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

*Great Performances* Presents Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra’s Summer Night Concert Friday, August 23 on PBS Conducted by Grammy Award Winner Andris Nelsons

*Soprano Lise Davidsen appears as guest vocalist*

**Synopsis:**

A long-standing annual event, ***Great Performances*** presents the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra’s summer night concert from Vienna’s Schönbrunn Palace Gardens. Focusing on popular works from the 19th and 20th centuries that highlight Europe's rich musical heritage, the concert celebrates the bicentennial of distinguished Czech composer Bedřich Smetana with three musical compositions. The orchestra is led for the second time by Andris Nelsons, Music Director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhauskapellmeister of the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, with internationally acclaimed soprano **Lise Davidsen** as guest soloist, who performs arias from Richard Wagner's “Tannhäuser” and Giuseppe Verdi's “La forza del destino.” ***Great Performances: Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert 2024*** premieres Friday, August 23 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules)), [pbs.org/gperf](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/) and the [PBS app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/).

**Talent:**

* Andris Nelsons – Conductor
* Lise Davidsen – Soloist
* Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

**Musical program:**

* “The Ride of the Valkyries” from “The Valkyrie” – Richard Wagner
* “Dich, teure Halle, grüß ich wieder” from “Tannhäuser” – Richard Wagner
* “The Moldau” from “My Homeland” No. 2 – Bedřich Smetana
* “Polka” from “The Two Widows” – Bedřich Smetana
* “Dance of the Comedians” from “The Bartered Bride” – Bedřich Smetana
* Overture to "The Force of Destiny” – Giuseppe Verdi
* “Pace, pace mio” aria from “La forza del destino” – Giuseppe Verdi
* “La Nuit et l'Amour” interlude from Ludus pro patria – Augusta Holmès
* Sabre Dance from “Gajaneh” – Aram Iljitsch Khatschaturjan
* Waltz No. 2 from the Suite for Variety Orchestra – Dmitri Schostakowitsch

**Encore**

* “Heia, in den Bergen ist mein Heimatland” from “The Csárdás Princess” – Emmerich Kálmán
* “Wiener Blut” Waltz – Johann Strauss

**Noteworthy Facts:**

* This is the second time music conductor Andris Nelsons is conducting the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra’s summer concert.
* International opera star Lise Davidsen makes her debut with the Vienna Philharmonic.
* 2024 marks the 20th year the Vienna Philharmonic has performed the Summer Night Concert from the Schönbrunn Palace Gardens in Vienna.
* The Summer Night Concert has been transmitted in more than 80 countries worldwide.

**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 Wiener Philharmoniker and ORF in association with The WNET Group, ***Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert 2024*** is directed by Henning Kasten and produced by Edith Hisch, with Karin Veitl as supervising producer; Martin Traxl is production executive. For ***Great Performances***, John Walker is writer, Bill Kabel is producer, 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, Lorraine A. Egan and Richard T. Egan, and PBS. Exclusive corporate support for ***Great Performances: Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert 2024*** is provided by Rolex.

**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

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[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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