

2020–2021 SEASON CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF CONCERTS

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT & GALA

SPECIAL PERFORMANCESSaturday, September 19, at 5 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Khatia Buniatishvili, piano

John Adams I Still Dance
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1
Janáček Sinfonietta

Music Director Thomas Dausgaard opens the 2020–2021 season with an all-time favorite: Tchaikovsky's grand First Piano Concerto. This hugely popular masterpiece delights with dizzying pyrotechnics and arching melodies — and with Artist in Residence Khatia Buniatishvili at the keyboard, we're guaranteed "playing straight from the heart" (*The Guardian*). This piece sits perfectly alongside a new work by one of our nation's greatest living composers: John Adams' *I Still Dance*.

Toast the new season at Benaroya Hall following the concert with bubbly, bites and a dance party in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby with Seattle Symphony musicians. Tickets from \$100 are available with your subscription order.

Join us for the Opening Night Gala — an exclusive, black-tie evening complete with cocktails, dinner and dancing. Call the Special Events department at 206.215.4728 to reserve your Gala package.

Khatia Buniatishvili's performance is generously underwritten by Nader and Oraib Kabbani through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

BERLIOZ SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 26, at 8 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at 2 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Leif Ove Andsnes, piano

Reena Esmail New Work (Seattle Symphony Co-commission & World Premiere)
Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24
Berlioz Symphonie fantastique

Revolutionary. Passionate. Diabolical. Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique* is all that — and so much more. A vivid musical description of love-turned-obsession-turned-ghoulish nightmare, Berlioz' masterpiece positively overflows with raw emotion and unabashed melodrama. Paired with Mozart's turbulent and stormy Piano Concerto No. 24 and a world premiere by Composer in Residence Reena Esmail, Music Director Thomas Dausgaard kicks off the Delta | Masterworks season with the kind of satisfying emotional wallop that only symphonic music can provide.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

STEWART COPELAND: POLICE DERANGED FOR ORCHESTRA

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Wednesday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Lee Mills, conductor Stewart Copeland, host & percussion

This high energy evening celebrates rock star and seasoned composer Stewart Copeland, best known as the founder of The Police. Police Deranged is bursting with The Police's biggest hits including "Roxanne" and "Don't Stand So Close to Me," plus highlights from Copeland's vast catalog, all newly arranged (or "deranged") by Copeland himself. This incredible rock 'n' roll experience features Copeland on drums alongside the Seattle Symphony and guest guitarist and vocalists.

THE WINDS: SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

TINY TOTS CONCERTS

Friday, October 2, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 3, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

John Turman, host Seattle Symphony woodwinds

What's your favorite color? The flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon will explore the many colors of the woodwind family through enchanting music your littlest ones will love. Seattle Symphony musicians share their favorite stories, songs and musical games in a series that introduces your youngest listeners to the woodwind instruments. These interactive and fun Tiny Tot concerts are 35 minutes and designed for ages 0 to 5.

Arrive early for pre-concert activities that include instrument exploration, a percussion play area and a fun craft in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby. Activities begin 30 minutes before every performance.

GENE KELLY: A LIFE IN MUSIC

POPS SERIES

Friday, October 2, at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 3, at 8 p.m. Sunday, October 4, at 2 p.m.

Neil Thomson, conductor

Patricia Ward Kelly, host

Music was central to Gene Kelly's work. It influenced him, inspired him, and in many ways, defined him. In 1969 the musical arrangements to many of MGM's classic films were destroyed. Now with these scores carefully reconstructed, we bring you a remarkable event: Gene Kelly dancing on the big screen accompanied live by the Seattle Symphony! Hosted by Kelly's wife and biographer, Patricia Ward Kelly, this special event takes you behind the scenes to share Gene Kelly's own insights about the making of these enduring works.

MOZART VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 3

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 10, at 8 p.m.

Shiyeon Sung, conductor James Ehnes, violin

Charlotte Bray At the Speed of Stillness (West Coast Premiere)
Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3
Dvořák Symphony No. 6

"James Ehnes does not just play the violin. James Ehnes transposes all of the elegance and delicacy of the human voice on to the violin" (*La Presse*). Mozart's bright and lyrical Third Violin Concerto is sure to sing under Ehnes' capable fingers. It's the perfect companion to Dvořák's optimistic Sixth Symphony, which radiates with warmth and exuberance.

SHOSTAKOVICH PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 16, at 12 p.m. Saturday, October 17, at 8 p.m.

Kazuki Yamada, conductor Simon Trpčeski, piano David Gordon, trumpet

Haydn Symphony No. 104, "London" **Shostakovich** Piano Concerto No. 1 **Rayel** *Mother Goose*

Be transported to a world of youthful enchantment! Ravel's charmingly delicate and imaginative *Mother Goose* is a musical flight of fancy, conjuring up vivid scenes from timeless childhood fairy tales including Beauty & the Beast and Sleeping Beauty. Shostakovich's impish First Piano Concerto continues the youthful theme, exuding the carefree attitude and sassy swagger of the composer and rounding out this lighthearted concert with musical jokes and a festive atmosphere.

David Gordon's performances are generously underwritten by Robert and Sue Collett.

[UNTITLED] 1

[UNTITLED] SERIES

Friday, October 16, at 10 p.m. Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby

Seattle Symphony musicians

Kenji Bunch String Circle
Juri Seo Lost Songs
Tan Dun Elegy: Snow in June

Tan Dun's Elegy: *Snow in June* recalls a 13th century Chinese play in which a young woman is executed for crimes she did not commit. Juri Seo's *Lost Songs* confronts the extinction of Hawaii's Kaua'i 'ō'ō bird, offering hope through preserving the memory of its song. Portland composer and violist Kenji Bunch offers a tribute American string music traditions in his work *String Circle*.

RAY CHEN IN RECITAL

IN RECITAL SERIES

Monday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Ray Chen, violin Julio Elizalde, piano

Hailed together by *The Plain Dealer* as "something extraordinary, something remarkable," international violin sensation Ray Chen and gifted American pianist Julio Elizalde make for one of the most dynamic duos in classical music.

AN EVENING WITH AUDRA MCDONALD AND THE SEATTLE SYMPHONY

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Tuesday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Andy Einhorn, conductor Audra McDonald, vocals

Six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald brings her unparalleled power, artistry and passion to the Benaroya Hall stage for an evening of classics from Broadway and the American Songbook. A Juilliard-trained soprano with a gift for storytelling, McDonald is as much at home on Broadway and opera stages as she is in film and television roles. Her notable Broadway credits include *Ragtime*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *Carousel* and, in her latest Tony-winning role, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* where she portrayed jazz icon Billie Holiday.

AVI AVITAL THE FOUR SEASONS

BAROQUE & WINE SERIES

Thursday, October 22, at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 24, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, at 2 p.m.

Avi Avital, conductor & mandolin Nuria Rial, soprano

Vivaldi *The Four Seasons* **Traditional** Venetian Gondolier Songs

Internationally acclaimed mandolinist Avi Avital returns to Seattle, bringing a fresh new approach to Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, with the mandolin at center stage. Hear this evergreen classic anew — and interspersed with traditional Venetian Gondolier songs — and prepare to be blown away by Avital's dazzling, lightning-quick finger work and poetic interpretation of Vivaldi's charming masterwork.

CHINA NCPA ORCHESTRA

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Friday, October 23, at 8 p.m.

Lu Jia, conductor Wu Wei, sheng China NCPA Orchestra

Qigang Chen Itinéraire d'une illusion Unsuk Chin Šu for sheng and orchestra Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

The resident orchestra of Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts brings a dynamic program to Seattle. Hear the ancient and otherworldly sonorities of the sheng, a Chinese mouth organ, in Unsuk Chin's $\check{S}u$, brought to life by Wu Wei, one of the world's foremost sheng experts. Then, it's a soul-searching journey through fate and destiny in Tchaikovsky's intensely powerful Fourth Symphony.

MENDELSSOHN VIOLIN CONCERTO

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 31, at 8 p.m. Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m.

Jiří Rožeň, conductor Noah Geller, violin

Mendelssohn The Hebrides ("Fingal's Cave")
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto
Suk Meditation on the Old Czech Chorale "Saint Wenceslas"
Kabeláč Symphony No. 4, "Camerata" (U.S. Premiere)

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto is regularly heralded as one of the most perfect violin concertos ever written — a jewel in the crown of the repertoire. From its moody opening to the high-flying finale, Mendelssohn's sparkling melodies and heroic bravura will be on full display with Seattle Symphony Concertmaster Noah Geller. Plus: hear a rare performance of Czech composer Miloslav Kabeláč's Fourth Symphony, a musical testament to the irrepressible will of the Czech people during the turbulent 20th century.

Noah Geller's performances are generously underwritten by Betty Graham through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

FIRE: THE FIREBIRD

FAMILY CONCERTS

Saturday, October 31, at 11 a.m.

Lee Mills, conductor

From de Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance* to Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite, the orchestra will spark your imagination during this magical concert that conjures the elemental force of fire.

Extend your experience! Join us in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby one hour before the show for pre-concert activities featuring crafts and instrument exploration.

DEBUSSY LA MER

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 7, at 8 p.m.

Karina Canellakis, conductor Alina Ibragimova, violin

Debussy Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune Bartók Violin Concerto No. 2 Britten Sinfonia da Requiem Debussy La mer

The power, beauty and vastness of the ocean come to life in Debussy's *La mer* — from the playful dance of light on the surface to the high drama of massive waves crashing into each other. The composer's seemingly endless color palette is again on display with his quixotic *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*. Violinist Alina Ibragimova brings to life yet another musical titan of the twentieth century: Bartók's vivid Second Violin Concerto.

DEBUSSY UNTUXED

UNTUXED SERIES

Friday, November 6, at 7 p.m.

Karina Canellakis, conductor

Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* **Britten** *Sinfonia da Requiem* **Debussy** *La mer*

The beauty and vastness of the ocean comes to life in Debussy's *La mer* — from the playful dance of light on the surface to the high drama of titanic waves crashing into each other. Come as you are and enjoy the best of classical music in the relaxed atmosphere of the Untuxed series.

BRAHMS, SCHUMANN & MORE

CHAMBER SERIES

Tuesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

Seattle Symphony musicians

R. Schumann String Quartet No. 2 **György Kurtág** *Hommage à R. Schumann* **Bartók** String Quartet No. 6

Robert Schumann's Second String Quartet and Bartók's Sixth String Quartet were born out of times of personal difficulty. During a depressive episode, Schumann took solace in studying the works of Classical masters, inspiring a flurry of chamber music in 1842. Bartók channeled his political unease and grief about his dying mother into his Sixth String Quartet, which features a recurring tragic theme in each of its movements. From timeless themes to contemporary classics, watch the talented musicians of the Seattle Symphony take center stage to perform an exquisite assortment of chamber works in the intimate Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall.

ELGAR CELLO CONCERTO

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 14, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Ligeti San Francisco Polyphony **Elgar** Cello Concerto **Beach** Symphony No. 2, "Gaelic"

With her "technical brilliance" and "take-no-prisoners emotional investment that is evident in every bar," (*The New York Times*), Alisa Weilerstein is the perfect match for Elgar's rhapsodic Cello Concerto. Amy Beach's Second Symphony, infused with melodies inspired by the British Isles, straddles old world and new, and speaks to Beach's position as one of America's most compelling musical voices at the turn of the 20th century.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

BEETHOVEN MISSA SOLEMNIS

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 21, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 22, at 2 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor
Malin Christensson, soprano
Meg Bragle, mezzo-soprano
Toby Spence, tenor
Andrew Foster-Williams, bass-baritone
Seattle Symphony Chorale

Beethoven Missa solemnis

While concertgoers may be more familiar with Beethoven's symphonies, the composer considered his *Missa solemnis* to be his greatest achievement. Epic in scale and the sheer depth of musical expression, it stands out as a powerful witness to Beethoven's belief that "music is a higher revelation than any philosophy." Two centuries on, *Missa solemnis* stands the test of time as a sublime rendering of humanity's search for redemption.

Beethoven Missa Solemnis is generously underwritten by The Nesholm Family Foundation.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

DISNEY IN CONCERT: TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Friday, December 4, at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 5, at 8 p.m. Sunday, December 6, at 2 p.m.

Susie Benchasil Seiter, conductor

The Nightmare Before Christmas

See one of Tim Burton's most celebrated films like never before! The full feature film, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, will be projected on the big screen with dialogue, singing and effects accompanied by Danny Elfman's darkly charming score played live by the Seattle Symphony.

AIR: THE SNOWMAN

FAMILY CONCERTS

Saturday, December 5, at 11 a.m.

Lee Mills, conductor

"We're walking in the air, we're dancing in the midnight sky." You'll be swept into the holiday spirit with your family and Raymond Briggs' classic children's book, *The Snowman*!

Extend your experience! Join us in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby one hour before the show for pre-concert activities featuring crafts and instrument exploration.

THE STRINGS: WINTER WONDERLAND

TINY TOTS CONCERTS

Friday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

John Turman, host Seattle Symphony strings

Make memories together as the string family creates a magical winter wonderland through classic sing-alongs and your favorite holiday music. Seattle Symphony musicians share their favorite stories, songs and musical games in a series that introduces your youngest listeners to the string instruments. These interactive and fun Tiny Tot concerts are 35 minutes and designed for ages 0 to 5.

Arrive early for pre-concert activities that include instrument exploration, a percussion play area and a fun craft in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby. Activities begin 30 minutes before every performance.

HOLIDAY POPS

POPS SERIES

Friday, December 11, at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 12, at 8 p.m. Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m.

Stuart Chafetz, conductor N'Kenge, vocals University of Washington Chorale

There's no place like Benaroya Hall for the holidays! Join conductor Stuart Chafetz and Broadway star N'Kenge for this dazzling program full of holiday favorites, traditional carols and plenty of yuletide cheer. All of the heartwarming sounds of the season await you at this lighthearted and joyful concert.

HANDEL MESSIAH

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Friday, December 18, at 8 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 19, at 8 p.m. Sunday, December 20, at 2 p.m.

Jory Vinikour, conductor Sherezade Panthaki, soprano Sara Couden, contralto Steven Soph, tenor Adam Lau, bass Seattle Symphony Chorale

Handel Messiah

A triumph of music and text, Handel's *Messiah* is a matchless December tradition. The exquisite choral writing and the exultant "Hallelujah" chorus — featuring the Seattle Symphony, Chorale and a strong cast of soloists — honor Handel's most enduring work.

Performances of Handel's Messiah are supported by a gift in memory of Gwen Jones Whyte.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Tuesday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Joseph Crnko, conductor Northwest Boychoir Vocalpoint! Seattle Northwest Sinfonia

The remarkably talented and endearing Northwest Boychoir, along with Vocalpoint! Seattle, present the story of the Nativity told through reading, choral setting and audience carols. A heartwarming evening of music perfect for the family.

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Wednesday, December 30, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 2, at 8 p.m. Sunday, January 3, at 2 p.m.

Lee Mills, conductor
Joseph Adam, organ
Laura Strickling, soprano
Mary Phillips, mezzosoprano
Nicholas Phan, tenor
Hadleigh Adams, bass
Seattle Symphony Chorale

Barber Toccata Festiva
L. Boulanger Vieille prière bouddhique
Beethoven Symphony No. 9, "Choral"

The beauty and drama of Beethoven's monumental Ninth Symphony is alternately awe-inspiring and uplifting, with the *Ode to Joy* the crowning jewel atop this transformative piece. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony for the ages is a wonderful way to end the year and start a new one.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT, COUNTDOWN, AND CELEBRATION

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Thursday, December 31, at 9 p.m.

Lee Mills, conductor Joseph Adam, organ

Laura Strickling, soprano
Mary Phillips, mezzosoprano
Nicholas Phan, tenor
Hadleigh Adams, bass
Seattle Symphony Chorale

Barber Toccata Festiva

L. Boulanger Vieille prière bouddhique
Beethoven Symphony No. 9, "Choral"

Start your New Year's Eve off right with the grandeur of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and enjoy the splendor of the "Ode to Joy" chorus with family and friends. Then ring in 2021 at a post-concert party featuring a special countdown to midnight.

CIRQUE GOES HOLLYWOOD

POPS SERIES

Friday, January 8, at 8 p.m. Saturday, January 9, at 8 p.m. Sunday, January 10, at 2 p.m.

Jack Everly, conductor Ron Remke, vocals N'Kenge, vocals Troupe Vertigo

Lights. Camera. Action. Troupe Vertigo returns to the Benaroya Hall stage with a program straight out of Hollywood! Aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists and strongmen will dazzle audiences with gravity-defying feats as the Seattle Symphony brings Hollywood's movie soundtracks to life in the concert hall.

MOZART PIANO CONCERTO NO. 26

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 16, at 8 p.m.

Gemma New, conductor Nobuyuki Tsujii, piano

Sarah Gibson warp & weft

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 26, "Coronation"

R. Schumann Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

The last time pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii performed at Benaroya Hall, the audience brought him back for three encores and *The Seattle Times* hailed the Japanese pianist as "an absolute force of nature." This time the Van Cliburn Competition winner takes on Mozart's majestic Piano Concerto No. 26, a work celebrated among Mozart's concertos for its romantic and virtuosic solo writing.

Nobuyuki Tsujii's performances are generously underwritten by The Nakajima Family through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

SCHUMANN UNTUXED

UNTUXED SERIES

Friday, January 15, at 7 p.m.

Gemma New, conductor

Sarah Gibson warp & weft

R. Schumann Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

His third and final symphony, Robert Schumann's Rhenish Symphony reflects a fresh burst of optimism in the face of new challenges. From the heroic first movement to the bubbling, flowing scherzo, the music exudes joy and warmth throughout. Come as you are and enjoy the best of classical music in the relaxed atmosphere of the Untuxed series.

TCHAIKOVSKY "PATHÉTIQUE" SYMPHONY

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 22, at 8 p.m.

Pablo Rus Broseta, conductor Mary Lynch, oboe Benjamin Lulich, clarinet Seth Krimsky, bassoon Jeffrey Fair, horn

Jörg Widmann Con brio
Mozart Sinfonia concertante for Winds
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

Without exaggeration," Tchaikovsky wrote about his sixth and final symphony, "I have put my whole soul into this work." Visceral and impassioned, this defining work of the Romantic era is an emotional tour de force. Encompassing a lifetime of emotions within a single symphony, the *Pathétique* files to euphoric highs, dives to depths of utter despair, and visits every emotion between — promising an edge-of-your-seat experience for anyone within earshot. Plus, the Symphony's principal wind players take center stage in Mozart's Sinfonia concertante and composer Jörg Widmann offers a modern take on the concert overture.

BACH & VIVALDI CELLO CONCERTOS

BAROQUE & WINE SERIES
Friday, January 29, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, January 30, at 8 p.m.

Lee Mills, conductor

Jean-Guihen Queyras, cello

Handel Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 5 Vivaldi Cello Concerto in G minor, RV 416 Rameau Selections from *Les Boréades* Vivaldi Cello Concerto in A minor, RV 419 C.P.E. Bach Cello Concerto in A major Haydn Symphony No. 13

Hear why *The Sunday Times* says, "Queyras's handling of Vivaldi's dazzling streams ... is brilliant and precise" when the acclaimed French cellist performs a program of concertos by Vivaldi and C.P.E. Bach.

THE ROOTS: BRAHMS' INSPIRATION

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 6, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Roby Lakatos, violin Roby Lakatos Ensemble

Kodály Dances of Galánta Brahms Hungarian Dances Brahms Symphony No. 4

Music Director Thomas Dausgaard leads an exploration into the roots of Brahms' musical inspiration, from the rhythmic folk dances of Hungary to the transcendent Baroque forms found in the composer's final symphony. Dive into the whirling energy and deep pathos of Romani folk music in Kodály's toe-tapping *Dances of Galánta*, inspired by the folk and army bands the young composer heard in his youth. Hungarian violinist Roby Lakatos continues this high-octane program, weaving traditional Romani folk music into the fabric of Brahms' everpopular Hungarian Dances. Then, we pivot to the passionate intensity of Brahms' final symphony, one of his most enduringly popular and astonishing works.

Roby Lakatos's performances are generously underwritten by Grant and Dorrit Saviers through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle. Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

THE BRASS: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

TINY TOTS CONCERTS

Friday, February 5, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 6, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

John Turman, host Seattle Symphony brass You'll want to swim like a swan, hop like a kangaroo and strut like a lion with the brass family featuring horn, trumpets, trombone and tuba. Seattle Symphony musicians share their favorite stories, songs and musical games in a series that introduces your youngest listeners to the brass instruments. These interactive and fun Tiny Tot concerts are 35 minutes and designed for ages 0 to 5.

Arrive early for pre-concert activities that include instrument exploration, a percussion play area and a fun craft in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby. Activities begin 30 minutes before every performance.

BRAHMS UNTUXED

UNTUXED SERIES

Friday, February 5, at 7 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor

Kodály *Dances of Galánta* **Brahms** Symphony No. 4

The passionate intensity of Brahms' final symphony is one of his most enduringly popular and astonishing works. Come as you are and enjoy the best of classical music in the relaxed atmosphere of the Untuxed series.

STRAVINSKY THE FIREBIRD

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 12, at 12 p.m. Saturday, February 13, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Pekka Kuusisto, violin

Nielsen Symphony No. 6, "Sinfonia semplice" Enrico Chapela Violin Concerto (Seattle Symphony Co-commission & North American Premiere) Stravinsky The Firebird Suite

Stravinsky's evocative *Firebird* Suite is as thrilling as it gets, from the heart-thumping *Infernal Dance* to its glorious, glittering finale. It's no wonder this beloved, colorful score vaulted Stravinsky into stardom. Plus, as part of the critically acclaimed cycle of live recordings on Seattle Symphony Media, Music Director Thomas Dausgaard continues his exploration into the music of his fellow Dane, Carl Nielsen, this time with the composer's final Sixth Symphony. Also on the program is the U.S. premiere of Enrico Chapela's Violin Concerto.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

KHATIA BUNIATISHVILI IN RECITAL

IN RECITAL SERIES

Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m.

Khatia Buniatishvili, piano

Pianist and Seattle Symphony Artist in Residence Khatia Buniatishvili has established herself as one of today's most prominent classical music artists, at home on the world's great stages and universally celebrated for her "authenticity, charisma, and persuasiveness" (NZZ) and "playing straight from the heart" (*The Guardian*). Join her as she returns to Benaroya Hall for a special one-night-only recital.

RACHMANINOV RHAPSODY ON A THEME OF PAGANINI

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 20, at 8 p.m. Sunday, February 21, at 2 p.m.

Andrey Boreyko, conductor Alexander Melnikov, piano

Lutosławski Symphonic Variations **Rachmaninov** *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* **Tchaikovsky** Suite No. 3

For the romantics among us, Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* has it all: thrilling virtuosity, gloriously lush melodies, thunderous power and the hint of a diabolical backstory. It's the perfect vehicle for Russian pianist Alexander Melnikov, whose performances are hailed as "electrifying and rhapsodic" (*The New York Times*). Plus, hear Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3, a more intimate side of another great Romantic.

Alexander Melnikov's performances are generously underwritten by Stephen Whyte and Rebecca Ralston through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTO NO. 4

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 27, at 8 p.m. Sunday, February 28, at 2 p.m.

Jonathon Heyward, conductor Steven Osborne, piano

Hannah Kendall Kanashibari Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 Strauss Le bourgeois gentilhomme Suite

Pianist Steven Osborne is known for insightful and idiomatic interpretations of classic repertoire — a perfect fit for Beethoven's highly original Fourth Piano Concerto. Plus, the orchestra performs Strauss' vibrant and charming *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* and Hannah Kendall's *Kanashibari*, in the hands of conductor Jonathon Heyward.

Steven Osborne's performances are generously underwritten by Muriel Van Housen and Tom McQuaid through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

[UNTITLED] 2

[UNTITLED] SERIES

Friday, February 26, at 10 p.m. Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby

John Coons, narrator
Seattle Symphony musicians

Wynton Marsalis A Fiddler's Tale Suite Caroline Shaw Entr'acte
Ned Rorem String Quartet No. 4
John Zorn Obscure Object of Desire

Seattle Symphony musicians perform Caroline Shaw's Haydn-influenced string quartet, *Entr'acte*, and John Zorn's surrealist *Obscure Objects of Desire*, inspired by the films of Luis Buñuel. Inspired by Stravinsky's classic suite, *The Soldier's Tale*, legendary trumpet player and composer Wynton Marsalis offers a new story about creativity and the struggle for artistic freedom in his *A Fiddler's Tale* Suite.

ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY THE LINDA RONSTADT SONGBOOK

POPS SERIES

Friday, March 5, at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at 2 p.m.

Stuart Chafetz, conductor Ann Hampton Callaway, vocals

Celebrated singer-songwriter Ann Hampton Callaway takes you on a musical journey through Linda Ronstadt's iconic songbook, tracing the many aspects of love through songs like "Different Drum," "Desperado" and "You're No Good." Callaway brings a songwriter's sensibility to this crowd-pleasing program, having penned songs for the likes of Carole King and Barbra Streisand.

EARTH: THE GRAND CANYON

FAMILY CONCERTS

Saturday, March 6, at 11 a.m.

Lee Mills, conductor

Families will love exploring the beauty of our earth with the orchestra as they perform works that evoke the sounds of nature.

Extend your experience! Join us in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby one hour before the show for pre-concert activities featuring crafts and instrument exploration.

THREE CONTINENTS CONCERTO

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at 8 p.m.

Christian Reif, conductor Jan Vogler, cello

Rouse Rapture

Nico Muhly/Sven Helbig/Zhou Long *Three Continents* Cello Concerto (North American Premiere) **Wagner** Selections from *The Ring*

International collaboration takes center stage with the *Three Continents* Cello Concerto, a new work for cello and orchestra jointly composed by Nico Muhly (U.S.), Sven Helbig (Germany) and Zhou Long (China). Premiered in 2019, this dynamic concerto celebrates musical styles across a vast cultural space: three continents and nearly three generations. The spirit of co-creation is brought to life by cellist Jan Vogler.

CELEBRATE ASIA

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Sunday, March 21, at 4 p.m.

Keitaro Harada, conductor Gaurav Mazumdar, sitar Zlatomir Fung, cello

Reena Esmail Sitar Concerto (Seattle Symphony Commission & World Premiere) **Tchaikovksy** Rococo Variations *Celebrate Asia* Composition Competition Winner
Other Works to be Announced

The 13th annual *Celebrate Asia* shines a spotlight on Composer in Residence Reena Esmail who is taking the classical world by storm with her works that blend the worlds of Indian and Western classical music. Esmail's Sitar Concerto, written for the centennial of Ravi Shankar's birth, will receive its world premiere on the Benaroya Hall stage.

SHOSTAKOVICH, GLINKA & MORE

CHAMBER SERIES

Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

Seattle Symphony musicians

Glinka Trio pathétique Arensky String Quartet No. 2 Taneyev String Trio Shostakovich String Quartet No. 8 Discover fascinating works by four Russian composers with contrasting musical perspectives. Shostakovich's Eighth String Quartet offers an open-ended but deeply autobiographical critique of oppressive political regimes. Taneyev's String Trio reflects his affinity for reimagining familiar Classical traditions and folk music influences. From timeless themes to contemporary classics, watch the talented musicians of the Seattle Symphony take center stage to perform an exquisite assortment of chamber works in the intimate Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall.

DVOŘÁK NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Yekwon Sunwoo, piano

John Adams I Still Dance
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2
Dvořák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"

One of the most popular symphonies of all time, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 continues to enchant. In his musical postcard "From the New World," Dvořák explores his understanding of African-American spirituals and transcriptions of Indigenous melodies — intermingled with the sounds of his native Bohemia and his own personal musical voice. The result: a cascade of majestic fanfares, longing melodies and lush harmonies that have captivated audiences for generations. This piece of American musical history sits perfectly alongside a new work by one of our nation's greatest living composers: John Adams' *I Still Dance*.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

THE PERCUSSION: NOISE MAKERS

TINY TOTS CONCERTS

Friday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 27, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

John Turman, host Seattle Symphony percussion

Explore fun rhymes and dance to exciting rhythms with our friends in the percussion section! We'll shake, we'll rattle and we'll clap along to the beat. Seattle Symphony musicians share their favorite stories, songs and musical games in a series that introduces your youngest listeners to the percussion instruments. These interactive and fun Tiny Tot concerts are 35 minutes and designed for ages 0 to 5.

Arrive early for pre-concert activities that include instrument exploration, a percussion play area and a fun craft in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby. Activities begin 30 minutes before every performance.

PROKOFIEV UNTUXED

UNTUXED SERIES

Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Yekwon Sunwoo, piano

John Adams I Still Dance
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2

Yekwon Sunwoo is "a pianist who commands a comprehensive technical arsenal that allows him to thunder without breaking a sweat" (*Chicago Tribune*). Sunwoo makes his Seattle Symphony debut with Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2, which begins with a plaintive solo piano that melodically and gradually unfolds into a full-scale orchestral frenzy. Come as you are and enjoy the best of classical music in the relaxed atmosphere of the Untuxed series.

TOMMY DORSEY ORCHESTRA

POPS SERIES

Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m.

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra

In big band history, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra is recognized as one of the best all-around dance bands. Jazz trombonist Tommy Dorsey led his band to 17 number one hits in the 1930s and 1940s, and a young Frank Sinatra cut his teeth singing with this legendary band. Now, under the baton of clarinetist Terry Myers, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra brings that classic, sentimental big band sound to the Benaroya Hall stage.

JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET IN RECITAL

IN RECITAL SERIES

Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

Debussy Préludes, Books I and II

Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is hailed as "one of the best pianists on the planet" (*The Cincinnati Enquirer*) for his profound artistry, poetic musicality and dazzling technical prowess. A beloved Seattle favorite, he returns to the Benaroya Hall stage to perform Debussy's stunning *Préludes*, a picturesque collection of 24 vignettes that showcase the composer's colorful approach to connecting sound, mood and image.

MAHLER SYMPHONY NO. 5

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 9, at 12 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor

Eric Lu, piano

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 20 Mahler Symphony No. 5

One of the most captivating artists of his generation, American pianist Eric Lu makes his Seattle Symphony debut with Mozart's sparkling Piano Concerto No. 20. Mahler's epic Fifth Symphony scales an emotional journey from the depths of despair to unbridled joy. Music Director Thomas Dausgaard conducts this dramatic program.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

THE CHICK COREA TRIO: VIGILETTE

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES Sunday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Chick Corea, piano
Carlitos Del Puerto, bass
Marcus Gilmore, drums

Chick Corea's breakout album, *Now He Sings*, *Now He Sobs*, announced his arrival as a master of the piano trio, and he hasn't looked back since. With Carlitos Del Puerto on bass and Marcus Gilmore on drums — the rhythmic backbone of his acclaimed group The Vigil — expect Chick's unmistakable genius on both classic Corea compositions and tunes from his piano heroes.

BEETHOVEN, BARTÓK & STRAVINSKY

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at 8 p.m.

Olari Elts, conductor Behzod Abduraimov, piano

Beethoven Coriolan Overture
Bartók Piano Concerto No. 3
Erkki-Sven Tüür Phantasma (North American Premiere)
Stravinsky Pétrouchka

Guest conductor Olari Elts takes the podium for an evening of astonishing music. The tragic tale of the puppet *Pétrouchka* is brought to life through Stravinsky's scintillating score — a musical portrait of love and longing, full of vibrant colors and playful melodies. Pianist Behzod Abduraimov joins for Bartók's Third Piano Concerto, a vital work that keeps pianist, orchestra and audience on their toes with its invigorating energy and irregular rhythms. Plus, hear Beethoven's dramatic *Coriolan Overture* and a new work inspired by it: Erkki-Sven Tüür's *Phantasma*.

BACH, HANDEL & VIVALDI

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 9, at 2 p.m.

Lina Gonzalez-Granados, conductor Eduardo Rios, violin Elisa Barston, violin Nathan Chan, cello Eric Han, cello Joseph Adam, organ

J.S. Bach Concerto for Two ViolinsHandel Organ Concerto, Op. 7, No. 1Vivaldi Concerto for Two CellosDvořák Serenade for Strings

Seattle Symphony's musicians take center stage in this intimate program featuring J.S. Bach's celebrated Concerto for Two Violins. A pair of cellos take a turn in the spotlight, with Vivaldi's sprightly Concerto for Two Cellos. The lyrical qualities of the strings are showcased in Dvořák's Serenade for Strings, which radiates joy from beginning to end.

BACH CANTATAS

BAROQUE & WINE SERIES Friday, May 14, at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at 8 p.m.

Matthew Halls, conductor Benjamin Appl, baritone Seattle Symphony Chorale

J.S. Bach Cantatas

With more than 200 cantatas to his name, J.S. Bach left behind a treasure-trove of sublime, glorious vocal works. Baritone Benjamin Appl leads a musical tour of selections from this incredible collection of sacred music.

WATER: THE SEA
FAMILY CONCERTS
Saturday, May 15, at 11 a.m.

Lee Mills, conductor

From babbling brooks to stormy seas, composers around the world share their stories about our most precious resource, water.

Join us in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby one hour before the show for pre-concert activities featuring crafts and instrument exploration.

HAYDN. RAVEL & MOZART PIANO CONCERTOS

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 21, at 12 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at 8 p.m.

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, conductor & piano

Haydn Piano Concerto in F major **Ravel** Piano Concerto in G **Mozart** Piano Concerto No. 9, "Jeunehomme"

Few pianists are as immersed in the music of Mozart and Haydn as Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Currently in the midst of a multi-year project to record Mozart's complete piano concertos and Haydn's complete piano sonatas (75 works in total), Bavouzet is a true expert in these graceful, inventive and playful keyboard works. His classical expertise makes him the perfect artist to bring Ravel's Piano Concerto in G to life, a work Ravel wrote "in the spirit of Mozart." From its whip-crack opening to the serene beauty of the inner movement to the breathless finale, Ravel's classically inspired, jazz-infused concerto is a stunning showcase of the composer's incredible gift for color and melody.

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet's performances are generously underwritten by James and Sherry Raisbeck through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

THE ORCHESTRA: SIMPLE GIFTS

TINY TOTS CONCERTS

Friday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, June 5, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

John Turman, host Seattle Symphony musicians

The string, wind, brass and percussion families all come together to create a tiny orchestra to share their gifts through songs you can sing and dance along to! Seattle Symphony musicians share their favorite stories, songs and musical games in a series that introduces your youngest listeners to all the instruments of the orchestra. These interactive and fun Tiny Tot concerts are 35 minutes and designed for ages 0 to 5.

Arrive early for pre-concert activities that include instrument exploration, a percussion play area and a fun craft in the Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby. Activities begin 30 minutes before every performance.

ARETHA: A TRIBUTE

POPS SERIES

Friday, June 4, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 5, at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 6, at 2 p.m.

Lucas Waldin, conductor Capathia Jenkins, vocals Ryan Shaw, vocals Phillip L. Ferrell II, vocals Nicole Eskridge, vocals Grace D. Ferrell, vocals Witness Mass Choir

A tribute to the Queen of Soul, this program features Symphony favorite Capathia Jenkins and three-time Grammy Award nominee Ryan Shaw performing such iconic hits as "Respect," "Think," "A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools," "Amazing Grace" and many others.

PROKOFIEV VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 2

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 11, at 12 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at 8 p.m.

Ludovic Morlot, conductor Augustin Hadelich, violin

Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2 **Franck** Symphony in D

Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto runs the gamut: melancholic melodies, dazzling fingerwork, soaring themes and a rambunctious stomp of a finale with all the bells and whistles. Augustin Hadelich returns to Seattle to perform this masterpiece under the baton of Conductor Emeritus Ludovic Morlot. Anchoring the program is Franck's luminous D-minor Symphony, a remarkable fusion of French and German orchestral traditions at the height of romanticism.

Augustin Hadelich's performances are generously underwritten by Charles and Maria Schweizer through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle. Ludovic Morlot's performances are generously underwritten by Dr. Susan Detweiler and Dr. Alexander Clowes* through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle. Additional support is provided by The Nakajima Family. Ludovic Morlot's position has been generously underwritten as the Judith Fong Conductor Emeritus.

[UNTITLED] 3

[UNTITLED] SERIES

Friday, June 11, at 10 p.m. Samuel & Althea Stroum Grand Lobby

Seattle Symphony musicians

Arnold Quintet No. 1 **Hindemith** Trumpet and Bassoon Concerto **Gernot Wolfgang** *Impressions*

Austrian-American composer Gernot Wolfgang's *Impressions* paints musical portraits of a Venetian carnival, a dream state and the American West, evoking a variety of genres from jazz to country. German composer Paul Hindemith offers a rare pairing in his Trumpet and Bassoon Concerto. Brass players shine in the popular Quintet No. 1 by British composer Malcolm Arnold, who is perhaps best known for his Oscar-winning film score for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

NIELSEN, BEETHOVEN & MORE

CHAMBER SERIES

Tuesday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall

Seattle Symphony musicians

Nielsen Serenata in vano Beethoven String Quartet No. 10, "Harp" Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 1 Mozart Serenade No. 12, "Nachtmusik"

Beethoven's "Harp" String Quartet earned its nickname from the distinctive plucked arpeggiation in its first movement. Nielsen composed the lighthearted *Serenata in vano* on about a week's notice for a regional tour with members of the Danish Royal Orchestra. From timeless themes to contemporary classics, watch the talented musicians of the Seattle Symphony take center stage to perform an exquisite assortment of chamber works in the intimate Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall.

BARTÓK & SCHUMANN

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, June 17, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 20, at 2 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor Stefan Dohr, horn Jenna Breen, horn Jeff Fair, horn Danielle Kuhlmann, horn John Turman, horn

Hans Abrahamsen Horn Concerto (Seattle Symphony Co-commission & North American Premiere)
R. Schumann Konzertstück for Four Horns
Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Park your expectations at the door for this inside-out program. Robert Schumann features not one but four horn soloists in his triumphant *Konzertstück*, giving audiences the chance to hear (and see) members

of our exceptional horn section up close. Then, Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra uses the combined forces of the full orchestra, rather than highlighting a single soloist. Plus, Principal Horn of the Berlin Philharmonic Stefan Dohr presents the U.S. Premiere of a new concerto by Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen.

Stefan Dohr's performances are generously underwritten by Eric and Margaret Rothchild through the Seattle Symphony's Artists Circle.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan | Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.

TAN DUN BUDDHA PASSION

MASTERWORKS SEASON

Thursday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at 8 p.m.

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor
Sen Guo, soprano
Huiling Zhu, mezzo-soprano
Yunpeng Wang, baritone
Tan Weiwei, female indigenous singer
Batubagen, male indigenous singer
Chen Yining, fantan pipa soloist & dancer
Seattle Symphony Chorale
Northwest Boychoir

Tan Dun Buddha Passion

East meets West with our final Delta | Masterworks program of the season. Tan Dun's *Buddha Passion* is the first of its kind in a centuries-old tradition: a passion not inspired by a Christian narrative but rather, a Buddhist one. Stirred by the city of Dunhuang and its ancient caves, Tan Dun created a powerful score that weaves chants, stories and sounds into a breathtaking vocal masterpiece, capturing the Buddha's teachings and timeless universal concepts of love, forgiveness, sacrifice and salvation.

Performances of Tan Dun's Buddha Passion are generously underwritten by Jeff and Rita Xiong.

Thomas Dausgaard's performances are sponsored by the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun.