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KCTS 9 PREMIERES *THE ALL-STAR ORCHESTRA* ON FRIDAY JULY 19

New series features top orchestral musicians in an innovative format designed to encourage greater understanding of classical music



Gerard Schwarz, *The All-Star Orchestra* (Steve Sherman photo)

SEATTLE—KCTS 9 is proud to announce that *The All-Star Orchestra*—a new WNET/American Public Television series —premieres on **Friday, July 19 at 10:00 pm**. The series gives Pacific Northwest viewers a free, front row seat to the world's greatest classical music, performed by top orchestral musicians in the country and led by Music Director Gerard Schwarz, who served for 26 acclaimed seasons as music director of the Seattle Symphony.

The All-Star orchestra—the classical version of a 95-person “pick-up” ensemble—gathered in New York for four intense days in August 2012 to create a unique performance series where the cameras were allowed to roam freely during the performance, creating an unprecedented “up close and personal” experience for a broad television audience. *The All-Star Orchestra* musicians represent orchestras from across the country including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the National

Symphony Orchestra, the New York City Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony. The musicians from the Pacific Northwest are John Cerminaro, French horn, who resides in Seattle and currently plays for the New York Philharmonic; Evan Kuhlmann, bassoon and contrabassoon, from the Oregon Symphony Orchestra; and Mara Gearman, viola; Jonathan Karschney, French horn; Chris Olka, tuba; Kimberley Russ, keyboard instruments; and Ko-ichiro Yamamoto, trombone; from the Seattle Symphony.

Each one hour program, designed to appeal to classical music neophytes and connoisseurs alike, combines a popular symphonic masterpiece with an exciting, short new work by a leading American composer. The dynamic performances—recorded with nineteen high-definition cameras—are prefaced by lively commentary and storytelling, with behind the scenes shots offering a first-hand look at how music-makers bring music to life.

"My passion has always been to bring great music to as large an audience as possible and the best way to accomplish that is through television," said Maestro Schwarz. "One of the highlights of my wonderful tenure at the Seattle Symphony was the numerous collaborations with KCTS 9; especially our two Emmy Award-winning programs, *Live from Benaroya Hall*. From those shows came the idea about *The All-Star Orchestra*, with a few differences. We have assembled a truly All-Star orchestra from thirty orchestras around the country including six musicians from Seattle."

Each episode of *The All-Star Orchestra* pairs a familiar masterwork with a contemporary symphonic piece from an American composer. For example, Episode #2's "What Makes a Masterpiece" combines Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Phillip Glass's *Harmonium Masterpiece* in an exploration of the creative process. Through interviews and commentary, Gerard Schwarz, the All-Star musicians, and special guests provide background and share the living tradition of each score, providing viewers with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the music.

"This is the first time in probably sixty years that orchestral music has been recorded in our country without the concern of infringing on the enjoyment of the audience," said Maestro Schwarz. "The cameras could venture anywhere that was required by our producer and director to enhance the enjoyment of a television audience. I am so excited that this series of great music will have its initial airing on KCTS 9 for the great music-loving audience of the Pacific Northwest, and for a new generation of music lovers of all ages."

***The All-Star Orchestra* will air on Fridays at 10:00 pm on KCTS 9, beginning on July 19.** The eight episodes are:

- July 19: Episode #1: *Music for the Theatre*
- July 26: Episode #2: *What Makes A Masterpiece?*
- Aug. 2: Episode #3: *The New World and Its Music*
- Aug. 9: Episode #4: *Politics and Art*
- Aug. 16: Episode #5: *Relationships In Music*
- Aug. 23: Episode #6: *The Living Art Form*

Aug. 30: Episode #7: *Music's Emotional Impact*
Sept. 6: Episode #8: *Mahler: Love, Sorrow and Transcendence*

The All-Star Orchestra's thrilling performances, filmed during a four-day "summit" in New York's historic The Grand at Manhattan Center, will inspire audiences for classical music via public television, DVDs, and websites dedicated to music education. "For me," said Maestro Schwarz, "this project is not only the most important work of my life, but one that will enhance the enjoyment of classical music for all."

For more information about *The All-Star Orchestra* including a detailed description of each episode, visit <http://allstarorchestra.org/>. For images or to arrange an interview with *The All-Star Orchestra's* series creator Maestro Gerard Schwarz, contact [Hilda Cullen](#). For more information about KCTS 9 programs and initiatives, visit KCTS9.org.

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About KCTS 9

KCTS 9 brings quality public television programming to 2.7 million viewers each week in Western and Central Washington State, British Columbia and across Canada. To watch or learn more about any of our programs, visit KCTS9.org.



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The All-Star Orchestra (Steve Sherman photo)