



National Repertory Orchestra  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The National Repertory Orchestra Announces 2023 Season**

The NRO celebrates its 30-year residency in Breckenridge, two world-premiere commissions, and the return of world-renowned violinist, Midori.



*Allison Taylor, NRO 2021 (left) and Midori (center) with Music Director Michael Stern by Elaine Collins*

**Breckenridge, CO – Friday, February 24, 2023:** The [National Repertory Orchestra](#) (NRO) is thrilled to announce the 2023 Summer Music Festival **"Music Lives Here!"** with Music Director [Michael Stern](#), June 24 through August 12, 2023.

Founded in 1960 in Estes Park, Colorado, by Walter Charles, the NRO will celebrate its **30th year** in [Breckenridge](#). This season, the orchestra will welcome 80 young professional musicians along with extraordinary guest conductors [JoAnn Falletta](#), [Jeffrey Kahane](#), [Ken-David Masur](#), [Tania Miller](#), [Jason Seber](#) and [Carl Topilow, NRO Music Director Laureate](#).

The programming thread artistically explores **The Immigrant Experience** and how it has enhanced the nation. "The importance of new and diverse voices in the United States cannot be understated," said Michael Stern, NRO Music Director. "Composers like Bartók, Stravinsky and Rachmaninoff (who will have a 150th birthday on April 1) left their native countries to seek refuge, creative opportunity and artistic freedom. In turn, they influenced generations of composers, right up to our time, several of whom we will feature this summer at the festival."

To pay homage to **The Immigrant Experience**, the NRO will perform the world-premiere commission *Transplanted Seeds*. "We have the privilege to play a new work by my good friend, composer Chen Yi," said Stern. "At the request of our Board of Trustees President Pam Piper Yeung, and in honor of her husband, Dr. Kai Yeung, Chen Yi has created a musical journey, especially for the NRO. *Transplanted Seeds* became the impetus for our 2023 season theme, incorporating the significance of musicians coming to America."

Other featured **living composers** include NRO Alumnus [David Dzubay](#), [Gabriela Lena Frank](#), [Vivian Fung](#), [Adolphus Hailstork](#), [Timothy Higgins](#), [Gabriel Kahane](#), [Quinn Mason](#), [Ivan Enrique Rodríguez](#), [Roberto Sierra](#) and [Christopher Theofanidis](#).

The festival will also highlight **nine Masterworks** performances with music by Samuel Barber, Béla Bartók, Ludwig van Beethoven, Paul Dukas, Antonín Dvořák, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Gustav Mahler, Sergei Prokofiev, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Maurice Ravel, Dmitri Shostakovich, Richard Strauss, Igor Stravinsky and more.

The inaugural concert of the season will be **"Opening Night - 30 years in Breckenridge."** To commemorate the National Repertory Orchestra's first historic performance at the [Riverwalk Center in Breckenridge](#) three decades ago, patrons will hear the world-premiere commission *Ridgeline* by NRO Alumnus Dr. David Dzubay, who was a trumpet fellow in 1988 and 1989. Dr. Dzubay's *Fanfare for Orchestra* was performed at the opening concert in June 1993.

The NRO is especially delighted to announce the return of [Midori](#), one of the **most outstanding violinists of our time**. Audiences can see the concert **"Midori Serenade"** at the Riverwalk Center in Breckenridge and Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts in Denver. Midori will perform Leonard Bernstein's *Serenade* (after Plato's *Symposium*) with the NRO and conductor Michael Stern.

National Repertory Orchestra musicians will continue to participate in complimentary performances throughout the community. Free full orchestral shows will include **"NRO on the Lake - Music from the Movies"** at Dillon Amphitheater, the **"Fourth of July Spectacular"** at Rainbow Park in Silverthorne, and the **"Free Family and Kids Concert"** at the Riverwalk Center in Breckenridge.

In addition to a robust orchestral schedule, the NRO will offer **over 40 free interactive education and community engagement** performances throughout Summit County and beyond. Most NRO rehearsals will also be open to the public. All are welcome! Other notable concerts are **"Topilow Pops!"** and **"Disney's 'The Lion King' in Concert"** with Hans Zimmer's Oscar®-winning musical score performed live to the film.

## **NATIONAL REPERTORY ORCHESTRA - SEASON AT A GLANCE**

**"Music Lives Here!"**

**June 24 - August 12, 2023**

\*Please note soloists and concertos will be announced in April.

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### **OPENING NIGHT - 30 YEARS IN BRECKENRIDGE**

Saturday, June 24 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor

#### **On the Program**

**David Dzubay:** *Ridgeline* - World Premiere, National Repertory Orchestra Commission

**Adolphus Hailstork:** Fanfare on *Amazing Grace*

**Timothy Higgins:** *Sinfonietta*

**Richard Strauss:** Serenade, Op. 7

**Ralph Vaughan-Williams:** *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*

**Béla Bartók:** Concerto for Orchestra

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### **NRO ON THE LAKE - MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES**

Wednesday, June 28 - 6:00 PM / Dillon Amphitheater

*Free / No tickets required.*

**Michael Stern**, conductor

#### **On the Program**

**Paul Dukas:** *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

**Samuel Barber:** Adagio for Strings

Complete program to be announced.

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### **JEFFREY AND GABRIEL KAHANE - FAMILY TIES**

Saturday, July 1 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Jeffrey Kahane**, conductor and piano

**Michael Stern**, conductor

#### **On the Program**

**Gabriel Kahane:** *Heirloom*, Concerto for piano and orchestra

**Sergei Rachmaninoff:** Symphony No. 2

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**FOURTH OF JULY SPECTACULAR - SILVERTHORNE**

Tuesday, July 4 - 10:00 AM / Rainbow Park, Silverthorne  
*Free / No tickets required.*

**Carl Topilow**, conductor

Program to be announced.

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**FOURTH OF JULY SPECTACULAR - BRECKENRIDGE**

Tuesday, July 4 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Carl Topilow**, conductor

Program to be announced.

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**NRO FREE FAMILY AND KIDS CONCERT**

Thursday, July 6 – 10:00 AM craft and 11:00 AM concert / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge  
*Free / No tickets required.*

**Jason Seber**, conductor

Program to be announced.

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**TOPILOW POPS!**

Saturday, July 8 – 6:00PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Carl Topilow**, conductor

Program to be announced.

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## BEETHOVEN AND SHOSTAKOVICH - SYMPHONIC BEGINNINGS

Wednesday, July 12 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor

NRO soloist

### On the Program

**Vivian Fung:** *Prayer*

**Ludwig van Beethoven:** Symphony No.1

**TBD:** Concerto

**Dmitri Shostakovich:** Symphony No. 1

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## STRAVINSKY *PETRUSHKA*

Saturday, July 15 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Tania Miller**, conductor

NRO soloist

### On the Program

**Quinn Mason:** *A Joyous Trilogy*

**TBD:** Concerto

**Igor Stravinsky:** *Petrushka* (1947)

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## MOZART, CHÁVEZ AND CHEN YI - TRANSPLANTED VOICES

Wednesday, July 19 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor

NRO soloist

### On the Program

**Chen Yi:** *Transplanted Seeds* - World Premiere, National Repertory Orchestra Commission made possible through the generous support of Dr. Kai Yiu Yeung and Pam Piper Yeung

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:** Symphony No. 41

**Carlos Chávez:** *Sinfonía india*

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## **MIDORI SERENADE – BRECKENRIDGE**

Saturday, July 22 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor

**Midori**, violin

### **On the Program**

**Samuel Barber:** *Medea's Dance of Vengeance*

**Leonard Bernstein:** *Serenade* (after Plato's *Symposium*)

**Iván Enrique Rodríguez:** *Luminis*

**Maurice Ravel:** *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2

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## **MIDORI SERENADE – DENVER**

Sunday, July 23 - 3:00 PM /

Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, Denver

**Michael Stern**, conductor

**Midori**, violin

### **On the Program**

**Samuel Barber:** *Medea's Dance of Vengeance*

**Leonard Bernstein:** *Serenade* (after Plato's *Symposium*)

**Iván Enrique Rodríguez:** *Luminis*

**Maurice Ravel:** *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2

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## **DISNEY'S "THE LION KING"**

**with Hans Zimmer's Oscar®-winning musical score performed live to the film**

Saturday, July 29 - 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Jason Seber**, conductor

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## **PROKOFIEV *ROMEO AND JULIET***

Wednesday, August 2 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**JoAnn Falletta**, conductor

NRO soloist

### **On the Program**

**Roberto Sierra:** *Fandangos*

**TBD:** Concerto

**Sergei Prokofiev:** *Romeo and Juliet* Suite

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## **MAHLER'S WORLD – SYMPHONY NO. 5**

Saturday, August 5 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor

### **On the Program**

**TBD:** Concerto

**Gustav Mahler:** Symphony No. 5

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## **DVOŘÁK - AMERICAN CONNECTIONS**

Wednesday, August 9 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Ken-David Masur**, conductor

NRO soloist

### **On the Program**

**Gabriela Lena Frank:** *Three Latin American Dances*

**TBD:** Concerto

**Antonin Dvořák:** Symphony No. 7

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## **STRAUSS - A HERO'S LIFE**

Saturday, August 12 - 6:00 PM / Riverwalk Center, Breckenridge

**Michael Stern**, conductor  
NRO soloist

### **On the Program**

**Christopher Theofanidis:** *Rainbow Body*

**TBD:** Concerto

**Richard Strauss:** *Ein Heldenleben*

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*Concerts are subject to change at any time.*

### **Learn More:**

To explore repertoire, season passes and ticket combinations, go to [NROmusic.org](https://www.nromusic.org). All ticket proceeds directly benefit the National Repertory Orchestra.

### **Season Passes:**

Season passes range from \$182 - \$364 and will be available to **2022 pass holders** beginning on **Monday, March 6** by calling the NRO office at 970-453-5825.

Public season pass sales will open on Tuesday, April 4 by contacting the Riverwalk Center Ticket Office at 970-547-3100.

### **Pick 10 and Pick 6:**

Pick 10 passes range from \$170 - \$320 while Pick 6 options are \$108 - \$216. The combo packs will go on sale to the public on Tuesday, April 4 by contacting the Riverwalk Center Ticket Office at 970-547-3100.

### **Individual Tickets:**

Adult tickets for the 2023 National Repertory Orchestra Summer Music Festival will be on sale Tuesday, April 4 and range from \$20 - \$55 at [NROmusic.org](https://www.nromusic.org) or by contacting the Riverwalk Center Ticket Office at 970-547-3100. Youth ages 17 and under are always just **\$5** per concert.

Tickets for **Midori Serenade – Denver** at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts will be available in April at [NROmusic.org](https://www.nromusic.org) or through the Box Office at 303-871-7720.

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## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL REPERTORY ORCHESTRA**

Under the leadership of Music Director [Michael Stern](#), the [National Repertory Orchestra](#) (NRO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a preeminent intensive fellowship that develops diverse, thoughtful and socially conscious musicians through experiential learning. The NRO inspires young professional musicians to be great leaders in their communities while *Changing Lives Through Music!*

Founded in 1960 in Estes Park by cellist Walter Charles as the “Blue Jeans Symphony,” the NRO has taken residencies in the most spectacular Colorado locations, including Evergreen, Keystone and, currently, Breckenridge. [Carl Topilow](#) was Music Director from 1978 until 2020 and maintains an active role with the orchestra as Music Director Laureate.

During the summer, audiences can enjoy the NRO’s music festival starring some of the most talented musicians on the planet. The remarkable season also features a multitude of interactive community engagement events, education initiatives, and full orchestral concerts with renowned guest conductors and artists. Currently, there are NRO alums in every major orchestra throughout the nation!

Find us at [NROmusic.org](#) to see concert, event, audition, donation information and to download the free NRO app.

Stay connected @NROmusic all year long via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

**HASHTAGS:** #NROmusic #NRO2023 #NROBreck30

## **ABOUT MICHAEL STERN**

Conductor **Michael Stern** has long been devoted to building and leading highly acclaimed orchestras known not only for their impeccable musicianship and creative programming, but also for collaborative, sustainable cultures that often include a vision of music as service to the community. He also is passionate about working with young musicians not only in music making, but also to incorporate the idea of “service” into their experiences.

Stern currently holds three Music Director positions: with the Kansas City Symphony, where he will be concluding his 19-year tenure at the end of the 2023-2024 season; with the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer music festival in Breckenridge, CO; and with the newly rebranded Orchestra Lumos (formerly the Stamford Symphony). Stern was recently named Artistic Advisor of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. And, following a 22-year tenure as founding Artistic Director of Iris Orchestra in Germantown, Tennessee, he now serves the newly reimagined Iris Collective as Artistic Advisor.

During Stern's tenure with the Kansas City Symphony, he and the orchestra have been recognized for their remarkable artistic ascent, original programming, organizational development, stability, and extraordinary audience growth. Under Stern's leadership, the orchestra explored a wide range of repertoire, including commissioned work, some of which was recorded for the GRAMMY® Award-winning Reference Recordings. The orchestra's most recent recording was released in the fall of 2022 and featured three works by Brahms arranged for orchestra by Bright Sheng, Virgil Thomson and Arnold Schoenberg.

Stern co-founded Iris Orchestra in 2000 and was Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor until 2021-22, when he had planned to step down from his post. With his departure, staff, community and musicians reinvented the orchestra as the Iris Collective, which will offer a spectrum of events while also prioritizing a variety of community engagement initiatives. The Iris Collective will team up with a number of creative partners, including Stern, who will also continue his involvement as Artistic Advisor.

As part of his ongoing activities to engage and mentor young musicians, he was asked by Yo-Yo Ma to be the Music Director of YMCG, Youth Music Culture Guangdong; he was also invited to the National Orchestral Institute, Music Academy of the West, and has been a regular guest at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Stern's illustrious American conducting engagements have included the Boston, Chicago and Atlanta Symphonies; the New York Philharmonic; and the Minnesota Orchestra. Stern has also served as guest conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Internationally, he has led major orchestras in London, Stockholm, Paris, Helsinki, Budapest, Israel, Moscow, Taiwan, and Tokyo. As Chief Conductor of Germany's Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra, he was the first American chief conductor in the orchestra's history; he was also Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre National de Lyon in France and the Orchestre National de Lille, France.

Stern received his music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where his primary teacher was the noted conductor and scholar Max Rudolf.

Michael Stern makes his home in Connecticut, with his two daughters.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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