West Side Story
Film with the Minnesota Orchestra

David Newman, conductor

Thursday, February 15, 2018, 11 am      Orchestra Hall
Friday, February 16, 2018, 8 pm      Orchestra Hall
Saturday, February 17, 2018, 8 pm      Orchestra Hall

West Side Story® Associates™
presents

MIRISCH PICTURES Presents
“WEST SIDE STORY”
A ROBERT WISE Production

Starring NATALIE WOOD
RICHARD BEYMER  RUSS TAMBLYN
RITA MORENO  GEORGE CHAKIRIS
Directed by ROBERT WISE & JEROME ROBBINS
Screenplay by ERNEST LEHMAN
Associate Producer SAUL CHAPLIN
Choreography by JEROME ROBBINS
Music by LEONARD BERNSTEIN
Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Based upon the Stage Play Produced by ROBERT E. GRIFFITH and HAROLD S. PRINCE
Book by ARTHUR LAURENTS

Play Conceived, Directed and Choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS
Film Production Designed by BORIS LEVEN
Music Conducted by JOHNNY GREEN
Presented by MIRISCH PICTURES, INC.

In Association with SEVEN ARTS PRODUCTIONS INC.
Filmed in PANAVISION® TECHNICOLOR®

Film screening of West Side Story courtesy of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.
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West Side Story is available on Blu-ray DVD and all digital platforms.

Today's performance runs approximately 2 hours and 55 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.
The program is a presentation of the complete film West Side Story with a live performance of the film’s entire score. It also includes the underscoring played by the Orchestra during the Saul Bass-designed End Credits. Out of respect for the music, the musicians and your fellow audience members, please remain in your seats until the End Credits are completed.
Producer: Paul H. Epstein for The Leonard Bernstein Office, Inc.
Associate Producer: Eleonor M. Sandresky for The Leonard Bernstein Office, Inc.
Production Supervisor: Steven A. Linder • Technical Director: Mike Runice • Sound Engineer: Matt Yelton

Music Supervision: Garth Edwin Sunderland
Original Orchestrations: Leonard Bernstein, Sid Ramin and Irwin Kostal
Additional Orchestrations: Garth Edwin Sunderland & Peter West
Music Preparation: Peter West • Original manuscript reconstruction: Eleonor M. Sandresky

Technical Consultant: Laura Gibson
Soundtrack Adaptation—Chace Audio by Deluxe: Robert Heiber, Chris Reynolds, Andrew Starbin and Alice Taylor
Sound Separation Technology provided by Audionamix


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David Newman, conductor

David Newman is one of today’s most accomplished creators of music for film, having scored more than 110 films, ranging from *War of the Roses*, *Matilda*, *Bowfinger* and *Heathers* to the more recent *Five Flights Up* and *Serenity*. His music has brought to life the critically-acclaimed dramas *Brokedown Palace* and *Hoffa*; top grossing comedies *Galaxy Quest* and *Throw Mama from the Train*; and the award-winning animated films *Ice Age*, *The Brave Little Toaster* and *Anastasia*, the last of which earned him an Academy Award nomination. He is also a highly sought-after conductor, appearing with leading orchestras throughout the world including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra. In 2017, he conducted the world premiere of John Williams’ epic film series, *Star Wars* - Episodes IV, V, VI and VII, with the New York Philharmonic. The son of nine-time Oscar-winning composer Alfred Newman and an active composer for the concert hall, Newman has composed works that have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Indianapolis Symphony, and Long Beach Symphony, as well as at the Ravinia Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, and Chicago’s Grant Park Music Festival. More: [imgartists.com](http://imgartists.com).

Leonard Bernstein, composer

Leonard Bernstein was the music director of the New York Philharmonic from 1958 to 1969 and conducted the world’s major orchestras, recording hundreds of performances. His books and televised Young People’s Concerts with the New York Philharmonic established him as a leading educator. His Broadway musicals include *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *Candide* and *West Side Story*, and his additional compositions include *Jeremiah*, *Mass*, *Chichester Psalms*, *Slava!*, and the ballets *Fancy Free*, *Facsimile* and *Dybbuk*. His honors included the Antoinette Perry Tony Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Theater, 11 Emmy Awards, the Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award and the Kennedy Center Honors.

Concert Preview with host Phillip Gainsley and conductor David Newman
Thursday, February 15, 10:05 am, Auditorium
Friday, February 16, 6:55 pm, Auditorium
Saturday, February 17, 6:55 pm, Auditorium
n 1947, choreographer/director Jerome Robbins approached Leonard Bernstein with what the composer called in his diary “a noble idea: a modern version of Romeo and Juliet set in slums at the coincidence of Easter-Passover celebrations. Feelings run high between Jews and Catholics… Street brawls, double death – it all fits.” The idea lay dormant until 1955, when a Los Angeles newspaper headline about Latino gang problems inspired an exciting new path. With the hiring of 25-year-old composer Stephen Sondheim, who reluctantly signed on to provide lyrics only, the final pieces fell into place.

After two years of rewriting and struggles to raise financing, West Side Story's 1957 Broadway opening elicited reactions that ranged from passionate raves to stunned walk-outs. The latter were sparked by the musical’s depiction of gang warfare and prejudice, and its near unprecedented body count for a musical on the Great White Way. The show was largely snubbed at the Tony Awards in favor of a more accessible rival, The Music Man. Nevertheless, audiences in New York and London (where the show was an instant smash) quickly caught up with the innovations of Robbins’ explosive, character-driven choreography, Arthur Laurents’ ingenious transposition of Shakespeare, and the thrilling Bernstein score, with lyrics by Sondheim, that included “Tonight” and “Maria.” When Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise joined forces to co-direct the 1961 screen version for United Artists, starring box office favorite Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer (The Diary of Anne Frank), the result was one of the decade’s greatest commercial and critical triumphs.

Although the original musical materials for the movie arrangements were lost, 14 months of research by Eleonor M. Sandresky of The Leonard Bernstein Office brought to light a trove of important finds in private collections and library archives around the country. From materials discovered in the papers of orchestrator Sid Ramin, as well as in the archives of conductor/music supervisor Johnny Green, director Robert Wise and producer Walter Mirisch, she was able to assemble a mock-up short score of the complete film. Garth Edwin Sunderland, Senior Music Editor for the Bernstein Office, restored and adapted the orchestration for live performance. At the same time, Sunderland oversaw the creation of a brand new engraving of the entire film score, right down to last-minute modifications made on the scoring stage in 1961.

The final result is a presentation of West Side Story unlike any in the history of this screen musical.

Program note by Steven Smith, an Emmy-nominated documentary producer, journalist, and author of the biography A Heart at Fire’s Center: The Life and Music of Bernard Herrmann.