

PRESS RELEASE



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**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

April 12, 2012

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TO PERFORM IN PORT OF SPAIN**

The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) will perform in Port of Spain on June 15, 2012, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Trinidad and Tobago.

The concert is part of the Orchestra's first international concert tour of the Americas, which begins June 12, 2012, in Mexico City, under the leadership of Music Director Christoph Eschenbach.

The Orchestra will also perform in Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina; Montevideo, Uruguay; and three concerts in Brazil, two of which will take place in São Paulo and one in Rio de Janeiro.

While on tour, members of the NSO have been invited to give master classes at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, Maestro Eschenbach will work with the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Philharmonic.

"I am very pleased to be making my first international tour with my wonderful orchestra," said Christoph Eschenbach.

"Part of my goal for the National Symphony is to bring this great orchestra to wider recognition. It is especially pleasing that this tour visits a part of the world that occupies a very important place in the NSO's history, as it does in mine. One of my very earliest tours as a pianist included

many of the same countries we will visit, and to this day I remember the warmth and welcome of the audiences. I'm sure that our concerts will be enjoyed by our audiences, and will contribute to greater international artistic friendship.”

“The NSO’s touring history began in South America a little over 50 years ago, so it seems especially appropriate that our first tour with Maestro Eschenbach will take us to several of the countries we visited then,” said Executive Director Rita Shapiro.

“In addition, we look forward to exploring opportunities for our musicians to interact with local students and musicians.”

The repertoire for the tour includes *Blue Blazes*, a new work by American composer Sean Shepherd, commissioned by the NSO and made possible by the John and June Hechinger Commissioning Fund for New Orchestral Works. The NSO will also perform two symphonies from the standard repertoire: Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7 and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5. The *Roman Carnival Overture* of Berlioz will also be performed, as will the Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier* by Richard Strauss, and Lalo’s Cello Concerto.

Claudio Bohórquez, the soloist in the Cello Concerto, is of Peruvian and Uruguayan descent. Highlights of his current season have included concerts with the Frankfurter Oper- und Museumsorchester, Dresden Philharmonic, and Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos.

NSO Touring: Notes on a Half-Century of Travel

The NSO’s touring history includes many significant milestones. The first international tour was in 1959. It was indeed a mammoth undertaking: twelve weeks, 15,000 miles, and 68 concerts in 19 Latin and South American countries, undertaken as part of President Eisenhower’s Program for Cultural Presentations, a project of the U. S. State Department, for the purpose of building goodwill throughout the region.

Other highlights of NSO touring include two trips to China; the more recent tour took place in 2009, at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture in 2009, marking the 30th anniversary of Sino-U.S. relations. The previous tour to China was in 1999, led by the NSO’s fifth music director, Leonard Slatkin, who also led the NSO in U.S. and European tours.

With Mstislav Rostropovich, in addition to tours of Europe, Asia, and South America, the NSO made two visits to Russia, and in the course of the 1993 tour, gave the first orchestral concert ever performed in Red Square.

2012 Americas Tour Itinerary

Christoph Eschenbach, Music Director

Claudio Bohórquez, cello

Wednesday, June 13

Mexico City

Palacio de Bellas Artes

Friday, June 15

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
National Academy for the Performing Arts

Monday, June 18

Rosario, Argentina
Teatro El Círculo

Thursday, June 21

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Teatro Colón

Friday, June 22

Montevideo, Uruguay
Auditorio Nacional del Sodre

Sunday, June 24

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Teatro Municipal

Monday, June 25

São Paulo, Brazil
Teatro Municipal

Tuesday, June 26

São Paulo, Brazil
Teatro Municipal

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