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**NATHALIE STUTZMANN CONDUCTS BRAHMS' FIRST PIANO CONCERTO WITH FRENCH NONPAREIL
HÉLÈNE GRIMAUD**

France Atlanta hosts VIP Event before the concert on November 21

ATLANTA— The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra presents a concert of Romantic giants and piano mastery when Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann conducts Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony and Brahms' First Piano Concerto with French piano superstar Hélène Grimaud on Thursday and Friday, November 20 and 21 in Symphony Hall. After Friday's performance, France Atlanta hosts a reception celebrating French heritage in honor of Nathalie Stutzmann and Hélène Grimaud.

Pianist Hélène Grimaud, a champion of Brahms' compositions, performs his emotional and stormy First Piano Concerto. Grimaud, noted for her "profound and moving interpretation" (*Crescendo Magazine*) explores German Romantics in her recent release, "For Clara," featuring works from Brahms and Schumann. French artistry takes center stage as Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann and Grimaud join forces to present Brahms' masterpiece of inner turmoil and passion.

Stutzmann concludes the program with Schumann's euphoric celebration of the Rhineland, his *Rhenish* Symphony. Composed in just five weeks, Schumann leans on brass and winds to craft a symphonic landscape.

Concert tickets are on sale now and details can be found at aso.org.

Learn more about France Atlanta Night at the ASO at aso.org/france-atlanta-night-at-the-aso

Presented with support from Regions Bank

CALENDAR LISTING

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 8pm
Friday, November 21, 2025, 8pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Hélène Grimaud, piano
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1
SCHUMANN: Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

The French piano nonpareil Hélène Grimaud brings "gritty force and dark ecstasy" (*The Arts Fuse*) to Brahms' stormy powerhouse First Piano Concerto—a piece written to introduce its young composer/pianist to a picky audience who booed its premiere, even though it went on to become one of the world's most popular piano concertos. Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann then taps into the poetic nuances of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the Third Symphony by the fervent Romantic Robert Schumann, hero and mentor to young Brahms. Nicknamed the *Rhenish* Symphony, Schumann's Third evokes sights and sounds along the storied Rhine.

About Hélène Grimaud

Born in 1969 in Aix-en-Provence, Hélène Grimaud began her piano studies at a local conservatory and was accepted into the Paris Conservatoire at just 13. A few years later, in 1987, she gave her well-received debut recital in Tokyo. That same year, renowned conductor Daniel Barenboim invited her to perform with the Orchestre de Paris, marking the launch of Grimaud's musical career.

Between her debut in 1995 with the Berliner Philharmoniker and her first performance with the New York Philharmonic in 1999, Grimaud made a wholly different kind of debut: she established the Wolf Conservation Center in upstate New York. She is also a member of Musicians for Human Rights and has published four books in various languages.

In the 2025/26 season, Hélène Grimaud performs Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, among others. She also embarks on a West Coast tour and captivates audiences worldwide with solo recitals and chamber music performances.

Since 2002, Grimaud has been an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist. Her recordings have been critically acclaimed and awarded numerous accolades, among them the Cannes Classical Recording of the

Year, Choc du Monde de la musique, Diapason d'or, Grand Prix du disque, Record Academy Prize (Tokyo), Midem Classic Award and ECHO Klassik.

Her latest project “For Clara,” focuses on her long relationship with the German Romantics. Grimaud has revisited Robert Schumann’s *Kreisleriana*, and pairs it on her new album with Brahms’s Op. 117 *Intermezzi* and his Op. 32 set of songs, joined by Konstantin Krimmel.

Her prodigious contribution to the world of classical music was recognized by the French government, who appointed her “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur”.

About Nathalie Stutzmann

Nathalie Stutzmann is the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra. She was Principal Guest Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra from 2021-2024.

Nathalie’s 2025-26 season includes major debuts with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Staatskapelle Berlin, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. She also returns to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Oslo Philharmonic.

Named Best Conductor of the Year at the 2024 Oper! Awards, she earned acclaim for Wagner’s *Tannhäuser* at the Bayreuth Festival in 2023 and 2024, with *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* praising her as “a genius who makes music irresistible.” In 2026, she returns for the festival’s 150th anniversary with a new production of *Rienzi*, and debuts at the Bayerische Staatsoper conducting *Faust*. She also opens the 2025–26 season at Dutch National Opera with *Tosca*.

An exclusive recording artist with Warner Classics/Erato, Nathalie’s first symphonic release with the Atlanta Symphony—Dvořák’s *Symphony No. 9* and *American Suite*— earned her cover recognition from *Gramophone* magazine. The album was highlighted by *The New York Times* as one of “5 Classical Music Albums You Can Listen to Right Now,” and received OPUS Klassik nominations for Best Conductor and

Best Symphonic Recording of the Year. This followed her 2023 OPUS Klassik win for Concerto Recording of The Year, for her album featuring the Glière and Mosolov harp concertos with Xavier de Maistre and the WDR Sinfonieorchester. In 2022, she released the complete Beethoven piano concertos with Haochen Zhang and The Philadelphia Orchestra, which *Gramophone* hailed as “a brilliant collaboration”.

Nathalie started her studies at a young age in piano, bassoon, and cello, and studied conducting with legendary Finnish teacher Jorma Panula. As one of the world’s most celebrated contraltos, she has made over 80 recordings and received numerous international accolades. Named “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur” and “Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government, she is also an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music.

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 experience the power of live orchestra music.

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 regularly 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.

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