

## The New England Philharmonic concludes 41st season with new music from old friends World premieres from Bernard Hoffer and David Rakowski

April 28, 8 p.m. | Tsai Performance Center

**BOSTON** — [The New England Philharmonic](#), under the direction of [Richard Pittman](#), concludes its 41st season with **Dancing in Time** on April 28 at 8 p.m. at the Tsai Performance Center. The evening will feature the world premiere of **NEP Composer-in-Residence David Rakowski's "Water"** (2018). It will also include the Boston premiere of **Sebastian Currier's "Time Machines"** (2007), featuring NEP Concertmaster **Danielle Maddon** on violin; the world premiere of **Bernard Hoffer's "Three Pieces for Orchestra"** (2018); and **Maurice Ravel's "Bolero"** (1928). Tickets and information are available at [www.NEPhilharmonic.org](http://www.NEPhilharmonic.org).

Pittman has called on both Rakowski and Hoffer to produce work that challenges and excites not only the orchestra members but the audiences who have come to expect the NEP's daring programs each season. "David's 'Water' is an absolutely beautiful piece. As always, his harmonies are beautiful, and the way that he has orchestrated his work results in lush sonorities," said Pittman. "Bernie's three movements are quite different from one another. As always with Hoffer, his music aptly lives up to its title. 'Fog' is "foggy" and has Hoffer's very "Hofferian" harmonies. 'Man Muss Lachen' is a terribly funny take on his distaste for Helmut Lachenmann's style of music. 'Movendo' is lively and interestingly inspired by Bruckner's 8th Symphony. Each of these outstanding composers has a personal and beautiful sense of harmony."

Rakowski, now in his sixth season as the NEP's composer-in-residence describes his piece. "'Water' is the first movement of my 7th symphony, which the NEP will perform next season. I woke up one morning with the first minute and a half of this piece in my head, and I knew it was about water. The 'program' for the piece is a little rivulet high in the mountains glistening in the sun, flowing into a stream traversing the mountainside, and ending in a still pool at the bottom."

"My piece 'explores' two current trends in the world of new music today: neo-minimalism, exemplified by the music of John Luther Adams and Nico Muhly, and then the noisemakers, best exemplified by German composer Lachenmann," said Hoffer. "Lachenmann uses what they call 'extended' or 'alternative' techniques, some of which are almost inaudible, and much is done by scratching with the wood part of the bow on string instruments or playing behind the bridge. The middle of my three pieces is a satire on this kind of music. It treats these effects with a 'laugh track' played by the trumpets and trombones with wa-wa mutes. There is a passage where the strings play with guitar picks. The players think this piece is funny. It's supposed to be."

**About the New England Philharmonic:** Now performing its 41st season, the NEP, under the direction of Richard Pittman, is internationally renowned for its daring programming encompassing both contemporary and traditional works. The volunteer orchestra has earned nine ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming and was named Best Local Musician(s) of the Year in 2016 by The Arts Fuse. The orchestra's illustrious past includes the installation of three landmark programs. The NEP became the first orchestra of its size to support a composer-in-residence (1985), introduce a Call for Scores program (1985), and establish a Young Artist Competition (1994), legacies that endure today.

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