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For immediate release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

***Great Performances: The Conductor* documentary about Marin Alsop to premiere Friday, March 25 at 9 p.m. on MPT**

What: *Great Performances: The Conductor* tells the story of Marin Alsop's journey to become the first female conductor of a major symphony.

How to watch: The 90-minute documentary will premiere on MPT and PBS stations across the nation on Friday, March 25 at 9 p.m. The program will also be available to view via MPT's [online video player](#) and the [PBS Video App](#).

Program notes: *Great Performances: The Conductor* documents Marin Alsop's journey from playing the violin as an ambitious nine-year-old who longed to conduct to ultimately becoming music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Despite repeated rejection from the classical music establishment, Alsop persevered and blazed her own trail, which gained her attention as a conductor and opened new opportunities for her that led to studying with legendary composer Leonard Bernstein.

Set to a carefully curated soundtrack, *Great Performances: The Conductor* tells Alsop's story through a combination of rehearsal and performance footage from Baltimore, Brazil, Switzerland, and New York City, and includes previously unseen archival footage with her mentor Bernstein. The film takes an up-close look at the conductor through intimate interviews with music experts including São Paulo Symphony Orchestra artistic director Arthur Nestrovski, Richmond City Orchestra music director Valentina Peleggi, members of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, wife Kristin Jurkscheit, and others.

A Nylon Films & Waystone production, *Great Performances: The Conductor* is directed by Bernadette Wegenstein and produced by Annette Porter. Elizabeth Grass Weese, Robert Meyerhoff, and Rheda Becker are executive producers.

Support for *Great Performances: The Conductor* was provided by Elizabeth Grass Weese, Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Shelter Foundation Inc., The Charlesmead Foundation, The Clinton Family Fund, Neil Ruther, Bruce Fleming, Paula Singer, and Lynn Heller.

More information about *Great Performances: The Conductor* can be found on the [program webpage](#).

Background:

Throughout its nearly 50-year history 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. Bill O'Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

Series funding for *Great Performances* is made possible by The Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Jody and John Arnhold, the Abra Prentice Foundation, The Starr Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, the Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation, the Seton Melvin Charitable Trust, the Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith, the Jack Lawrence Charitable Remainder Trust Worchell Lawrence, and Ellen and James S. Marcus.

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