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*Great Performances* Celebrates Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Music Director Laureate Marin Alsop in *The Conductor*, Premiering March 25 on PBS

Features previously unseen archival footage with mentor Leonard Bernstein

***Great Performances: The Conductor*** tells the story of the first female conductor of a major symphony, Marin Alsop. Documenting Alsop’s journey from playing the violin as an ambitious nine-year-old who longed to conduct, to attending Juilliard, to creating her own all-female string orchestra and swing band, to ultimately becoming music director of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Despite repeated rejection from the classical music establishment, Alsop persevered and blazed her own trail which gained her attention as a conductor and opened new opportunities for her that led to studying with legendary composer Leonard Bernstein. Featuring *cinema verité* scenes of Alsop conducting some of the world’s great orchestras, the new #PBSForTheArts documentary, ***Great Performances: The Conductor***, premieres Friday, March 25 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS [(check local listings)](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/), [pbs.org/gperf](http://www.pbs.org/gperf) and the [PBS Video app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/) in celebration of Women’s History month.

Set to a carefully curated soundtrack, ***Great Performances: The Conductor*** tells Alsop’s story through a combination of rehearsal and performance footage from Baltimore, Brazil, Switzerland, New York City and includes previously unseen archival footage with her mentor Bernstein. The film takes an up-close look at the conductor through intimate interviews with music experts including São Paulo Symphony Orchestra artistic director Arthur Nestrovski, Richmond City Orchestra music director Valentina Peleggi, wife Kristin Jurkscheit, members of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and more.

#PBSForTheArts is a multiplatform campaign that celebrates the arts in America. For more than 50 years, PBS has been the media destination for the arts, presenting dance, theater, opera, visual arts and concerts to Americans in every corner of the country. Previous ***Great Performances*** programs include *Romeo & Juliet* from the National Theatre, *The Arts Interrupted*, *Coppelia*, *From Vienna: The New Year’s Celebration 2022* and *Reopening: The Broadway Revival*, as well as the upcoming *Movies for Grownups Awards with AARP the Magazine*,premiering Friday, March 18 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings). The collection of #PBSForTheArts programs is available at [pbs.org/arts](http://pbs.org/arts) and the [PBS Video app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/), including [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/) and the [PBS Video 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. Curated conversation and digital shorts are also available on PBS social media platforms using #PBSForTheArts.

Throughout its nearly 50-year history 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.

A Nylon Films & Waystone production, ***Great Performances: The Conductor*** is directed by Bernadette Wegenstein and produced by Annette Porter. Elizabeth Grass Weese, Robert Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker are executive producers. For ***Great Performances***, Bill O’Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

Support for ***Great Performances: The Conductor*** was provided by Elizabeth Grass Weese, Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Shelter Foundation Inc., The Charlesmead Foundation, The Clinton Family Fund, Neil Ruther, Bruce Fleming, Paula Singer and Lynn Heller. Series funding for **Great Performances** is made possible by The Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Jody and John Arnhold, the Abra Prentice Foundation, The Starr Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, the Seton Melvin Charitable Trust, the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, the Jack Lawrence Charitable Remainder Trust Worchell Lawrence, and Ellen and James S. Marcus.

**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 #PBSForTheArts

**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 PBSKids, 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; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News.](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/) 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***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend*** and ***Amanpour and Company***and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***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 nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform 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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