



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2017

The Philadelphia Orchestra, Kimmel Center, and Taller Puertorriqueño Partner to Raise Funds for Hurricane Relief Efforts in Puerto Rico During *West Side Story* Concerts

*Full Casting Details Also Announced
Including Grammy Award-winning Mezzo-Soprano Isabel Leonard as Maria*

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[. @philaorchestra](#) @KimmelCenter & @TallerPR partner at “*West Side Story*” concerts to raise funds for hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico

(Philadelphia, October 6, 2017)—[The Philadelphia Orchestra](#), in partnership with The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and local community-based cultural organization Taller Puertorriqueño working as part of Unidos PA'PR, has announced a fundraising initiative during next week's performances of *West Side Story* in Concert led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Verizon Hall (October 12-15, 2017) to assist with hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico. In light of the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria and the closely linked subject matter of the performance, collections will be accepted in the lobby of The Kimmel Center to be distributed through Unidos PA'PR—a coalition of community organizations formed to raise funds for recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. The performances also will serve as a powerful reminder of the ongoing relevancy of Bernstein's work and the continued need for unity, embracing Puerto Rico as a U.S. territory, and awareness of economic conditions in the area.

“We invite everyone to join us for the poignancy of *West Side Story*, particularly during this Bernstein centenary, and to take part in our efforts to help those in need in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria's devastation,” said Orchestra President and CEO Allison Vulgamore. “*West Side Story* remains incredibly

powerful, speaking to societal and economic issues that are still part of our national dialogue 60 years later. These performances will turn the spotlight on our ongoing need for unity, as told in this historic and meaningful work, offered at a historic and meaningful moment for our country.”

“The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is proud to partner with the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra, in helping Puerto Rico rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria,” said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “These *West Side Story* performances are a perfect reminder of the importance of collaboration, especially in a time of crisis, and that together we can make a difference for our friends in need.”

The Kimmel Center is excited to extend the partnership with Taller Puertorriqueño through November’s *La Noche*, a new free Latino Music Series.

Those attending performances can donate cash or by check (made out to “Concilio/UNIDOS PA’PR”) in the lobby of The Kimmel Center before and after performances, as well as during intermission. Those not attending but interested in contributing can donate online at www.elconcilio.net/donate, by text message (text “Donate” to 1.833.215.7277), or by sending checks payable to “Concilio/UNIDOS PA’PR” to 141 East Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19124. Contributions will be donated through various reputable organizations including the Salvation Army and American Red Cross to aid their ongoing efforts in various areas to help those in crisis in Puerto Rico and the surrounding area. More information on how to donate is available on Taller Puertorriqueño’s website at <http://tallerpr.org/2017/09/26/unidos-papr-hurricane-relief-efforts/>.

The Philadelphia Orchestra also has released the full cast listing for the performances of *West Side Story* in Concert, led by Grammy-winning opera star Isabel Leonard as Maria and Drama Desk nominee baritenor Ryan Silverman as Tony. The cast includes several returning artists from the Orchestra’s 2015 presentation of Bernstein’s *MASS*, also led by Nézet-Séguin. A full cast listing can be found below.

More information about the program and tickets can be found at <https://www.philorch.org/concert/17-18/west-side-story-concert/>.

***West Side Story* in Concert**

October 12 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

October 13 at 2:00 PM—Friday afternoon—Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

October 14 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

October 15 at 2:00 PM—Sunday afternoon—Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Kevin Newbury Stage Director
Leslie Stifelman Music Supervisor
Stephanie Klapper Casting Director
Paul Carey Costume Director
Matt McGill Assistant Director
Shannon O'Connor Production Stage Manager
Rich Jacobson Sound Design

Bernstein *West Side Story*

The Jets

Timothy McDevitt Riff (The Leader)
Ryan Silverman Tony (His Friend)
Zachary James Action
Josh Tolle A-Rab
Benjamin Krumreig Baby John
Alex Ringler Snowboy
Ward Billeisen Big Deal
Nicolas Dromard Diesel
Jeff Smith Gee-tar
Cameron Bartell Mouthpiece

The Sharks

Nathaniel Stampley Bernardo (The Leader)
Isabel Leonard Maria (His Sister)
Isabel Santiago Anita (His Girl)
Pepe Nufrio Pepe
Mario Diaz-Moresco Indio
Yurel Echezarreta Luis
Anthony Whitson-Martini Anxious
Ethan Simpson Juano
Anthony Chatmon II Moose

The Shark Girls

Nora Schell Rosalia
Mikaela Bennett Consuelo
Desiree Davar Teresita
Christine DiGiallonardo Francisca
Nicole Fragala Estella
Michelle Alves Margarita
Morgan James A Girl

The Bernstein Centennial Celebration in its entirety is made possible in part by the generous support of the Presser Foundation.

About [**The Philadelphia Orchestra**](#)

About [**Taller Puertorriqueño**](#)

About [**The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**](#)

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