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Four conductors will compete for NBSO baton

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Zoom
David Amado JIM GRAHAM PHOTO

By Keith Powers
Contributing writer

Posted May. 5, 2016 at 2:01 AM

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Life goes on — in this case, the musical life of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. Next season, the NBSO will be guest conducted by the four candidates to replace outgoing maestro David MacKenzie.



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"We received more than 100 applications from all over the world, including Europe," says [Name]. "What impressed us was the level of musicianship. We selected some of the best from all over the country. They also all have a strong background about what an orchestra means to a community."

The program has a piano concerto, a familiar symphonic work, and the candidates, and will be performed during the 2016-'17 season.

Oct. 15: Guest conductor Christopher James Lees; guest artist, Alexander Schimpf, piano.

Lees' program for opening night of the season includes a work by young American composer Adam Schoenberg, "Finding Rothko," Grieg's famous piano concerto, and Dvorak's Symphony



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Born in Washington, D.C., Lees serves as music director for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. He has

previously guest conducted many orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he was a Dudamel conducting fellow, and in Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Aspen, Cabrillo and elsewhere.

Lees studied at the University of Michigan, and counts Robert Spano and Larry Rachleff as conducting mentors. An active pianist, and strong advocate for contemporary music, Lees lives with his wife, soprano Lindsay Kesselman, and son Rowan, in North Carolina.

Nov. 12: Guest conductor David Amado; guest artist, Diane Walsh, piano

Amado's program includes Bernard Herrmann's "Psycho Suite" — from the soundtrack of the famous "shower scene" film — Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20, and Berlioz' "Symphonie fantastique."

Amado has been music director of the Delaware Symphony since 2003. Trained at Juilliard and Indiana, where he studied conducting with Otto-Werner Mueller, he has also been associate conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He was a founder of the contemporary music ensemble Sequitur. Amado has guest-conducted widely, including engagements with orchestras in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Stockholm, Houston and Toronto. A Philadelphia native, he lives in Wilmington, Delaware, with his wife, violinist Meredith Amado, and their three children.

Jan. 21, 2017: Guest conductor Yaniv Dinur; guest artist Yakov Kasman, piano

Dinur has chosen a program that includes John Adams' "Short Ride in a Fast Machine," Rachmaninov's fourth piano concerto, and Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony.

Israeli-born Dinur serves as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's associate conductor, named to that position this year. He also teaches and conducts at the American University in Washington, D.C. He debuted at age 19, conducting the Israel Camerata, and has led the Israel Philharmonic and the Jerusalem Symphony. Dinur also lectures regularly about the connections between classical music and architecture, the visual arts, and pop music. He holds a doctorate in conducting from the University of Michigan.

Feb. 18, 2017: Guest conductor Dirk Meyer; guest artist Sheng Cai, piano

Miguel del Aguila's "The Giant Guitar" opens Meyer's program, which also includes Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto and Rachmaninov's Second Symphony.

German-born conductor Meyer is music director of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera of the North (also in Duluth), and is the principal guest conductor at the Sarasota Orchestra. This past season he was also one of the finalists for the position of music director at the Orlando Philharmonic (subsequently awarded to Eric Jacobsen). Meyer studied at Folkwang Conservatory (music) and the University Duisburg-Essen (philosophy), and holds master's and doctoral degrees from Michigan State.

The 2016-17 season will also feature a return visit from the retiring maestro, as well as a prominent guest conductor — not one of the candidate finalists. MacKenzie conducts two performances of Family Holiday Pops on Dec. 17. And Ken-David Masur, associate conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (and son of the late Kurt Masur), leads the music of John Williams April 29.

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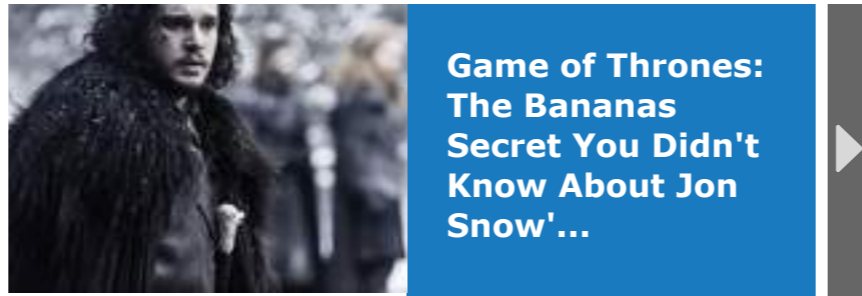
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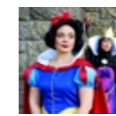
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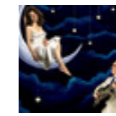
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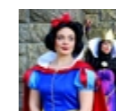
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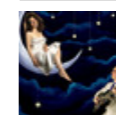
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