



For Immediate Release

**The New Philharmonia Orchestra performs an all-Beethoven program and welcomes special guest conductor Jorge Soto and violinist Irina Muresanu to Newton**

May 19, 8 p.m.; May 20, 3 p.m. | First Baptist Church, Newton

**NEWTON, Mass.** | The [New Philharmonia Orchestra](#), under the direction of special guest conductor [Jorge Soto](#), will present an all-Beethoven concert at First Baptist Church in Newton on May 19 at 8 p.m. and May 20 at 3 p.m. The program includes Beethoven's "Consecration of the House," Violin Concerto featuring [Irina Muresanu](#), and Symphony No. 7. Tickets and more information are available at [NewPhil.org](#) or by calling 617-527-9717.

In honor of New Philharmonia Orchestra's founding music director, Ronald Knudsen (1931-2015), a veteran Boston Symphony Orchestra violinist, the orchestra continues to dedicate its spring concert to his memory and present one of the great violin concertos. This year is no exception.

**Guest Conductor Jorge Soto**

The concert will be performed under the direction of **Jorge Soto**, the critically acclaimed music director of Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra. Born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Soto is a product of El Sistema, an innovative program that uses classical music as a vehicle for social change. He began his musical studies in Venezuela at the Vicente Emilio Sojo State Conservatory, and later studied violin at the Latin American Academy of Violin under Rhio Sanchez and José Francisco del Castillo. In the United States, he has studied with Sophie Vilker, Janne Malmivaara, Peter Sulski and Timothy Schwarz.

Soto is a founding member of the Simón Bolívar National Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. He has also performed with the Youth Orchestra of the Americas and the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas. Soto remains quite active in El Sistema in Venezuela, where he teaches violin, coaches chamber music and conducts orchestras around the country, including serving as a guest conductor with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. He has guest conducted the Arkansas Youth Symphony and collaborated with the orchestras at Assumption College and Clark University.

Soto's conducting teachers and mentors include Harold Farberman, Gustavo Dudamel, Eduardo Marturet, Stephen Tucker, Jani Telaranta and Charles Peltz. He holds a Master of Music in Conducting from the New England Conservatory, as well as a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance.

In December of 2015, Soto assisted Maestro Gustavo Dudamel in the preparation of Puccini's "Turandot" with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela.

**Violinist Irina Muresanu**

Muresanu, a Romanian violinist, has been heralded in the U.S. from coast-to-coast, with the Boston Globe calling her "not just a virtuoso, but an artist," and the Los Angeles Times praising her "musical luster, melting lyricism and colorful conception." She has performed throughout North America, Europe and Asia in concerts with the Boston



Pops, Miami Symphony Orchestra, Williamsburg Symphonia, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Geneva) and Orchestre de la Radio Flamande, to name a few.

An active chamber musician and recitalist, Muresanu is a member of the Boston Trio. In 2013, she introduced her Four Strings Around the World project, a solo violin recital featuring new works of composers inspired by various musical cultures around the world. The project won the Creative and Performing Arts Award at the University of Maryland and sparked an orchestral project called Strings Across Europe, a program in which Muresanu performs multiple roles as soloist and conductor.

Muresanu currently serves on the faculty of the University of Maryland and has taught at Boston Conservatory and in the Harvard and MIT music departments. She received the prestigious Artist Diploma and a Doctor in Musical Arts from the New England Conservatory.

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### **About the New Philharmonia Orchestra**

The New Philharmonia Orchestra, founded in 1995, is a 75-member nonprofessional regional orchestra based in Newton, Massachusetts. The orchestra's mission to perform "music for all" has been advanced by presenting programs of diverse repertoires of classical music for the enjoyment of audiences of all ages and experiences. The orchestra also strives to provide its nonprofessional players the opportunity to achieve a high level of ensemble performance not otherwise available.

Press Inquiries  
Dayla Arabella Santurri  
781.479.6951 [@DaylaArabella](https://www.instagram.com/DaylaArabella)  
[Dayla@DaylaArabella.com](mailto:Dayla@DaylaArabella.com)

Connect with the  
New Philharmonia Orchestra  
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[www.NewPhil.org](http://www.NewPhil.org)  
General Inquires Contact  
[info@newphil.org](mailto:info@newphil.org)