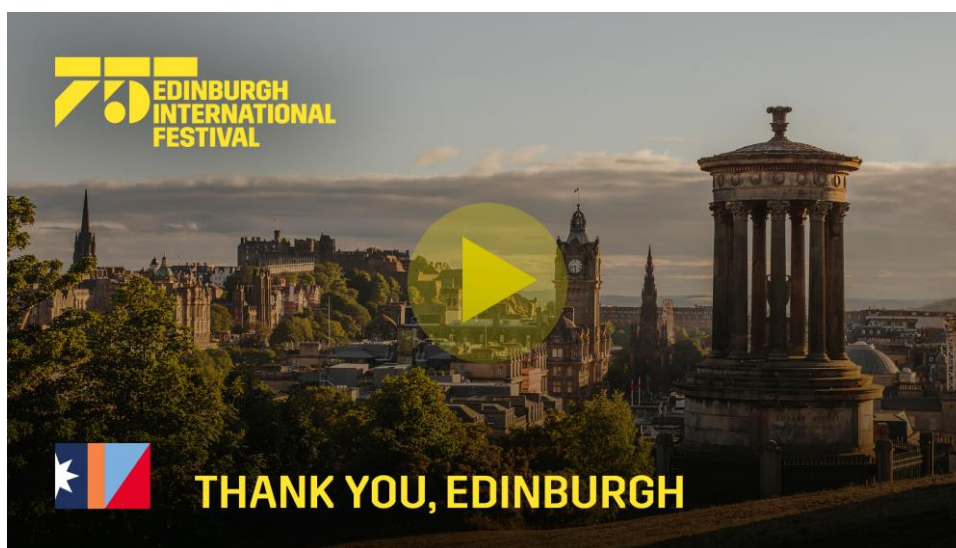


Free tickets for a special concert by the Philadelphia Orchestra now available on American Independence Day



Images [here](#)

75th anniversary video [here](#)

Monday, 4 July: Coinciding with American Independence Day and its 75th anniversary year, Edinburgh International Festival is thrilled to now release over 3,000 tickets to a special free concert featuring one of the USA's leading orchestras, The Philadelphia Orchestra. Entitled *Thank You, Edinburgh*, the concert gives thanks to the people of Edinburgh for their support over the decades. The free tickets for the concert taking place at the Playhouse at 3pm on Saturday, 27 August are now available to book at eif.co.uk.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, has created a special family-friendly programme that includes, among others, beloved arias from Puccini's *La bohème* and Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, the finale of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, hoe-down from Aaron Copland's musical *Rodeo* celebrating the American West and Carlos Simon's *Fate Now Conquers*, inspired by an entry from Beethoven's journal.

The concert will also be **relayed live to the Ross Bandstand in Princes Street Gardens**. The first 100 people to attend the live unticketed relay in the Gardens will receive a free snack pack, supplied by the International Festival's official partners The Pantry and Bon Accord.

In the same spirit of gratitude to all those whose hard work, encouragement and friendship supported the Festival and its community over the past 75 years, **Edinburgh International Festival is on the lookout for four Festival Heroes** – people who've opened their hearts and their homes to strangers and played a part in welcoming the world to Edinburgh since 1947. Whether they helped an actor struggling to find accommodation, donated their coal ration to light the castle many years ago, opened their home to a Ukrainian refugee or delivered free meals to self-isolating people during the pandemic, they could be a Festival Hero!

The selected Festival Heroes will receive premium tickets for the concert, a voucher to enjoy a meal at Dine Edinburgh and a Lind & Lime distillery tour. Additionally, their stories will be shared on the Edinburgh International Festival website and in the Edinburgh Evening News in

the weeks prior to the concert. **To nominate someone as a Festival Hero, visit eif.co.uk/heroes.**

In addition to performing at *Thank You, Edinburgh*, The Philadelphia Orchestra takes up residence at the Edinburgh International Festival across four concerts, demonstrating its renowned versatility and the stunning breadth of music-making. The Orchestra presents Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on Thurs 25 Aug and shares the genius of Florence Price and her First Symphony – the first piece by a Black female composer to be performed by a major US orchestra in 1932 – on Fri 26 Aug, both concerts are performed at the Usher Hall. The Orchestra also showcases some of its exceptional players in The Queen's Hall in *Mozart Chamber Works*, an intimate concert presenting Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Piano Concerto No.12.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Music Director and Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, said: *"I am looking forward to leading The Philadelphia Orchestra in Edinburgh for the first time and connecting with the warm and enthusiastic audiences who share such a deep love of classical music. Our performances throughout the International Festival, including this exciting free concert, are an authentic representation of who we are. We can't wait to share in the joy of music together through repertoire that reflects our diverse world."*

– ENDS –

Media contact:

Magda Paduch, The Corner Shop PR: magda@thecornershoppr.com | 0758 316 4070

press@eif.co.uk / eif.co.uk

Join the conversation eif.co.uk / #edintfest / @edintfest

For media images – see [here](#)

For the 2022 International Festival trailer – see [here](#)

To request media tickets for any performance during the 2022 Edinburgh International Festival, please complete our online accreditation form. To access the form – see [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Edinburgh International Festival supporters

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2022 European Festivals Tour is made possible through the generous support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Philadelphia Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

The Philadelphia Orchestra residency is supported by Dunard Fund and *Thank You, Edinburgh* has been made possible by an additional gift from James and Morag Anderson.

About Edinburgh International Festival

Every August, the International Festival brings world-class music, opera, dance and theatre performances to Edinburgh.

Created in 1947 following WWII, the festival inspired artists and audiences to heal through international cultural collaboration. This year the International Festival celebrates 75 years of bringing world cultures together and will take place from 5-28 August 2022.

Year-round the Edinburgh International Festival connects with local communities through education projects, access programmes, and initiatives that introduce new audiences to live performance.

For more information visit www.eif.co.uk