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Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

*Great Performances* Presents New York Philharmonic’s Semi-Staged Oratorio Conducted by Long Yu Friday, October 25 on PBS

**Synopsis:**

The New York Philharmonic and an international cast perform this semi-staged oratorio that tells the story of Jewish refugees during World War II. Following 1938’s Kristallnacht, two brothers are sent halfway around the world to Shanghai to escape the Nazis. Otto cherishes his heritage, while Josef seeks a new path and falls in love with Lina, a Chinese woman recovering from the death of her mother in the Nanjing Massacre. A tale of love and loss directed by **Mary Birnbaum** and conducted by **Long Yu**, ***Great Performances –*** ***Émigré: A Musical Drama with the NY Phil*** is set to music by film and concert composer **Aaron Zigman** with lyrics by Grammy-winning librettist **Mark Campbell** and additional lyrics by **Brock Walsh**. Co-commissioned by Maestro Long Yu, the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, the 90-minute production was filmed on February 29 and March 1, 2024, at Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall, home of the New York Philharmonic. ***Great Performances – Émigré: A Musical Drama with the NY Phil*** premieres Friday, October 25 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [pbs.org/gperf](http://pbs.org/gperf) and the [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/).

**Talent:**

* Aaron Zigman – Composer
* Mark Campbell – Lyrics
* Brock Walsh – Additional lyrics
* Mary Birnbaum – Stage director
* Michael Beyer – Director for television
* Long Yu – Conductor
* Matthew White – Otto Bader
* Arnold Livingston Geis – Josef Bader
* Huiling Zhu – Li Song
* Meigui Zhang – Lina Song
* Shenyang – Wei Song
* Diana Newman – Tovah Odesska
* Andrew Dwan – Yaakov Odesska
* New York Philharmonic Chorus – Jewish refugees, Shanghai citizens, and more
* Kristen Robinson – Scenic designer
* Oana Botez - Costume designer
* Yuki Nakase Link – Lighting designer
* Joshua Higgason – Projection designer
* Krystal Balleza, Will Vicari – Hair and Makeup designers

**Noteworthy Facts:**

* Composer Aaron Zigman is a classically trained American composer, producer, arranger, songwriter, and musician who has scored music for films including “The Notebook,” “The Company Men,” “Bridge to Terabithia,” “John Q.,” “The Proposal,” “For Colored Girls,” “Sex and the City” and many more.
* Conductor Long Yu is the Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director & Chief Conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.
* The work is a co-commission with Maestro Long Yu, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic.

**Series overview:**

For more than 50 years on PBS, ***Great Performances***has provided an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America’s most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. Showcasing a diverse range of artists from around the world, the series has earned 67 Emmy Awards and six Peabody Awards. The [***Great Performances*** website](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/) hosts exclusive videos, interviews, photos, full episodes and more. The series is produced by The WNET Group. ***Great Performances***is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/) and the [PBS App,](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/) available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

**Production credits:**

A production of Deutsche Grammophon and Bernhard Fleischer Moving Images in collaboration with the New York Philharmonic, *Emigre: A Musical Drama with the NY Phil* was directed for television by Michael Beyer; Bernhard Fleischer and Julie Kim are Executive Producers. For ***Great Performances***, Bill O’Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

**Funding:**

Series funding for ***Great Performances*** is provided by The Joseph & Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, the Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc., Jody and John Arnhold, The Starr Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Leni and Peter May, Seton J. Melvin, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Blanche and Hayward Cirker Charitable Trust, the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, Ellen and James S. Marcus, and The Sylvia A. and Simon B. Poyta Programming Endowment to Fight Antisemitism.

**Websites:**[http://pbs.org/gperf](http://www.pbs.org/gperf), [http://facebook.com/GreatPerformances](http://www.facebook.com/GreatPerformances), [@GPerfPBS](http://twitter.com/gperfpbs), <http://youtube.com/greatperformancespbs>, [giphy.com/great-performances](https://giphy.com/great-performances/) #GreatPerformancesPBS

**About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](http://wnet.org/) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York’s [THIRTEEN](http://thirteen.org/) – America’s flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](http://wliw.org/), THIRTEEN PBS KIDS, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](https://www.mynjpbs.org/), New Jersey’s statewide public television network; Long Island’s only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](http://allarts.org/), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News;](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/) and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment, and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group’s award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters,*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs like ***NJ Spotlight News******with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group’s award-winning Kids’ Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding, and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

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