

For Immediate Release: August 28, 2017

LUDOVIC MORLOT AND THE SEATTLE SYMPHONY LAUNCH 2017–2018 SEASON WITH OPENING NIGHT CONCERT & GALA ON SEPTEMBER 16



Photo by [Brandon Patoc](#)

Soprano Renée Fleming Featured on Opening Night Concert

Gala Honors Board Chair Leslie Jackson Chihuly and husband Dale Chihuly

Season Launch Highlighted by Post-concert Gala at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel

Seattle, WA– Music Director Ludovic Morlot and the Seattle Symphony open a new season on September 16 with a spectacular opening night filled with old world elegance and new world vivacity. Grammy Award-winning soprano **Renée Fleming** joins the orchestra for a program that blends the beautiful world of opera with an atmospheric modern twist. Barber’s lively Overture to *The School for Scandal* will open the evening’s program followed by one of Fleming’s most requested pieces: Barber’s dreamy *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. Seattle audiences will hear Fleming’s interpretation on colorfully dramatic arrangements of songs by the

Icelandic singer-songwriter Björk. The orchestra opens the top of the second half with Verdi's Overture to *La forza del destino*, followed by Fleming joining for Refice's "Shadow of a Cloud," Paolo Tosti's "April," Boito's "The other night into the sea" from *Mefistofele*, and Catalani's "Well then? I'll go far away" from *La Wally*.

The Opening Night Concert will be broadcast live on Classical KING FM 98.1.

The 2017–2018 Opening Night Gala following the concert, co-chaired by Renée Brisbois and Terry Hecker, will honor Seattle Symphony Board Chair **Leslie Jackson Chihuly and her husband, Dale Chihuly**, for their significant contributions to the Symphony and the greater Seattle community. Leslie Chihuly joined the Seattle Symphony Board of Directors in the 2005–2006 season and has served as Board Chair since 2009. She will step down in June 2018 and will be succeeded by Chair-Elect René Encinas. Leslie Chihuly was responsible for the appointment of both Music Director Ludovic Morlot and President & CEO Simon Woods, and along with Morlot and Woods, has led the organization through a period of unprecedented artistic growth and renewed commitment to the community.

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT 2017



SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Saturday, September 16, at 5 p.m.

[Ludovic Morlot, conductor](#)

[Renée Fleming, soprano](#)

Seattle Symphony

SAMUEL BARBER

Overture to *The School for Scandal*

SAMUEL BARBER

Knoxville: Summer of 1915

/text James Agee

RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

BJÖRK

"Virus" from *Biophilia*

/arr. Hans Ek /lyrics Sjón

RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

BJÖRK

"All is Full of Love" from *Homogenic*

/arr. Hans Ek

RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

INTERMISSION

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Overture to *La forza del destino* ("The Force of Destiny")

LICINIO REFICE
/text Emidio Mucci

“Ombra di nube” (“Shadow of a Cloud”)
RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

FRANCESCO PAOLO TOSTI
/text Rocco Emanuele Pagliara

“Aprile” (“April”)
RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

ARRIGO BOITO
Mefistofele

“L'altra notte in fondo al mare” (“The other night into the sea”) from
RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

ALFREDO CATALANI

“Ebben? Ne andrò lontana” (“Well then? I'll go far away”) from *La Wally*
RENÉE FLEMING, SOPRANO

Be part of the glamour of Opening Night as renowned soprano and Grammy Award winner Renée Fleming joins Music Director Ludovic Morlot and the Symphony.

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Photo credit: Andrew Eccles

TICKET INFORMATION

Concert tickets start at \$65 and can be purchased online at seattlesymphony.org, by calling the Seattle Symphony Ticket Office at (206) 215-4747 or (866) 833-4747, or in person at the Seattle Symphony Ticket Office on the corner of Third Avenue and Union Street. Tickets may also be purchased through the Seattle Symphony’s iPhone and Android apps by searching “Seattle Symphony” or “Listen Boldly” at Apple’s App Store or Android’s App Store.

Gala packages include preferred concert seating at the Opening Night Concert at Benaroya Hall, and post-concert cocktails and dinner at the Sheraton Seattle. Complimentary parking at Benaroya Hall and transportation to and from the Sheraton Seattle are included. All table hosts and ticket buyers will receive recognition in the Opening Night Concert & Gala program. Gala tickets start at \$650, and tables start at \$6,500. Tickets and tables can be purchased online at seattlesymphony.org/gala, or by calling Special Events Manager Zoe Funai at (206) 215-4868.

ABOUT LUDOVIC MORLOT



The French conductor Ludovic Morlot has been Music Director of the Seattle Symphony since 2011. Amongst the many highlights of his tenure, the orchestra have won three Grammy Awards and gave an exhilarating performance at Carnegie Hall in 2014, as reported in *The New York Times*: “The performance Mr. Morlot coaxed from his players was rich with shimmering colors and tremulous energy.”

During the 2017–2018 season Morlot and the Seattle Symphony will continue on their incredible musical journey, focusing particularly on the music of Berlioz, Stravinsky and Bernstein. In addition, they will be presenting some exciting new works by John Luther Adams, David Lang and Andrew Norman and welcoming Alexandra Gardner for a residency. The orchestra will also be performing on tour in California, including a two-day residency at the University of California, Berkeley. The orchestra has many successful recordings, available on their own label, Seattle Symphony Media. A box set of music by Dutilleux was recently released to mark the 100th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

This season, Morlot will be conducting at Seattle Opera for the first time (Berlioz *Béatrice et Bénédict*), make his debut with the Orchestra of St Luke’s and will return to the Atlanta and Houston Symphony Orchestras. He has regular relationships with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and New York and Los Angeles philharmonics. Morlot also has a particularly strong connection with the Boston Symphony Orchestra having been Seiji Ozawa Fellowship Conductor in 2001 at Tanglewood and subsequently appointed assistant conductor for the orchestra and their Music Director James Levine (2004–07). Since then he has conducted the orchestra in subscription concerts in Boston, at Tanglewood and on a tour to the west coast of America.

Outside North America, recent and future debuts include the Berliner Philharmoniker, Vienna Symphony (closing concert of the prestigious Wien Modern Festival), Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, MDR Leipzig and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestras. Morlot has conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall in London and on tour in Germany. Other recent notable performances have included the Royal Concertgebouw, Czech Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Tonhalle, Budapest Festival, Orchestre National de France, Helsinki Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. Morlot served as conductor in residence with the Orchestre National de Lyon under David Robertson (2002–04).

Morlot was Chief Conductor of La Monnaie for three years (2012–14). During this time he conducted several new productions including *La Clemenza di Tito*, *Jenůfa* and *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Concert performances, both in Brussels and Aix-en-Provence, included repertoire by Beethoven, Stravinsky, Britten, Webern and Bruneau.

Trained as a violinist, Morlot studied conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in London and then at the Royal College of Music as recipient of the Norman del Mar Conducting Fellowship. Morlot was elected a

Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to music. He is Chair of Orchestral Conducting Studies at the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle.

Photo credit: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

About the Seattle Symphony

The Seattle Symphony is one of America's leading symphony orchestras and is internationally acclaimed for its innovative programming and extensive recording history. Under the leadership of Music Director Ludovic Morlot since September 2011, the Symphony is heard from September through July by more than 500,000 people through live performances and radio broadcasts. It performs in one of the finest modern concert halls in the world — the acoustically superb Benaroya Hall — in downtown Seattle. Its extensive education and community engagement programs reach over 65,000 children and adults each year. The Seattle Symphony has a deep commitment to new music, commissioning many works by living composers each season. The orchestra has made nearly 150 recordings and has received three Grammy Awards, 23 Grammy nominations, two Emmy Awards and numerous other accolades. In 2014 the Symphony launched its in-house recording label, Seattle Symphony Media.

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