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Scott Yoo Spotlights the Musical Significance of Home in New Season of *Now Hear This* from *Great Performances* Premiering Fridays, April 11-May 2 at 9 p.m. on PBS

Host Scott Yoo spotlights the inspirations of Frédéric Chopin, Luigi Boccherini, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Agustín Barrios

Scott Yoo, conductor and artistic director of the Mexico City Philharmonic, returns with the sixth season of the critically acclaimed series ***Now Hear This*** to examine the musical inspirations of **Frédéric Chopin, Luigi Boccherini, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Agustín Barrios**. All these composers are expats or exiles, their music shaped by nostalgia for a homeland they couldn't return to, and new friendships, ideas and opportunities in new places. Their careers were marked by loss and longing, but ultimately renewal and redemption. Yoo visits Poland, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, France, Switzerland, Mexico and more to explore the the musical evolution of these artists and play the compositions that solidified their musical legacy. ***Great Performances: Now Hear This*** premieres Fridays, April 11-May 2 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nowhearthis and the [PBS app](#).

Great Performances: Now Hear This "Chopin's Polish Heart"

Premieres Friday, April 11 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nowhearthis and the [PBS app](#)

Fleeing Russia's invasion of Poland, Frédéric Chopin sought safety and inspiration in Paris, where he merged the music of his Polish homeland with ideas from French Romantic-era composers and artists. Host Scott Yoo explores these connections with world-renowned Canadian-Polish pianist Jan Lisiecki, through Chopin's letters, his original musical manuscripts,

and visits to Poland and the homes he shared in France and Mallorca with the writer Aurore Dupin, known by her pen name, George Sand.

Places visited: Paris, Nohant, France; Warsaw, Zelazowa Wola, Poland; Mallorca, Spain

Great Performances: Now Hear This “Boccherini: Night Music”

Premieres Friday, April 18 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](#)), [pbs.org/nowhearthis](https://www.pbs.org/nowhearthis) and the [PBS app](#)

Explore the music of the streets of Madrid as host Scott Yoo and four young musicians take an all-night walking tour of the city to learn how Luigi Boccherini's iconic "Night Music of the Streets of Madrid" came to be. Boccherini was Europe's greatest cellist, summoned to Spain from Italy by the crown prince. There, he invented the cello quintet, wrote hundreds of classical compositions and was inspired by the Spanish guitar, Spanish rhythms and the folk music of the city which inspired him to create a musical love letter to Madrid that became his most famous work. Blending history and the pulse of the streets, performances include flamenco, fandangos, African-Spanish fusion, street troubadours and more.

Places visited: Madrid, Boadilla de Monte, Sierra de Madrid, Spain

Great Performances: Now Hear This “Rachmaninoff Reborn”

Premieres Friday, April 25 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](#)), [pbs.org/nowhearthis](https://www.pbs.org/nowhearthis) and the [PBS app](#)

Sergei Rachmaninoff was a Russian aristocrat who lost everything in the Bolshevik revolution: his home, his family fortune, even his musical inspiration. Fleeing Russia with his wife and daughters, he landed in New York and reinvented himself as modern American artist. Host Scott Yoo explores Rachmaninoff's American journey and the new technology that made it possible with Russian pianist Anna Polonsky and Ukrainian-American photographer Sonia Goydenko. He listens to, and recreates, some of Rachmaninoff's original piano rolls and recordings and visits his 'paradise in exile,' the villa Rachmaninoff later built on Lake Lucerne to remind him of his childhood home, with Russian pianist Yevgeny Sudbin and his daughter Bella.

Places visited: Lake Lucerne, Switzerland; New York, Brooklyn, New York; New Jersey

Great Performances: Now Hear This “Barrios: Chopin of the Guitar”

Premieres Friday, May 2 at 9 p.m. on PBS ([check local listings](#)), [pbs.org/nowhearthis](https://www.pbs.org/nowhearthis) and the [PBS app](#)

Agustín Barrios was born and raised in rural Paraguay, far from the world's artistic capitals. Inspired by his native folk music, Spanish guitar composers and classical masters like Bach and Chopin, Barrios toured relentlessly through Latin America countries, writing innovative compositions that captured their sound, to become one of the most significant guitar composers

of the 20th century. Host Scott Yoo traces his path from Paraguay through Uruguay with young French-Spanish guitarist Thibaut Garcia, fresh off the release of his new Barrios recording. In Brazil, he explores how Barrios absorbed the folk music of other countries with composer and guitarist Cyro Delvizio. In Mexico, he learns of Barrios' troubled beginnings, mid-life crisis and ultimate career triumph from the world's leading Barrios expert, Dr. Fred Sheppard.

Places visited: Rural Paraguay; Montevideo, Uruguay; Rio de Janeiro Brazil; Mexico City

American conductor Scott Yoo is the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Mexico City Philharmonic and the Music Director of Festival Mozaic. He is the Conductor of the Colorado College Music Festival, and the founder of the Medellín Festicámara, a chamber music program that brings together world-class artists with underprivileged young musicians. Yoo has led the Colorado, Dallas, Indianapolis, New World, San Francisco Symphony, Utah Symphony and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in their Elliott Carter Festival and in his Carnegie Hall debut. He recently conducted the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in recordings for Sony Classical.

Yoo has premiered 79 works by 41 composers. With the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, Yoo recorded Mark O'Connor's "American Seasons" for Sony Classical; John Harbison's chamber orchestra works with soprano Dawn Upshaw for Bridge Records, was nominated for a National Public Radio Performance Today Award; recorded song cycles of Earl Kim with sopranos Benita Valente and Karol Bennett for New World and named a Critics Choice by the New York Times.

As a violinist, Yoo has appeared as soloist with the Boston Symphony, Dallas Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, New World Symphony and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. He has also made guest appearances with chamber music festivals throughout the United States, including Bargemusic, Boston Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Kingston Chamber Music Festival, Laurel Music Festival, New Hampshire Music Festival and Seattle Chamber Music Festival.

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](#) 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](#) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Great Performances: Now Hear This was created by the Emmy-winning producer, writer and director Harry Lynch and is a production of Arcos Film + Music. Harry Lynch and Scott Yoo are executive producers.

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About The WNET Group

The WNET Group creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's THIRTEEN – America's flagship PBS station – WLIW, THIRTEEN PBS KIDS, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; ALL ARTS, the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); 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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