

# PRESS RELEASE

MINNESOTA  
ORCHESTRA

## Minnesota Orchestra 2025-26 Season Calendar

### ORCHESTRA HALL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 13, 2024, 1–10 p.m.

We're kicking off the new season with a behind-the-scenes look at Orchestra Hall, one of our city's architectural gems! Enjoy backstage tours, educational activities and live performances into the evening. View the complete schedule of events on our website later this summer.

[minnesotaorchestra.org/2526openhouse](https://minnesotaorchestra.org/2526openhouse)

### Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts SØNDERGÅRD, DIDONATO AND STRAUSS

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 11 a.m.

Friday, September 19, 2025, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Joyce DiDonato**, mezzo

BERNSTEIN	Overture to <i>Candide</i>
BERLIOZ	<i>Les Nuits d'été</i>
CONNESON	<i>Céléphaïs</i> , from <i>The Cities of Lovecraft</i>
R. STRAUSS	Suite from <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>

Three-time Grammy Award-winner Joyce DiDonato makes her Minnesota Orchestra debut alongside Thomas Søndergård in these season opening concerts. Described by *The New York Times* as “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation,” DiDonato will perform Hector Berlioz’s well-loved song cycle *Les Nuits d’été*. Leonard Bernstein’s effervescent Overture to *Candide* opens the program, which also features an H.P. Lovecraft-inspired work by French composer Guillaume Connesson and a suite of music from Richard Strauss’ opera *Der Rosenkavalier*.

### Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts SØNDERGÅRD AND ROSS

Friday, September 26, 2025, 8 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Thomas Søndergård**, conductor**Anthony Ross**, cello

TOWER

*Made in America*

HEITZEG

*EcoSaga* (Concerto in Three Landscapes) [World Premiere]

BERNSTEIN

Three Meditations from *Mass* for Cello and Orchestra

BARTÓK

Concerto for Orchestra

Principal Cello Anthony Ross takes the solo spotlight in two works alongside his Minnesota Orchestra colleagues in the second week of season opening concerts. First, he'll perform the world premiere of American composer Steve Heitzeg's *EcoSaga* (Concerto in Three Landscapes) commissioned by the Orchestra, followed by Three Meditations from Bernstein's eclectic *Mass*. The concerts end with Béla Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, composed for conductor Serge Koussevitsky during the composer's end-of-life battle with leukemia.

After the Saturday, September 27 concert, audiences are invited to mingle with musicians onstage in a special reception.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music****STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK****In Concert with the Minnesota Orchestra**

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 3, 2025, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Sarah Hicks**, conductor

"You must feel the Force around you..." The battle for the galaxy intensifies in this thrilling fifth episode of the unfolding saga. As Imperial Forces launch an all-out attack on the Rebel Alliance, Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) flee to Cloud City, where they are captured by Darth Vader. Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) journeys to the mysterious, marshy planet of Dagobah, where the wise Jedi Master Yoda teaches the young hero the ways of the Force. Little does Luke know that all his Jedi training will be called upon so soon. A stunning revelation—and a seeming life-or-death duel with Darth Vader—await.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts****KAVAKOS, MOZART AND SHOSTAKOVICH**

Friday, October 10, 2025, 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Leonidas Kavakos**, conductor and violin

MOZART	Violin Concerto No. 3
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 15

Award-winning Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos returns to Orchestra Hall for double duty as soloist and conductor. First, he'll showcase his violin skills in Mozart's charming G-major Violin Concerto. The program closes with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15, the composer's final contribution to the genre.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY**

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 11 a.m.

Friday, October 17, 2025, 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Andrew Manze**, conductor**Elisabeth Brauss**, piano

BRITTEN	<i>Sinfonia da Requiem</i>
CLYNE	<i>Atlas</i> (Piano Concerto)
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 5

Acclaimed conductor Andrew Manze first conducted the Minnesota Orchestra in 2023. In his return to Orchestra Hall, he leads concerts featuring an eclectic mix of composers, anchored by Beethoven's enduring Fifth Symphony. Pianist Elisabeth Brauss makes her Minnesota Orchestra debut in a multi-faceted piano concerto by contemporary composer—and Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute alumnus—Anna Clyne. Manze opens the concerts with Benjamin Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, a work with complex political origins.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music****THE GOONIES****In Concert with the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, October 24, 2025, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Sarah Hicks**, conductor

"Hey, you guys!" Join a group of misfits on a search for long-lost treasure, complete with an ancient map, deadly booby traps, a ruthless crime family and Baby Ruth candy bars. Experience

one of the most-loved films of the '80s with the Minnesota Orchestra playing the entire score live to film. No matter the dangers—*Goonies never say die!*

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **DAVID AFKHAM RETURNS**

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 11 a.m.

Friday, October 31, 2025, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**David Afkham**, conductor  
**Janice Carissa**, piano

L. BOULANGER	<i>Of a Sad Evening</i>
SAINT-SAËNS	Piano Concerto No. 2
WEILL	Symphony No. 2
RAVEL	<i>La Valse</i>

This program ventures beyond composer Kurt Weill's well-known ballad *Mack the Knife* to explore his Second Symphony, commissioned by Winnaretta Singer, an heir to the Singer sewing machine fortune and generous patron of the arts. Bookending that are contrasting voices of three extraordinary French composers.

## **Live At Orchestra Hall**

### **DESSA RETURNS**

### **With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, November 7, 2025, 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Dessa**, singer, rapper and writer  
**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

With a style based on humor, tenderness and curiosity, singer, rapper and writer Dessa is adept at crafting unlikely metaphors—finding connections between seemingly unrelated corners of human experience: philosophy and dental work; heartbreak and fMRI imaging; bottle service and the fall of Rome. She returns for her fifth set of concerts with the Minnesota Orchestra, led by Sarah Hicks.

## **Family Concert**

### **MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL CREATURES**

Sunday, November 9, 2025, 2 p.m.

Kids and families are invited to explore how music connects us to the animal kingdom. Featuring film snippets from the Minnesota Zoo originally filmed as part of the Orchestra's 2021 Young People's Concert, *Musical Menagerie*, the program pounces, swoops and dives into music inspired by Earth's many creatures. From galloping horses to charming birdsong, this program will bring listeners to animal habitats around the world. This one-hour relaxed concert format is designed for audiences of all ages, including individuals with autism or sensory sensitivities.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts** **SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE**

Thursday November 13, 2025, 11 a.m.

Friday, November 14, 2025, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Benjamin Beilman**, violin

TAKEMITSU	<i>Night Signal</i>
SZYMANOWSKI	Violin Concerto No. 1
BERLIOZ	<i>Symphonie fantastique</i>

American violinist Benjamin Beilman returns to Orchestra Hall to perform Polish composer Karol Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No. 1 in his first collaboration with Thomas Søndergård. The concerts end with Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, an expression of the composer's passionate longing for an actress who, for years, paid him no attention. His unanswered obsession led him to compose an autobiographical symphony that tracks the highs and lows of his emotional state, and one that redefined the parameters of what an orchestra could do.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts** **SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS BRAHMS REQUIEM**

Friday, November 21, 2025, 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 22, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Siobhan Stagg**, soprano  
**Blake Denson**, baritone  
**Minnesota Chorale**

DORN	<i>Transitions</i>
CLYNE	<i>Within Her Arms</i>
BRAHMS	<i>A German Requiem</i>

Music is a powerful tool for getting in touch with our deepest emotions. This program presents three perspectives on processing grief. From the present time, Henry Dorn and Anna Clyne—

both alumni of the Orchestra's Composer Institute—pay tribute to their mothers, while Brahms' Requiem is not so much a Mass for the dead, but music meant to comfort those left behind.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music**  
**THE PRINCESS BRIDE IN CONCERT**  
**with the Minnesota Orchestra**

Saturday, November 29, 2025, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Nicholas Buc**, conductor

"As you wish..." Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles...Audiences can experience one of the most beloved films of all time with the power of the Minnesota Orchestra performing the entire musical score live-to-picture.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**DVOŘÁK NEW WORLD SYMPHONY**

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 11 a.m.

Friday, December 5, 2025, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Delyana Lazarova**, conductor  
**Yi Zhao**, violin  
**Erik Wheeler**, cello  
**Kate Wegener**, oboe  
**J. Christopher Marshall**, bassoon

SHAW	<i>Entr'acte</i>
HAYDN	Sinfonia concertante
DVOŘÁK	Symphony No. 9, <i>From the New World</i>

Haydn's Sinfonia concertante was written to allow a quartet of players to shine. In this case, a quartet of Minnesota Orchestra musicians take the solo spotlight. To set the scene, Caroline Shaw riffs on one of Haydn's quartets, and conductor Delyana Lazarova returns to close with Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, partially inspired by his time in the Upper Midwest.

**Live At Orchestra Hall**  
**CODY FRY CHRISTMAS**  
**With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Enrico Lopez-Yañez**, conductor**Cody Fry**, vocals, guitar and piano

Multi-hyphenate artist, composer and producer (and two-time Grammy-nominated artist) Cody Fry returns to the Orchestra Hall stage, bringing the magic of Christmas with him in a concert featuring spectacular arrangements, sing-alongs and special appearances to help make this an enchanting and family-friendly way to spend the holidays.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music****DISNEY'S THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL IN CONCERT****With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, December 12, 2025, 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra****Jason Seber**, conductor

The Minnesota Orchestra presents Disney's *The Muppet Christmas Carol* in Concert featuring the complete film, with the score performed live-to-picture. In this version of Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale, Kermit the Frog plays Bob Cratchit, the put-upon clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine), and many more popular Muppet characters join the fun.

**Live At Orchestra Hall****MERRY & BRIGHT**

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 2 p.m.

**Charles Lazarus**, trumpet**Tommy Barbarella**, piano**Jeff Bailey**, bass**Daryl Boudreaux**, percussion**David Schmalenberger**, drums**The Lazarus Brass**

Charles Lazarus and a stage-full of spectacular musical guests present a big, brassy (perfect for all ages) holiday show! Audiences will hear toe-tapping arrangements of holiday standards and discover Christmas originals.

Note: The Minnesota Orchestra does not perform on this program.

**Live At Orchestra Hall****TROUPE VERTIGO: CIRQUE NUTCRACKER****With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, December 19, 2025, 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, December 20, 2025, 2 p.m.

Living up to its name, Troupe Vertigo and the Minnesota Orchestra take Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* to dizzying heights.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **A NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA**

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 8:30PM  
 Thursday, January 1, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Teddy Abrams**, conductor  
**Aaron Diehl**, piano

TILSON THOMAS	<i>Agnegram</i>
ANDRES	<i>Made of Tunes</i> (Piano Concerto)
BERNSTEIN	Three Dance Episodes from <i>On the Town</i>
COPLAND	Suite from <i>Billy the Kid</i>

The Orchestra will ring in 2026 with a pianist who's well-admired in both jazz and classical circles. For this all-American program, Aaron Diehl plays a concerto that was written just for him, and Brooklyn-born Aaron Copland quotes cowboy songs to paint a picture of outlaw Billy the Kid. Plus: Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*. New Year's Eve tickets include post-concert vintage jazz from Belle Amour and a Champagne toast at midnight.

## **Nordic Soundscapes Festival**

### **SØNDERGÅRD AND EHNES**

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 11 a.m.  
 Friday, January 9, 2026, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**James Ehnes**, violin

SALONEN	<i>Nyx</i>
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto
NIELSEN	Symphony No. 1

James Ehnes was a teenager when he made his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra at Symphony Ball in 1993. He's returned many times since, and he's back to play Sibelius during this year's Nordic Soundscapes Festival. Thomas Søndergård invites audiences to embrace the First Symphony by Carl Nielsen, one of Denmark's heroes. To start, a colorful tone poem by Finnish composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor laureate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



**Nordic Soundscapes Festival**  
**CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE HALL**

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 7 p.m.

**James Ehnes**, violin  
**Susie Park**, violin  
**Rebecca Albers**, viola  
**Silver Ainomäe**, cello

AULIN	String Quartet No. 1
MORTENSEN	Woodwind Quintet
SIBELIUS	String Quartet in D minor, <i>Voces intimae</i>

**Nordic Soundscapes Festival**  
**SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS SIBELIUS**

Friday, January 16, 2026, 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, January 17, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Lauren Snouffer**, soprano

STENHAMMAR	<i>Excelsior!</i>
ABRAHAMSEN	<i>let me tell you</i>
SIBELIUS	Symphony No. 1

Week two of the Nordic Soundscapes festival returns to Finland's Jean Sibelius, this time spotlighting his maiden voyage as a composer of symphonies. Søndergård also leads a deeply moving song cycle by Hans Abrahamsen that tells the story of *Hamlet's* Ophelia from her perspective.

After the Saturday, January 17 concert, audiences are invited to mingle with musicians onstage in a special reception.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**GABEL, DEBUSSY AND DUKAS**

Friday, January 30, 2026, 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, January 31, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Fabien Gabel**, conductor  
**Rebecca Albers**, viola

DUKAS	<i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>
SHIN	<i>Threadsuns</i>
DEBUSSY	<i>Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun</i>
DUKAS	Prelude to Act III from <i>Ariadne and Bluebeard</i>
ROUSSEL	Suite No. 2 from <i>Bacchus and Ariadne</i>

French conductor Fabien Gabel first conducted the Minnesota Orchestra in 2021 and has made two return appearances since. For his fourth outing with the ensemble, he conducts a trio of composers from his home country plus a brand-new viola concerto by Donghoon Shin, featuring Minnesota Orchestra Principal Viola Rebecca Albers.

**Live At Orchestra Hall**  
**THE MUSIC OF PINK FLOYD**  
**with the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, February 6, 2026, 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, February 7, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Brent Havens**, conductor  
**Randy Jackson**, vocals

The Minnesota Orchestra performs Windborne's The Music of Pink Floyd featuring *The Dark Side of the Moon* in its entirety plus Pink Floyd's greatest hits in a brilliant combination of passion and power.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**TCHAIKOVSKY AND RACHMANINOFF**

Friday, February 13, 2026, 8 p.m.  
 Saturday, February 14, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Juraj Valčuha**, conductor

HERRMANN	<i>Prelude, Nightmare and Love Scene</i> from <i>Vertigo</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Fantasy-Overture
RACHMANINOFF	Symphony No. 3

Bernard Herrmann wrote the music for seven Hitchcock films, with a focus on the psychological state of the characters. In *Vertigo*, the word "obsession" comes to mind. Then hear how Tchaikovsky captures the essence of Romeo and Juliet's tragic love story without using a single word. And finally, Rachmaninoff's cinematic Third Symphony.

## CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE HALL

Sunday, February 15, 2 p.m.

### Members of the Minnesota Orchestra

BEETHOVEN	String Quartet No. 10, <i>Harp</i>
FUCHS	<i>Quiet in the Land Idyll</i>
SCHOENBERG	<i>Verklärte Nacht</i>

### Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts VÄNSKÄ, KEEFE AND STRAVINSKY

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, February 20, 2026, 8 p.m.

#### Minnesota Orchestra

**Osmo Vänskä**, conductor

**Erin Keefe**, violin

MAZZOLI	<i>Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)</i>
PROKOFIEV	Violin Concerto No. 2
STRAVINSKY	<i>Petrushka</i>

How would music sound if it were in the shape of a solar system? Hear how Missy Mazzoli—one of the most successful classical composers *on the planet* and a Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute alum—lets her imagination run free with that idea in this program led by Minnesota Orchestra Conductor Laureate Osmo Vänskä. He'll also conduct Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, which evokes images of Carnival fun through the eyes of a puppet that comes to life. At the center: Prokofiev's brooding Second Violin Concerto, performed by Concertmaster Erin Keefe.

## LUNAR NEW YEAR

### With the Minnesota Orchestra

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 7 p.m.

#### Minnesota Orchestra

**Chia-Hsuan Lin**, conductor

**Rui Du**, violin

**Yazhi Guo**, suona

**Roz Tsai**, host

**Fei Xie**, artistic consultant

ZHOU	Gift
MA	<i>Nostalgia</i>
ZHANG	<i>The River Across the Desert</i> for Suona and Orchestra

TRADITIONAL/arr. Cheng	<i>Hundreds of Birds Worshipping the Phoenix</i>
SHENG	<i>The Flying Horses from Zodiac Tale</i>
HONG	<i>Spring in My Hometown</i>
CHIN	<i>Seed of Eternal Love</i>
WANG	<i>Confluence</i>
HUANG	<i>Selection from Folk Songs for Orchestra</i>
LI	<i>Spring Festival Overture</i>

Chia-Hsuan Lin—new music director of the Rochester (MN) Symphony—leads the Minnesota Orchestra and a stunning array of guest artists to celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Horse and to explore themes of family, tradition and unity through orchestral music.

### **Live At Orchestra Hall**

### **BEN RECTOR: SONGS FOR AMERICA**

### **With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, February 27, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 7 p.m.

### **Minnesota Orchestra**

**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

**Ben Rector**, vocals, guitar and piano

“Songs for America” offers a moment of levity and reverence about the places we come from—a musical respite from the idea that more separates us than binds us in our shared and varied experience of calling America home. Ben Rector, whose national cult following has propelled him around the country the last 15 years, brings audiences original tunes that are equal parts golden-era pop, Broadway and modern hymn, all showcasing Rector’s charming presence and undeniable songwriting chops.

### **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **YO-YO MA WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 7 p.m. \*

### **Minnesota Orchestra**

**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor

**Yo-Yo Ma**, cello

WALTON	<i>Scapino</i>
COLERIDGE-TAYLOR	<i>Ballade</i>
BRITTEN	<i>Four Sea Interludes, from Peter Grimes</i>
ELGAR	<i>Cello Concerto</i>

A guiding principle for Yo-Yo Ma is to make the listener feel like the most important person in the room. This will be on full display when Ma joins the Minnesota Orchestra and Thomas Søndergård for a special one-night-only performance of English composer Edward Elgar’s

soulful Cello Concerto. Also on the program: a comedic overture by William Walton, an orchestra showpiece by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and an evocative depiction of the British coastline by Benjamin Britten.

\* Renewing subscribers receive priority access to this concert until April 25, 2025. Any remaining tickets will be available to new subscribers after that date.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts** **SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS BRUCKNER**

Friday, March 6, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor

BRUCKNER                      Symphony No. 8

After devoting three years to his Eighth Symphony, Anton Bruckner was beyond devastated when it was rejected by the conductor he described as his “artistic father.” But instead of giving up, he made many cuts and revisions. Five years later, when it finally had its premiere in Vienna, it was a triumph.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts** **SØNDERGÅRD, GERSTEIN AND BERNSTEIN**

Friday, March 13, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Kirill Gerstein**, piano

WILSON	<i>Shango Memory</i>
ADÈS	Piano Concerto
RAVEL	Piano Concerto for Left Hand
BERNSTEIN	Symphonic Dances from <i>West Side Story</i>

A favorite of Minnesota Orchestra audiences, Russian-American pianist Kirill Gerstein will return to Orchestra Hall to play two brilliant concertos: one by French composer Maurice Ravel for left hand alone and the other by British composer Thomas Adès, composed especially for Gerstein in 2018.

## **Family Concert**

### **SYMPHONIC STORYTELLING**

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor

How do composers use music to tell a story that has already been written? This concert explores pieces that, through purposeful orchestration by the composer, take widely known stories and put their own unique spin on them through symphonic music. This one-hour relaxed concert format is designed for audiences of all ages, including individuals with autism or sensory sensitivities.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9**

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, March 20, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Eun Sun Kim**, conductor  
**Mei Gui Zhang**, soprano  
**Taylor Raven**, mezzo  
**Jack Swanson**, tenor  
**Ryan McKinny**, bass-baritone  
**Minnesota Chorale**

FRANK	<i>Pachamama Meets an Ode</i>
BEETHOVEN	<i>Ah! Perfido</i>
BEETHOVEN	<i>Symphony No. 9, Choral</i>

Conductor Eun Sun Kim, music director of the San Francisco Opera, has built a trailblazing career as an orchestral and operatic conductor. In the follow-up to her 2024 debut with the Minnesota Orchestra, she'll showcase these talents in every selection on this program—each of which blends the human voice and orchestra—anchored by Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **BARNATAN PLAYS RACHMANINOFF**

Friday, March 27, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Anna Sulkowska-Migoń**, conductor  
**Inon Barnatan**, piano

BACEWICZ	Concerto for String Orchestra
RACHMANINOFF	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	<i>Scheherazade</i>

After a lean and powerful showpiece for strings by 20th century Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz, audiences will hear how Rachmaninoff looks at a violin caprice by Paganini from 24 different angles as he reimagines it for piano and orchestra. The concerts end with epic musical storytelling from Rimsky-Korsakov's well-read and clever *Scheherazade*.

## **CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE HALL**

### **With Inon Barnatan**

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Inon Barnatan**, piano

**Members of the Minnesota Orchestra**

BACEWICZ	Quartet for Four Violins
BAX	Elegiac Trio for Flute, Viola and Harp
CHAUSSON	Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet

Pianist Inon Barnatan performs Chausson's Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet alongside our musicians.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**

### **TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY NO. 6**

Thursday April 9, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, April 10, 2026, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**

**John Storgårds**, conductor

**Leila Josefowicz**, violin

ANTHEIL	<i>McKonkey's Ferry</i> Overture
ADAMS	Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6, <i>Pathétique</i>

Violinist Leila Josefowicz began her career performing the standard violin repertoire of the past, but the biggest transformation of her professional life has been the chance to collaborate with living composers. Near the top of that impressive list is John Adams, who she says "changed my life totally." In these performances, she plays his Violin Concerto, which received its world premiere in 1994 by the Minnesota Orchestra and former Concertmaster Jorja Fleezanis. This program begins with a treat for American history buffs and ends with Tchaikovsky's emotions riding high.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music**  
**DISNEY IN CONCERT: THE SOUND OF MAGIC**  
**With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, April 17, 2026, 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, April 18, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

Beloved characters and music from across the Walt Disney Animation Studios catalog come to life on the Orchestra Hall stage and screen in this original concert experience. Beloved songs and scores are combined into exciting new medleys and suites, including music from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Moana*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Aladdin*, *The Jungle Book*, *Frozen*, *The Lion King*, *Fantasia*, *Encanto*, *Beauty and the Beast* and more.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO. 4**

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 11 a.m.  
 Friday, April 24, 2026, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Kristiina Poska**, conductor  
**Nathan Hughes**, oboe

ADOLPHE	<i>Underneath the Sheen</i>
R. STRAUSS	Oboe Concerto
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 4

Richard Strauss was in his eighties when he began composing Oboe Concerto at the suggestion of American oboist John de Lancie. Principal Oboe Nathan Hughes takes the solo spotlight in the concerto alongside his Minnesota Orchestra colleagues, under the baton of returning conductor Kristiina Poska. Brahms' sweeping final symphony closes the program, and to start, a musical reflection on light and nature from contemporary American composer Julia Adolphe.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**MORE TO HEAR: THE LISTENING PROJECT**

Friday, May 1, 2026, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Janai Brugger**, soprano

*Program to include:*



PRICE/Rosner      *The Heart of a Woman* for Soprano and Chamber Orchestra

When the Minnesota Orchestra launched its Listening Project in 2021, one goal was to present and record top-notch performances of music by underrepresented composers. The project continues this season, with Music Director Thomas Søndergård and soprano Janai Brugger, who will sing a collection of Florence Price songs. All works on the program will be filmed and available to watch for free on the Orchestra's YouTube channel.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts** **SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS WAGNER AND BARTÓK**

Friday, May 8, 2026, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, May 9, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Michelle DeYoung**, mezzo  
**John Lundgren**, baritone

WAGNER	Prelude to <i>Lohengrin</i>
WAGNER	Prelude and <i>Liebestod</i> from <i>Tristan and Isolde</i>
BARTÓK	<i>Bluebeard's Castle</i>

Opera love stories tend to unfold quickly, leaving the composer with the task of supporting a story with music that speaks volumes. The chord progression at the beginning of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* is a textbook example. In Bartók's psychological thriller *Bluebeard's Castle*, two extraordinary artists portray a doomed couple as Thomas Søndergård conducts his second opera in concert of his Minnesota Orchestra tenure.

## **U.S. Bank Movies & Music** **HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS™ IN CONCERT** **With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Friday, May 15, 2026, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, May 16, 2026, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 17, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

Cars fly, trees fight back and a mysterious house-elf comes to warn Harry Potter™ at the start of his second year at Hogwarts™. Adventure and danger await when bloody writing on a wall announces: *The Chamber of Secrets has been opened*. To save Hogwarts will require all of Harry, Ron and Hermione's magical abilities and courage.

## Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts HINDOYAN AND RIEPPEL

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, May 29, 2026, 8 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Domingo Hindoyan**, conductor  
**Erich Rieppel**, timpani

HAILSTORK	<i>An American Port of Call</i>
AKIHO	Timpani Concerto
FRANCK	Symphony in D minor

Principal Timpani Erich Rieppel takes center stage in this concert to play a brand-new concerto by American composer and percussionist Andy Akiho. Also on the program, an energetic overture from Adolphus Hailstork and French composer César Franck's only full-scale symphony.

## CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE HALL

Sunday, May 31, 2026, 2 p.m.

### Members of the Minnesota Orchestra

MOSZKOWSKI	Suite for Two Violins
POULENC	Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano
BOLCOM	<i>Fairy Tales</i> for Viola, Cello and Bass
BARTÓK	String Quartet No. 3
RAVEL	Introduction and Allegro

## Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts SØNDERGÅRD, BARTON AND PROKOFIEV

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, June 5, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Jamie Barton**, mezzo

BARBER	Adagio for Strings
LIEBERSON	<i>Neruda Songs</i>
PROKOFIEV	Symphony No. 7

Mezzo Jamie Barton is one of the opera world's most celebrated contemporary voices. Dubbed "a leader of a new generation of opera stars" by *The New York Times*, she'll perform Peter Lieberman's *Neruda Songs* (based on love poems by Pablo Neruda) in her Minnesota Orchestra debut alongside Thomas Søndergård. Also on the program: Samuel Barber's lush Adagio for Strings and Prokofiev's final symphony, composed the year before his death.

## **Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts SØNDERGÅRD AND TCHAIKOVSKY**

Friday, June 12, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Alexander Gavrylyuk**, piano

HIGDON	<i>blue cathedral</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	Piano Concerto No. 1
IVES	<i>The Unanswered Question</i>
SCRIABIN	<i>The Poem of Ecstasy</i>

When Jennifer Higdon began to compose *blue cathedral*, she imagined a journey through a glass cathedral in the sky. Her creativity leaves the door wide open for audiences to explore "humanity's perennial question of existence" with Charles Ives, and be drawn into Scriabin's own brand of musical mysticism.

After the Saturday, June 13 concert, audiences are invited to mingle with musicians onstage in a special reception.

## **Juneteenth With the Minnesota Orchestra**

Thursday, June 18, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Kedrick Armstrong**, conductor  
**Melody Betts**, vocals  
**Brian Nabors**, Hammond organ

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR	<i>The Bamboula</i>
GREEN	<i>Testify</i>
BETTS	Song selections
PERKINSON	Worship: A Concert Overture for Orchestra
OKOYE	<i>Voices Shouting Out</i>
NABORS	Concerto for Hammond Organ

Kedrick Armstrong makes his Minnesota Orchestra debut leading this celebration and exploration of Black ritual and spirituality through the music of the African diaspora. A wide array of instruments, traditions and guests take center stage in this powerful program.

**U.S. Bank Movies & Music**  
**DISNEY PRIDE IN CONCERT**  
**with the Minnesota Orchestra and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus**

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 21, 2026, 2 p.m.

**Minnesota Orchestra**  
**Sarah Hicks**, conductor  
**Gerald Gurss**, TCGMC artistic director and conductor

A spectacular new concert that celebrates LGBTQ+ life, love, family and pride. It draws musical inspiration from iconic Disney films including *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King* and *Mary Poppins* to modern classics such as *Coco*, *Zootopia*, *Wreck-It Ralph* and the magical music of Disney Parks with curated video clips from the Disney vault, all interwoven with universal storytelling themes stemming from the power of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus.

**Minnesota Orchestra Classical Concerts**  
**BEETHOVEN TRIPLE CONCERTO**

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 11 a.m.

Friday, July 17, 2026, 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 18, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Stephanie Childress**, conductor  
**Sarah Grimes**, violin  
**Silver Ainomäe**, cello  
**Alessio Bax**, piano

BRITTEN	<i>Simple Symphony</i>
BEETHOVEN	Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano
SCHUMANN	Symphony No. 3, <i>Rhenish</i>

Pianist Alessio Bax joins Minnesota Orchestra musicians violinist Sarah Grimes and Associate Principal Cello Silver Ainomäe in Beethoven's Triple Concerto, originally composed for Archduke Rudolph—who was Beethoven's patron and a talented pianist himself. Conductor Stephanie Childress leads the program which also features Benjamin Britten and Robert Schumann's reflection of life in the Rhineland.

**TICKET PURCHASING INFORMATION**

Ticket packages of three or more concerts are on sale beginning March 18 and can be purchased at [minnesotaorchestra.org](https://minnesotaorchestra.org) or by calling 612-371-5642. Single tickets for the Minnesota Orchestra's 2025-26 program will be available on July 29, 2025. For groups of 10 or more, call 612-371-5662.

The 2025-2026 Classical Season is presented by Ameriprise Financial.

The Hall Pass program makes free tickets available for young listeners ages 6 to 18 for select Classical concerts, and all kids under 18 for Family concerts. This program is sponsored by Cynthia and Jay Ihlenfeld. For more information, visit [minnesotaorchestra.org/hallpass](https://minnesotaorchestra.org/hallpass).

The Movies & Music series is presented by U.S. Bank.

MOVIE LICENSING: *The Goonies*: Amblin Entertainment & Warner Bros; *The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert*: © Disney; *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*: © Disney; *The Princess Bride*: Act III Communications, Buttercup Films, 20th Century Fox & Interaccess Film; *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™*; *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets™*:

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The Relaxed Family Concert series is sponsored by PNC.

The Young People's Concerts are sponsored by Mary Ann Feldman Music Education Fund, 3M, Ameriprise Financial, Midwest Radiology, Minnesota State Arts Board, RBC Wealth Management and YPSCA.

The Chamber Music Series is sponsored by Dr. Jennine and John\* Speier.

\*In Remembrance

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*All programs, artists, dates, times and prices subject to change.*

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