

The Philadelphia Orchestra Returns to Beloved Summer Homes with Diverse Performances Featuring Renowned Guest Artists

***Mann Center for the Performing Arts
(June 17, 20–21; July 23–25)***

Bravo! Vail Music Festival (July 6–13)

Saratoga Performing Arts Center (August 6–23)

(Philadelphia, May 14, 2025)—The Philadelphia Orchestra will return to its summer homes at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia; the Bravo! Vail Music Festival in Vail, Colorado; and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, New York, throughout the summer of 2025. The performances will showcase the Orchestra’s versatility—including classical masterpieces, genre-crossing collaborations, visionary new works, blockbuster films in concert, and an impressive lineup of guest artists including Cynthia Erivo, Renée Fleming, Gil Shaham, Wu Man, Randall Goosby, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Jonathan Biss, Pablo Sáinz-Villegas, Laufey, Nas, and more. The Orchestra’s summer residencies demonstrate its commitment to creating an expansive and inclusive future for classical music.

Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Classical concerts at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts include an all-Beethoven program led by Lina Gonzalez-Granados, featuring his Symphony No. 5 and Piano Concerto No. 4 with Jonathan Biss (June 17), and a musical celebration of the Orchestra’s 125th anniversary—which will be observed in November 2025—with Assistant Conductor Naomi Woo leading an evening of audience favorites, including two musical segments from Disney’s *Fantasia* and Sibelius’s Symphony No. 2 (July 23).

Collaborations with the stars, under the stars, take center stage at the Mann as GRAMMY, Emmy®, and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer, and producer Cynthia Erivo gives voice to music made famous by the greatest female singers of all time, including an array of beloved Broadway hits and soul-stirring standards (June 21). Legendary hip-hop/rap mogul Nas will

perform his debut album, *Illmatic*, reimaged live with the Orchestra in a genre-crossing concert celebrating the impact and enduring legacy of the revolutionary 1994 album (July 25).

The Philadelphia Orchestra will celebrate the Eagles's Championship Season with a special concert hosted by the "Voice of the Eagles," Merrill Reese. The ensemble will perform the symphonic music of NFL Films live while highlights from the Eagles's 2024 season are projected on three giant screens (July 24).

Star Wars fans will have the opportunity to experience the first film in the franchise, *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, on the big screen while John Williams's iconic score is performed live (June 20).

Bravo! Vail Music Festival

The Orchestra will perform six concerts in the pastoral Rocky Mountains as part of the ensemble's 18th year at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop will lead the first two concerts of the residency, beginning with the Bravo! Vail premiere of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Picaflor: A Future Myth*—a vibrant new work that Alsop and the Orchestra premiered in March—paired with Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 featuring Randall Goosby, and Brahms's Variations on a Theme of Joseph Haydn (July 6). Pipa virtuoso Wu Man will join Alsop and the Orchestra to perform Zhao's Pipa Concerto No. 2 on a program that includes Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 (July 7). Gil Shaham will serve as conductor and soloist, leading and performing Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* paired with works by Bach and Mozart (July 10).

Former Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève will lead the final three concerts in Vail, beginning with Berlioz's thrilling *Symphonie fantastique* in an evening that will also feature guitarist Pablo Sáinz-Villegas in Rodrigo's *Fantasía para un gentilhombre* (July 11).

Concertmaster David Kim will join Denève for Music of the Movies, a program of beloved themes from iconic films including *King Kong*, *Psycho*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Star Wars*, and more (July 12). Closing the Orchestra's 2025 residency at Bravo! Vail is a performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand with Jean-Efflam Bavouzet paired with Musorgsky's timeless *Pictures from an Exhibition* and Holmès's enchanting "La Nuit et l'amour" from *Ludus pro patria* (July 13).

Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)

The Philadelphia Orchestra will conclude its summer residencies with three weeks in Saratoga Springs, New York, where they will be joined by Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop, and a host of special guests for 12 performances throughout August.

Alsop kicks off the residency with the annual Tchaikovsky Spectacular, featuring Principal Cello Hai-Ye Ni performing Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme and culminating in a celebratory fireworks display (August 6). Randall Goosby will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in its first performance at SPAC in over a decade, paired with Holst's *The Planets* (August 7). Alsop will also lead works by American music icons George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein, including Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F with Clayton Stephenson and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* (August 8).

Nézet-Séguin will lead the Orchestra and pianist Beatrice Rana in Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini alongside William Grant Still's Symphony No. 2 ("Song of a New Race")—a work The Philadelphia Orchestra premiered in 1937 with Leopold Stokowski—and Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird* (August 13). He will also conduct Verdi's towering Requiem with soprano Ailyn Pérez, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, tenor Matthew Polenzani, bass-baritone Alfred Walker, and the Albany Pro Musica chorus (August 14).

Renowned guest artists will collaborate with the Orchestra throughout its three-week residency at SPAC. GRAMMY Award-winning jazz singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Laufey will bring her "Night at the Symphony" program to Saratoga (August 9). Celebrated vocalist Renée Fleming will perform select songs from her and Nézet-Séguin's GRAMMY Award-winning album *Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene* as well as classic and beloved arias and songs with Robert Moody leading the Orchestra (August 15). Assistant Conductor Naomi Woo will lead Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Sheku Kanneh-Mason will join the Orchestra for a performance of Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1 (August 20). GRAMMY- and Emmy-winning trio Time for Three will give the SPAC premiere of Mason Bates's *Silicon Hymnal* on a program also featuring works by Barber and Copland with conductor Teddy Abrams (August 21). GRAMMY, Emmy, and Tony Award winner and three-time Oscar® nominee Cynthia Erivo will perform hits made famous by some of the greatest female singers of all time in addition to Broadway hits and her own original songs (August 22).

The Orchestra will also perform two live-to-film concerts at SPAC: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*™ in Concert (August 16) and *Back to the Future* in Concert (August 23).

The Philadelphia Orchestra Summer 2025 Calendar
June 17–August 23, 2025

Beethoven's Fifth

June 17 at 8:00 PM—Tuesday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Lina Gonzalez-Granados Conductor
Jonathan Biss Piano

Beethoven *Coriolan* Overture
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4
Beethoven Symphony No. 5

Pack a picnic and join us for a night of Beethoven's music under the stars as The Philadelphia Orchestra, led by Lina Gonzalez-Granados, returns to TD Pavilion at the Mann on June 17. The evening will begin with Beethoven's *Coriolan* Overture, which was inspired by the story of Roman general Coriolanus and was written for Austrian dramatist Heinrich Joseph von Collin's tragedy, *Coriolan*. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 will follow, with piano virtuoso Jonathan Biss playing alongside the Fabulous Philadelphians. Following intermission, we will be treated to Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, one of his most famous symphonies with its iconic four-note motif that has been adapted in pop culture in everything from the Electric Light Orchestra to *Fantasia 2000* to the *Judge Judy* theme music.

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

***Star Wars: A New Hope* in Concert**

June 20 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Damon Gupton Conductor

Williams *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* (complete with film)

The Philadelphia Orchestra will play Oscar-winning composer John Williams's musical score live as the film is projected on three giant screens. Pack a picnic and join us for a perfect summer night under the stars!

Set 30 years after *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* returns to the desert planet of Tatooine in the fourth episode of the saga. While searching for a lost droid, a young Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) begins to discover his destiny when he is saved by reclusive Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi (Alec Guinness). As civil war rages in the galaxy, and Rebel forces struggle against the evil Galactic Empire, Luke and Obi-Wan enlist the aid of hotshot pilot Han Solo (Harrison Ford). Joined by the quirky droid duo R2-D2 and C-3PO, the unlikely team sets out to rescue Rebel leader Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and use stolen plans to destroy the Empire's ultimate weapon. In a legendary confrontation, the rogue group mounts an attack against the Death Star for a climactic battle with the evil Sith Lord Darth Vader.

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

Cynthia Erivo with The Philadelphia Orchestra

June 21 at 8:00 PM—Saturday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Steven Reineke Conductor

Cynthia Erivo Vocalist—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Join us for a magical evening as GRAMMY Award winner Cynthia Erivo takes the stage with the GRAMMY Award-winning Philadelphia Orchestra on June 21 at TD Pavilion at the Mann! Her appearance promises an evening of unparalleled artistry as she gives voice to music made famous by the greatest female singers of all time, including an array of beloved Broadway hits and soul-stirring standards.

Cynthia Erivo is a GRAMMY, Emmy, and Tony Award-winning actress, singer, and producer, as well as an Academy Award®, Golden Globe®, and SAG Award nominee. She burst onto West End and Broadway stages in *The Color Purple* and has since taken the world by storm. Erivo most recently starred as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande's Glinda in Universal's record-breaking film adaptation of the hit musical *Wicked* from director Jon M. Chu. Part 1 was released on November 22, 2024, with Part 2 releasing on November 21, 2025. *Wicked* Part 1 opened at number one and has since become the highest grossing movie ever based on a Broadway musical at the domestic box office. Erivo has received widespread critical acclaim and rave reviews for her performance, including Golden Globe, SAG, Critics' Choice, NAACP, BAFTA, and Academy award nominations.

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

Mozart Violin Concerto

July 6 at 6:00 PM—Sunday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Marin Alsop Conductor

Randall Goosby Violin

Frank *Picaflor: A Future Myth*

Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3

Brahms Variations on a Theme of Joseph Haydn

Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop is convinced that music has the power to change lives. She's also enormously entertaining to watch, as you'll see in this program that features Mozart's charming Violin Concerto No. 3. Performing this bravura display of the instrument's range is the astonishing young violinist Randall Goosby, who "plays like an angel with nothing to prove" (*Los Angeles Times*).

The Mozart is flanked by a pair of dazzling works: Brahms's intricate Variations on a Theme of Haydn, whose contrapuntal shifts present a brilliant puzzle for the artists of the Orchestra to solve, and composer Gabriela Lena Frank's *Picaflor: A Future Myth*, a vibrant new work that retells a traditional Peruvian creation myth.

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

Alsop Conducts Shostakovich

July 7 at 6:00 PM—Monday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Marin Alsop Conductor

Wu Man Pipa

Beethoven *Leonore* Overture No. 3

Zhao Pipa Concerto No. 2

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

Written in 1937, in the midst of Stalin's cruel artistic purges, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 shows little of the terrible strain the composer and his compatriots felt. The government defined truth and beauty, and the consequences of coloring outside those lines were dire. Seemingly on a whim, an artist's work could be condemned, and the artist himself banished. Despite the overriding climate of fear, his Fifth was a triumph; the Leningrad premiere received an ovation that lasted more than half an hour. It remains an extraordinary tribute to inspiration that defies restraint. Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop leads the program, which also includes Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3 and Zhao's Pipa Concerto No. 2 performed by virtuoso Wu Man.

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

Vivaldi The Four Seasons

July 10 at 6:00 PM—Thursday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Gil Shaham Conductor and Violin

Bach Violin Concerto No. 1

Mozart Adagio in E major, for violin and orchestra

Mozart Rondo in C major, for violin and orchestra

Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

Audience favorite violinist Gil Shaham leads the Orchestra and takes center stage in this program of instrumental virtuosity. At the heart of the program is Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. Composed just before his move from Italy to Vienna, these four spectacular violin concertos stand as the pinnacle of Baroque music. Each concerto unfolds with vivid imagery and emotional depth, painting a vibrant musical portrait of nature's ever-changing moods and landscapes. The concert is a brilliant showcase for Shaham demonstrating him to be “a virtuoso and a player of deeply intense sincerity.” (*The New York Times*)

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

Berlioz Symphonie fantastique

July 11 at 6:00 PM—Friday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Stéphane Denève Conductor

Pablo Sáinz-Villegas Guitar

Chabrier *España*

Rodrigo *Fantasía para un gentilhombre*, for guitar and orchestra

Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

In this enchanting program, French conductor Stéphane Denève and Spanish guitarist Pablo Sáinz-Villegas make an indelible connection with romance and Spanish dances. Berlioz's most famous work, his *Symphonie fantastique*, conjures up a dark tale of love and madness, while Rodrigo's virtuosic *Fantasía para un gentilhombre* is a boldly exuberant, brilliantly colored work—the perfect showcase for a soloist who has “ascended to the upper echelon of successful classical guitarists.” (acousticguitar.com)

Conducting this vivid program is former Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève, hailed for his “fabulous ear, staggering mastery of his scores, and a buoyant, bubbly personality” so popular with audiences they've coined the term “Stéphanomania” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*).

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

Music of the Movies

July 12 at 6:00 PM—Saturday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Stéphane Denève Conductor

David Kim Violin

Strauss “Dawn,” from *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Vivaldi First movement from “Spring,” from *The Four Seasons*

Beethoven Fourth movement from Symphony No. 6 (“Pastoral”)

Wagner “The Ride of the Valkyries,” from *Die Walküre*

Tchaikovsky Scene, from Suite from *Swan Lake*

Dukas *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*

Newman 20th Century Fox Fanfare

Steiner Theme from *King Kong*—First PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Korngold Overture to *The Sea Hawk*

Herrmann Prelude and “The Murder,” from *Psycho*

Herrmann “Love Scene,” from *Vertigo*—First PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Williams “The Raiders March,” from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Williams “Helena’s Theme,” from *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

Williams Main Title, from *Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra*

Time to break out the popcorn! In this delightful program, Stéphane Denève leads The Philadelphia Orchestra as they perform beloved themes from iconic films.

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

Pictures from an Exhibition

July 13 at 6:00 PM—Sunday evening—Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, Vail

Stéphane Denève Conductor

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Piano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Holmès “La Nuit et l’amour” (Interlude), from *Ludus pro patria*

Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

Musorgsky *Pictures from an Exhibition*

Pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet joins The Philadelphia Orchestra for Ravel’s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand. The evening, conducted by Stéphane Denève, also features Holmès’s enchanting “La Nuit et l’amour” from *Ludus pro patria* and Musorgsky’s timeless *Pictures from an Exhibition*.

Tickets are available through the Box Office, by calling 877.812.5700, or by visiting www.bravovail.org.

125 Years of The Philadelphia Orchestra

July 23 at 8:00 PM—Wednesday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Naomi Woo Conductor

Bach/orch. Stokowski Toccata and Fugue in D minor

Still *Mother and Child*

Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

Sibelius Symphony No. 2

Join us in celebrating the 125th anniversary of The Philadelphia Orchestra as it returns to its summer home at the TD Pavilion at the Mann on July 23 for an evening of classical music hits, led by Assistant Conductor Naomi Woo.

The evening will begin with two of the most iconic musical segments from Walt Disney's 1940 classic *Fantasia*, the score of which was originally recorded by The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1939 at the Academy of Music: Johann Sebastian Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor and Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Following intermission, the Orchestra will perform Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 2, which the composer himself described as "a confession of the soul." Pack a picnic and enjoy this exciting celebration of classical music and *Your Philadelphia Orchestra* under the stars!

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

A Championship Season with The Philadelphia Orchestra

July 24 at 8:00 PM—Thursday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Anthony Parnter Conductor

Merrill Reese Host

The Mann Center, the Philadelphia Eagles, and NFL Films take center stage this summer to celebrate another Eagles Championship Season with this special concert event hosted by the "Voice of the Eagles," Merrill Reese. Relive NFL Films' stunning video highlights of the Philadelphia Eagles 2024 Championship Season on three giant screens alongside the great Philadelphia Orchestra, performing the inspiring, uplifting, and wonderfully symphonic music of NFL Films.

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

Nas—Illmatic: Live

July 25 at 8:00 PM—Friday evening—Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Steven Reineke Conductor

Nas Rapper

Timeless poet and rhyme-master Nas delivered his first full-length album, *Illmatic*, in 1994. He went on to release 14 subsequent albums, eight of which are multi-platinum and platinum including *Nastradamus*, *Stillmatic*, *God's Son*, and *Street's Disciple*. With 16 GRAMMY nominations, Nas released *King's Disease* in 2020, giving him his first ever GRAMMY win for "Best Rap Album," and released *King's Disease II*, a sequel to the GRAMMY Award-winning album, produced by Nas and Hit-Boy.

Most recently, Nas released the third installment of the *King's Disease* series. With no features, *King's Disease III* was produced by Hit-Boy and executive produced by Nas and Hit-Boy. Most recently, they released *Magic 3*, featuring 15 brand new tracks, also marking the final chapter of the legendary run for the prolific rapper-producer duo. *Magic 3* serves as the duo's sixth album together in the last three years and serves as the third installment to the *Magic* series.

Tickets are on sale now via MannCenter.org, Ticketmaster.com, and the Mann Ticket Office.

Tchaikovsky Spectacular

August 6 at 7:30 PM—Wednesday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Marin Alsop Conductor

Hai-Ye Ni Cello

Tchaikovsky Selections from Suite No. 1 from *The Nutcracker*

Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme, for cello and orchestra

Tchaikovsky *Hamlet* Overture

Tchaikovsky *1812* Overture

Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop returns to SPAC for the first time since 2017 leading the Orchestra in a dazzling evening of Tchaikovsky featuring the *1812 Overture* with live cannon fire and a brilliant fireworks display. Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Cello Hai-Ye Ni performs Tchaikovsky's beautiful and elegant Variations on a Rococo Theme, inspired by the composer's love for Mozart. And the *Hamlet* Overture, originally conceived as incidental music to Shakespeare's play, receives its SPAC premiere.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

The Planets

August 7 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Marin Alsop Conductor

Randall Goosby Violin

Sopranos and Altos from Albany Pro Musica

José Daniel Flores-Caraballo Director

Clyne *Masquerade*

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto

Holst *The Planets*

One of the foremost conductors of our time, Marin Alsop leads Gustav Holst's iconic *The Planets*, a work that has inspired generations of sci-fi film composers, featuring the ferocity of "Mars, the Bringer of War," the high-spirited "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity," and the ghostly suspense of "Neptune, the Mystic." Holst's exciting, cosmic score features a seven-movement orchestral suite, with each movement named after a planet of the solar system and its corresponding astrological character as defined by Holst.

Following his highly acclaimed SPAC debut in 2022, American violinist Randall Goosby returns to SPAC, performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, the first performance of the work at SPAC in over a decade. Goosby has been heralded by the *New York Times* for his "sheer virtuosity" and "exquisite tone" and in recent seasons has enjoyed a robust performance schedule with many of the world's leading ensembles including The Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Gershwin & Bernstein

August 8 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Marin Alsop Conductor

Clayton Stephenson Piano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Gershwin *Cuban Overture*

Bernstein Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Gershwin Piano Concerto in F

Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Guest Conductor Marin Alsop returns to SPAC leading the Orchestra in Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*. Bernstein mentored and inspired Alsop throughout her career, establishing her as one of the foremost conductors of his music.

The program is bookended by the music of another American icon, George Gershwin. The evening begins with his rousing *Cuban Overture*, inspired by a trip to Havana and combining traditional Cuban rhythms with Gershwin's original themes.

The program closes with Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F featuring American pianist Clayton Stephenson. At just 26 years old, Stephenson has been praised for his joyous charisma on stage and natural ease at the instrument. In 2022, he became the first Black finalist at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and has received critical acclaim for his "extraordinary narrative and poetic gifts" and interpretations that are "fresh, incisive and characterfully alive" (*Gramophone*).

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Laufey: A Night at the Symphony with The Philadelphia Orchestra

August 9 at 7:30 PM—Saturday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Ross Jamie Collins Conductor—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Laufey Vocalist—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

GRAMMY-winning jazz singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Laufey brings a spell-binding sonic journey performing alongside The Philadelphia Orchestra for her new "Night at the Symphony" program.

Last summer, Laufey (pronounced lāy-vāy) made her SPAC debut at our Saratoga Jazz Festival. Now, the "Gen Z It Girl" (*The New York Times*) will return to the SPAC stage for her Philadelphia Orchestra debut with her "Night at the Symphony" program, which premiered at the Hollywood Bowl and was made into a film directed by Sam Wrench (*Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour*).

Breaking through with her 2023 album *Bewitched*, which earned her a GRAMMY Award and broke the record as the biggest debut for a jazz album on Spotify in history, Laufey writes songs inspired by jazz greats and classical masters while possessing a point of view that could only be conveyed by a 21st-century twentysomething. Her brand of jazz is rooted in the classic stylings of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, and Chet Baker, but it's also bright and modern, equal parts confessional and inspirational. This romantic and trailblazing approach has captured audiences worldwide, growing a global community of "Lauvers" and selling out every tour date that she has put on sale.

As NME puts it, "Laufey can serenade an audience with deep, pitch-perfect vocals while effortlessly rotating between cello, piano, and guitar, countless hours of practice stored in her nimble hands." Those songs are infused with her approach to life: "I definitely romanticize a lot of things," she recently said. "I think it comes out of seeing the beauty in the small things." Her ability not only to see that beauty but to share it and make it feel personal has made her a favorite at jazz festivals and a star in the eyes of music fans around the world.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff, & Still

August 13 at 7:30 PM—Wednesday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor
Beatrice Rana Piano

Stravinsky Suite from *The Firebird*
Rachmaninoff Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, for piano and orchestra
Still Symphony No. 2 ("Song of a New Race")

Philadelphia Orchestra Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns to Saratoga to lead two unique programs that can only be heard at SPAC.

The program opens with the Suite from Igor Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. One of the most beloved ballets of all time, *The Firebird* was originally written by a then relatively unknown Stravinsky for Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in the early 1900s. The imaginative score is equal parts thrilling and ethereal, bringing to life an old Russian tale and launching the composer's now storied career.

Italian pianist Beatrice Rana returns to SPAC for the first time in a decade, performing Rachmaninoff's inventive Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Since her first visit to SPAC, she has become one of the most sought-after pianists of her generation, earning praise for her "underlying calm command" (*The New York Times*) and refined approach.

Through SPAC's and The Philadelphia Orchestra's continued efforts to explore works by underrepresented composers, the program closes with the rarely performed Second Symphony by William Grant Still. A prolific composer who produced dozens of major orchestral works over his 50-year career, he had a storied relationship with The Philadelphia Orchestra and longtime maestro Leopold Stokowski who proclaimed Still as "one of our greatest American composers."

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Verdi's Requiem with Yannick

August 14 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Yannick Nézet-Séguin Conductor

Ailyn Pérez Soprano—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Sasha Cooke Mezzo-Soprano
Matthew Polenzani Tenor
Alfred Walker Bass-Baritone—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Albany Pro Musica
José Daniel Flores-Caraballo Director

Verdi Requiem

Called “one of the most sublime and terrifying works in the repertoire” (NPR), Verdi’s Requiem is filled with transcendent moments from the ineffably sorrowful “Lacrymosa,” to the heavens-shaking final judgement of the “Dies irae,” to the hushed finale blessed by grace. The evening-length work features an all-star cast with soloists from the Metropolitan Opera stage alongside the Albany Pro Musica chorus. Philadelphia Orchestra Music and Artistic Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns to lead the program, bringing the score to life with his masterful interpretation.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Renée Fleming with The Philadelphia Orchestra

August 15 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Robert Moody Conductor
Renée Fleming Soprano

One of the most beloved and celebrated singers of our time, five-time GRAMMY-winner Renée Fleming returns to SPAC with an all-new program alongside The Philadelphia Orchestra. This breathtaking performance begins with inspiration from the GRAMMY Award-winning album *Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene*, in which Fleming explores humankind’s evolving relationship with nature, performing works ranging from Handel to Björk and *The Lord of the Rings*, with a beautiful projected film created for the program by National Geographic. The second half of the program features beloved arias and songs, from Puccini to Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ in Concert

August 16 at 7:30 PM—Saturday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Justin Freer Conductor

Hooper *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* (complete with film)—First PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Displayed on a giant screen and accompanied by The Philadelphia Orchestra, audiences can relive the magic of Harry's sixth year at Hogwarts™ School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Watch Harry become a wiz at potions, win Felix Felicis, and uncover the meaning of Horcruxes. Nominated for the 2010 GRAMMY™ Award, Nicholas Hooper returns to the *Harry Potter* series with this magical score that features soaring and unique motifs that could only represent the grandeur and scope of The Wizarding World.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

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Beethoven's Fifth

August 20 at 7:30 PM—Wednesday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Naomi Woo Conductor
Sheku Kanneh-Mason Cello

Coleridge-Taylor Ballade in A minor
Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1
Beethoven Symphony No. 5

With perhaps the four most famous notes in classical music, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony has captured the attention of concertgoers for more than 200 years. It is a wide-ranging work that journeys from wonderful intensity to euphoric triumph, showcasing the composer's brilliance.

One of classical music's biggest rising stars, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason makes his SPAC debut performing Camille Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1. Kanneh-Mason was propelled into the spotlight after he performed at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Windsor Castle in 2018, an event watched by nearly two billion people worldwide. Since then, he has maintained an active performance calendar, appearing with many of the world's leading orchestras including multiple engagements with The Philadelphia Orchestra. Most recently, he made his Carnegie Hall debut with his sister Isata, who made her SPAC and Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2023.

The program opens with the SPAC premiere of English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's beautiful and lyrical Ballade in A minor.

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Copland & Bates with Time for Three and Teddy Abrams

August 21 at 7:30 PM—Thursday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Teddy Abrams Conductor—PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Time for Three

Barber Adagio for Strings

Copland *Appalachian Spring* Suite

Bates *Silicon Hymnal*—First PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Experience iconic works by Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber, and a SPAC premiere by contemporary composer Mason Bates, featuring genre-bending trio Time for Three.

Opening the program is Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, one of the most recognizable pieces of classical music in the world. The piece has been a mainstay of pop culture in films such as *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Platoon*, has marked somber occasions with performances at the funerals of FDR and JFK, and even experienced a rediscovery by younger generations when it was performed as a dance music anthem by Dutch DJ Tiësto in the early 2000s.

Following is Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* Suite, a joyous and evocative work that reflects the spirit of the frontier. Originally composed as a ballet to accompany the choreography of Martha Graham, the piece draws inspiration from the Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts."

The program closes with the SPAC premiere of Mason Bates's newest work, *Silicon Hymnal*. Written for GRAMMY and Emmy-winning trio Time for Three, the work is an "electro-acoustic book of songs" that showcases Time for Three's versatility, merging classical, Americana, and singer-songwriter styles. The work was co-commissioned by SPAC and follows SPAC's previous commission for Time for Three in 2022, Kevin Puts's *Contact*, a recording of which earned the group its first GRAMMY Award.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

An Evening with Cynthia Erivo & The Philadelphia Orchestra

August 22 at 7:30 PM—Friday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Steven Reineke Conductor
Cynthia Erivo Vocalist

Known for her powerhouse performances on both stage and screen, Cynthia Erivo is a Tony, Emmy, and GRAMMY Award-winner and three-time Oscar nominee, celebrated for her transformative roles in numerous works, including *The Color Purple*, *Harriet*, and most recently, the widely celebrated film adaptation of *Wicked*. Her appearance alongside the full Philadelphia Orchestra promises an evening of unparalleled artistry as she gives voice to music made famous by the greatest singers of all time, including Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Etta James, and Tina Turner, in addition to Broadway hits and her original songs.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Back to the Future in Concert

August 23 at 7:30 PM—Saturday evening—Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs

Steven Reineke Conductor

Silvestri *Back to the Future* (complete with film)—First PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the unforgettable movie classic, *Back to the Future* is the 1.21-gigawatt blockbuster that topped the 1985 box office chart, spawned two wildly successful sequels, and stamped an enduring imprint on pop culture.

Join Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox), Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd), and a time machine for the adventure of a lifetime as they travel to the past, present, and future, setting off a time-shattering chain reaction that disrupts the space-time continuum! Now, fans old and new will experience the thrill of *Back to the Future* like never before—on a big high-def screen with the full Philadelphia Orchestra performing Alan Silvestri's dazzling musical score live in synch with the movie. Audiences will also be in for an exclusive treat: approximately 20 minutes of brand-new music added by award-winning composer Alan Silvestri to the film's score especially for these unique live orchestra presentations.

Tickets are available from the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 518.584.9330 (handling fees apply), or at www.spac.org.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin holds the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Chair.

Marin Alsop holds Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller Chair.

David Kim holds the Dr. Benjamin Rush Chair.

[About The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

About Yannick Nézet-Séguin

About the 2024-25 Season

Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Strategies (IDEAS)

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