



# TESTIMONY

Prokofiev, Shostakovich & Stalin

Yaron Kohlberg, Soloist



MAY 17, 2025 @ 7:30 PM | MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MAY 18, 2025 @ 3:00 PM | THE RESER

# WELCOME TO TESTIMONY!

From Music Director Steven Byess

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to **Testimony**, an unforgettable orchestral program featuring the electrifying **Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3** and the sweeping and profound **Symphony No. 10** of Dmitri **Shostakovich**.

The Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 is one of the most challenging concertos in the repertoire, and we are fortunate to present the internationally acclaimed pianist **Yaron Kohlberg**, who will bring his enthusiasm, artistry, and brilliance to every note. I first collaborated with Yaron in 2009, just after he was awarded the silver medal in the Cleveland International Piano Competition. In that program, Yaron dazzled everyone by performing both of the piano concerti of Maurice Ravel! I've had the honor to collaborate numerous times since with Yaron in many locations around the United States, and every performance has been breathtaking. I am honored to present Yaron in his first collaboration with Orchestra Nova Northwest.

The program culminates in **Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10** – an extraordinary work that is a profound testament to the resilience of human spirit in the face of adversity. This rich and monumental work is a musical rebuke of the oppressive regime of Joseph Stalin, written immediately after the death of the Soviet dictator, and it will feature the entire orchestra.

Thank you for attending a performance of our extraordinary Orchestra Nova Northwest. We invite you to experience moments of boldness, beauty, and resilience in this powerful celebration of music's enduring voice.



Steven Byess, Music Director



## PLEASE BE COURTEOUS OF THOSE LISTENING AROUND YOU

Please silence your cell phones and other devices during the concert. Flash photography and recording of any kind are prohibited.

# ORCHESTRA NOVA NORTHWEST

Saturday, May 17, 2025 • 7:30 PM • Mt. Hood Community College • Gresham

Sunday, May 18, 2025 • 3:00 PM • Patricia Reser Center for the Arts • Beaverton

## TESTIMONY

Steven Byess, Conductor

Yaron Kohlberg, Piano

### **Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26 (1921)**

I. Andante – Allegro

II. Tema con variazioni

III. Allegro ma non troppo

Mr. Kohlberg, *Piano*

SERGEI PROKOFIEV

(1891-1953)

### INTERMISSION

### **Symphony No. 10 in E minor, Op. 93 (1946-1953)**

I. Moderato

II. Allegro

III. Allgretto – Largo – Più mosso

IV. Andante – Allegro

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH

(1906-1975)

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORKS ON THIS PROGRAM

For insight and commentary from Concertmaster Casey Bozell, scan this code and choose either a video or audio podcast.



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# ABOUT ORCHESTRA NOVA NORTHWEST

## Oregon's Progressive Orchestra

**Founded in 1982 as Palatine Hills Symphony, Orchestra Nova Northwest (ONN) has become a cornerstone of the Portland metro arts scene.** Over the decades, it has evolved under the leadership of John Trudeau, Huw Edwards, and, since 2014, Steven Byess, growing in both artistic excellence and community impact. Renamed Orchestra Nova Northwest in 2024, the orchestra is known for its bold and inclusive programming, blending masterful renditions of classical works with innovative and diverse repertoire.

As the only orchestra that regularly performs in East Multnomah County, ONN is deeply committed to making symphonic music accessible to a wide audience. Through affordable concert experiences, the orchestra fosters a love for live music, while also intentionally creating space each season to showcase living, local, and under-represented composers and collaborators who represent our diverse and changing community. Beyond the concert hall, ONN invests in the community through educational and outreach initiatives, ensuring that symphonic music continues to inspire and connect people across the region.



# MEET THE MAESTRO

Artistic Vision. Musical Leadership.



## STEVEN BYESS Conductor

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.

Steven is celebrating his 11th season as Music Director of Orchestra Nova Northwest (formerly Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra, and also serves as the music director of the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra, and the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the U.S. premiere of Russian violinist Alexander Markov’s Rock Concerto at Carnegie Hall in New York, and was selected by Walt Disney World Entertainment to conduct the 2000 NFL E\*TRADE Super Bowl Halftime show, where he performed for a television audience of 88 million fans.

As a passionate advocate for the arts, Steven is sought after for his speeches on the arts, music, and education, and has organized collaborations with numerous choruses, chamber music ensembles, and festivals. He wrote and co-directed a PBS presentation, Count On It!, designed to connect music and mathematics for children grades K-3. Since 2013, he has shared this passion with over 80,000 children around the country as a conductor of the Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute Link Up orchestral education concerts.

Steven is the former associate music director of the Ohio Light Opera where he conducted over 80 productions and 21 commercial recordings, including repertoire ranging from well- to little-known operas and operettas to blockbuster classic American musical theater works.

Maestro Byess’ podium is sponsored by Grant & Gretchen Hatton and Lindsay & Christopher Kolar, in honor of Marjorie Beam.

# MEET OUR GUEST ARTIST

Global Artist. Master Pianist. Messenger of Peace.



## YARON KOHLBERG Soloist, Piano

Described as “the pianist with golden hands,” Yaron Kohlberg is one of Israel’s most acclaimed pianists. He has performed in over 40 countries across five continents, including prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kremlin, the Concertgebouw, and Beijing’s Forbidden City. A Steinway Artist and winner of ten international competitions—including the silver

medal at the 2007 Cleveland International Piano Competition—Kohlberg is known for his passionate artistry, dynamic stage presence, and cross-cultural curiosity.

Currently the President of Piano Cleveland, Kohlberg is helping to shape the future of classical music through innovative programming and artist development initiatives. He co-created Virtu(al)oso, a global virtual piano competition launched during the pandemic, and The Listening Series, designed to deepen audience engagement. His leadership reflects a strong commitment to expanding access and visibility for young artists and diverse audiences alike.

Kohlberg’s creative approach to performance includes blending classical repertoire with transcriptions of popular music and storytelling, making his concerts accessible, engaging, and surprising. He regularly performs with Duo Amal, an Israeli-Palestinian piano duo dedicated to using music as a bridge for peace and dialogue. Their performances have taken them to venues including the United Nations in Geneva and earned invitations from the Vatican.

Fluent in six languages and deeply engaged in international collaboration, Kohlberg continues to explore how music can foster connection, creativity, and empathy across borders.



# ORCHESTRA NOVA NORTHWEST

**Steven Byess, Conductor**

*Podium Sponsored by Grant & Gretchen Hatton and Lindsay & Christopher Kolar, In Honor of Marjorie Beam*

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*Section sponsored by the Anne Emery Kylo Fund*

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Margaret McShea, Principal

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Jen Harrison, Principal\*\*

Kyli White, Acting Principal

Derek Gustafson

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James Smock, Principal

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Jason Gunderson

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Greg Scholl, Principal

John Warton

John Ohnstad, Principal Bass

Trombone\*\*

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Li Kuang, Acting Principal Bass

Trombone

## Tuba

James Kuzmic

## Timpani

Will Reno

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## Percussion

Mitchell Vogel, Principal

David Priore

Mike Romanaggi

## Harp

Bethany Evans\*\*

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\*\* Not featured in the *Testimony* concert



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