

MEDIA CONTACT Liz Bacon Brownson
media@novanw.org | 971-212-8034
novanw.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orchestra Nova Northwest Presents

TESTIMONY: Prokofiev, Shostakovich & Stalin, Featuring the Piano Power of Yaron Kohlberg in a Bold Program of Musical Resilience and Resistance

Portland, OR – April 2025 – Orchestra Nova Northwest (ONN) invites you to experience *Testimony*—a sweeping and emotionally charged program that honors the enduring power of music to bear witness, speak truth, and inspire resilience.

Led by **Music Director Steven Byess**, *Testimony* features two iconic works of the 20th century and the ONN debut of internationally acclaimed pianist **Yaron Kohlberg**, Steinway Artist and President of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. Kohlberg brings his celebrated brilliance and emotional depth to **Sergei Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3**, one of the most dazzling and technically demanding concertos in the piano repertoire. Known for its rhythmic vitality, lyricism, and explosive energy, the piece is a fitting centerpiece for a concert dedicated to the fearless expression of the human spirit.

“I first worked with Yaron in 2009 after he won the silver medal in the Cleveland Competition,” says Byess. “His performance of both Ravel piano concerti in a single program was nothing short of breathtaking. Every time we’ve collaborated since, I’ve witnessed artistry of the highest caliber. We are honored to welcome him to his first performance with Orchestra Nova Northwest.”

The concert culminates in **Dmitri Shostakovich’s monumental Symphony No. 10**—a powerful, haunting response to the death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Both tragic and defiant, the symphony is widely interpreted as a coded musical indictment of totalitarianism and a celebration of personal courage. Performed by the full forces of the orchestra, this rarely presented masterwork remains a compelling and relevant “testimony” to resilience and resistance in the face of oppression.

“This concert reflects Orchestra Nova Northwest’s ongoing commitment to musical excellence, accessibility, and diverse storytelling,” says Executive Director Kevin Irving. “Through intentional programming that resonates historically and emotionally, we aim to amplify voices that challenge, connect, and inspire.”

Dedicated to making music accessible across Portland, ONN performs on both east and west sides.

Saturday, May 17, 2025 | 7:30 PM

EAST SIDE: Mt. Hood Community College | Gresham, OR

Sunday, May 18, 2025 | 3:00 PM

WEST SIDE: Patricia Reser Center for the Arts | Beaverton, OR

Testimony promises to be an unforgettable live performance—an invitation to feel the boldness, beauty, and emotional truth that only music can express.

Tickets and more information available at orchestranovanorthwest.org.

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SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW

May 17 – Tickets available at novanw.org

May 18 – Tickets available exclusively through The Reser Box Office

Phone: 971-501-7722 **Email:** boxoffice@thereser.org **Website:** thereser.org

Note to Journalists: Steven Byess, and Yaron Kohlberg are available for print, online, and broadcast interviews. If you would like more information on our season or would like to schedule an interview, please contact Liz Bacon Brownson at media@novanw.org or by calling 971-212-8034.

About Yaron Kohlberg —Yaron Kohlberg, born in Jerusalem, has performed in over 40 countries across five continents, with appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Kremlin, the Concertgebouw, and more. Winner of ten international competitions and fluent in six languages, Kohlberg is known for his artistry, innovation, and commitment to cross-cultural dialogue through music. He also performs worldwide with the Israeli-Palestinian piano duo *Duo Amal*, promoting peace through artistic collaboration. [Read more here.](#)

About Steven Byess —Steven Byess is a dynamic and passionate conductor, hailed by critics as “masterful and brilliant,” “creating the epitome of instrumental elegance,” and capturing “the full spirit and vitality of the score perfectly.” Recognized for his musical versatility, multi-faceted presence on the podium, and passion for music education, he is devoted to promoting a life-long love and enthusiasm for music and the arts. [Read more here.](#)

About Orchestra Nova Northwest (ONN) —Playing a critical role in the artistic landscape of the Portland Metro area, ONN provides affordable and comfortable concert environments for audiences of all kinds, while also providing competitive, creative jobs and opportunities for the area’s leading freelance professionals, music educators, and newly established conservatory-trained musicians. As the only orchestra that performs regularly in East County,

ONN continues to invest in communities and areas in our region that have been historically under-represented and complements its concert programming with multiple educational and outreach initiatives aimed at enlarging the audience for symphonic music in our region. [Read more here.](#)

For more information, visit www.novanw.org