

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

May 27, 2026

Matías Tarnopolsky
Linda and Mitch Hart President & CEO
New York Philharmonic

Dear Mr. Tarnopolsky:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10.4 million members and supporters globally, including more than 387,000 across New York—in response to concerns that you will conclude each of your outdoor Concerts in the Parks with problematic fireworks displays. *We respectfully implore you to eliminate fireworks at these and all other future events and replace them with visually stunning drone or laser shows.* Doing so would spare noise-sensitive companion animals, wildlife, and humans, including veterans with PTSD, from a barrage of distressing explosions. Please allow me to elaborate.

For animals, the loud booms and sudden flashes of light from fireworks can be perceived as a threat—with devastating consequences. Songbirds have been known to abandon their nests or collide with buildings and each other, while waterfowl may panic and fly to dangerously high altitudes for long periods, leaving them exhausted and vulnerable. Terrified dogs and cats frantically struggle to escape the chaos by climbing, breaking, or digging their way out of wherever they are and end up getting lost, seriously hurt, or killed.

The stress caused by fireworks is not limited to animals: The bangs, bright flashes, and smoke can trigger veterans, survivors of gun violence—including mass shootings—and others who have PTSD, causing flashbacks, sleeplessness, and panic attacks. Fireworks also produce smoke and dust laden with toxic particles that harm the respiratory systems of humans and other animals. Furthermore, debris left from fireworks, including shells and heavy metals, litters the environment.

Please let the fireworks fizzle out and switch to dazzling drone or laser light shows. They are far safer than fireworks and produce almost no air pollution. Most importantly, they would allow *all* residents and tourists of *all* species to enjoy future outdoor concerts in *harmony*. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman
President

Washington

1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2624 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org

PETA.org

Entities

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)