. Highlights as guest conductor in the next seasons include debut performances with the Munich Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Helsinki Philharmonic. She will also return to the London Symphony Orchestra and Orchestre de Paris.

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 began the 22/23 season with a new production of Tchaikovsky's *Pikovaya Dama* in Brussels' La Monnaie and made 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.

### **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. In 2017, Haochen received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, which recognizes talented musicians with the

potential for a major career in music. Haochen 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; Sydney Symphony and David Robertson in a China tour; and the NDR Hamburg and Thomas Hengelbrock in a tour of Tokyo, Beijing, and Shanghai.

###