

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 22, 2026

## **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES FREE CONCERTS IN SUMMER 2026**

**Concerts in the Parks**  
Conducted by Elim Chan  
Philharmonic Principal Cello Carter Brey as Soloist  
June 9–12, 2026

**Free Indoor Concert in Staten Island**  
Performance by Musicians from the New York Philharmonic  
June 14, 2026

**Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer**  
**Major Support by Cathay Pacific**

---

The **New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer**, and in partnership with NYC Parks, take place June 9–12, 2026. Conductor **Elim Chan** leads the series for the first time, and **Carter Brey** — who will retire from the Philharmonic at the end of the 2025–26 season after 30 years — makes his final New York City solo appearances as the Orchestra’s Principal Cello, performing Saint-Saëns’s Cello Concerto No. 1 (following his performances of the same work at David Geffen Hall, May 27–30, 2026, also conducted by Chan). Major support for the New York Philharmonic’s Concerts in the Parks is provided by **Cathay Pacific**, the award-winning home carrier of Hong Kong.

Chan conducts the New York Philharmonic in four free outdoor concerts at Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx (June 9); the Great Lawn in Central Park, Manhattan (June 10); Cunningham Park, Queens (June 11); and Prospect Park, Brooklyn (June 12). In addition to the Saint-Saëns concerto, the program includes Copland’s *Fanfare for the Common Man*; Joan Tower’s *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*, No. 1; Berlioz’s *Le Corsaire Overture*; Dukas’s *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*; Ravel’s *Boléro*; and works by New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Celine Kim and Peace Dixon.

All outdoor performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and conclude with fireworks presented by Santore’s World Famous Fireworks. Additionally, the Central Park and Prospect Park concerts include pre-concert performances, from 6:00–7:30 p.m., featuring ensembles from Philharmonic education

and community partners from across New York City. The Central Park pre-concert performance also features the Philharmonic Youth Choir, directed by Dr. Tyrone Clinton.

Following the Concerts in the Parks, Musicians from the New York Philharmonic perform a **Free Indoor Concert**, on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at St. George Theatre in Staten Island. The program includes Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Brahms's Clarinet Quintet.

Linda and Mitch Hart President & CEO Matías Tarnopolsky said: “The New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks are an enormous point of pride for New Yorkers, and a joy for all who are lucky enough to be in New York at just the right moment. These free concerts manifest our most essential truth: music brings people together, and in New York that means all people, from all neighborhoods, cultures, and musical interests. The experience of gathering together on a June evening, on the lawn of one of the city’s beautiful parks, and embracing the chance to be quiet and listen — it is magical. This year we have the special pleasure of hearing our own Carter Brey as soloist as he retires from the Orchestra after 30 spectacular seasons as Principal Cello. Thank you, Carter!”

The New York Philharmonic’s [free parks concerts](#) have become an iconic New York summer experience since they began in 1965, transforming parks throughout the boroughs into a patchwork of picnickers and music lovers, providing the city an opportunity to hear classical music free of charge. More than 15 million listeners have been delighted by the performances since their inception.

### **About Cathay Pacific**

Premium full-service airline Cathay Pacific is the home carrier of Hong Kong with eight decades of history, and is a founding member of the oneworld global alliance. Cathay also comprises the cargo division Cathay Cargo, low-cost carrier HK Express, and its lifestyle business. For more information, please visit [cathaypacific.com](http://cathaypacific.com).

### **Tickets**

Admission to the Concerts in the Parks is free, and tickets are not required.

Admission to the Free Indoor Concert in Staten Island is free. Tickets are required and will be available beginning May 19 at [stgeorgetheatre.com](http://stgeorgetheatre.com).

### **Biographies**

[Carter Brey](#), [Elim Chan](#), [New York Philharmonic](#)

**Event Listing**

**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS**

**Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer**

All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m.

Elim Chan, conductor

Carter Brey, cello

COPLAND

Joan TOWER

SAINT-SAËNS

BERLIOZ

Works by NY Phil Very Young Composers

Celine KIM

Peace DIXON

DUKAS

RAVEL

*Fanfare for the Common Man*

*Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 1*

Cello Concerto No. 1

*Le Corsaire Overture*

*Happy Cities*

*Orchestra on E*

*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

*Boléro*

Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- Enter the park from Broadway, near West 251st Street. Concert site is on the Parade Grounds toward the south.

Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

- Westside entrances: West 81st or 86th Streets at Central Park West
- Eastside entrances: East 79th or 85th Streets at Fifth Avenue

Cunningham Park, Queens

Thursday, June 11, 2026

- Enter at 193rd Street, near 81st Avenue or Union Turnpike. Concert site is at 193rd Street Field.

Prospect Park, Brooklyn

Friday, June 12, 2026

- Enter at Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park West at 9th Street, or Bartel-Pritchard Circle at the intersection of Prospect Park West, Prospect Park Southwest, and 15th Street.
-

**FREE INDOOR CONCERT**  
**Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer**

St. George Theatre, Staten Island

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Musicians from the New York Philharmonic:

Sheryl Staples, Alina Kobialka, violins; Cong Wu, viola; Nathan Vickery, cello;  
Benjamin Adler, clarinet

MOZART  
BRAHMS

Clarinet Quintet  
Clarinet Quintet

---

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

\* \* \*

The 2025–26 season is sponsored by **Leni and Peter May**.

\* \* \*

The New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks are presented by **Didi and Oscar Schafer**.

\* \* \*

Major support for the New York Philharmonic’s Concerts in the Parks is provided by **Cathay Pacific**, the award-winning home carrier of Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

Major support for the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program is provided by **Susan and Elihu Rose**.

\* \* \*

Additional funding for the New York Philharmonic Very Young Composers Program is provided by **Muna and Basem Hishmeh**, the **Billy Rose Foundation, Inc.**, **The Rochlis Family Foundation**, **Phyllis and Slade Mills**, and **Theresa S. Thompson**.

\* \* \*

Concerts in the Parks are supported, in part, by **NYC Parks** with public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**. Activities are

supported by the **New York State Council on the Arts**, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

\* \* \*

**Contacts**

Adam Crane, Vice President, External Affairs  
(347) 654-1787; [cranea@nyphil.org](mailto:cranea@nyphil.org)

Dinah Lu, Director, Public Relations  
(347) 289-5180; [lud@nyphil.org](mailto:lud@nyphil.org)

Caitlin Hurst, Publicist  
(212) 875-5695; [hurstc@nyphil.org](mailto:hurstc@nyphil.org)

Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online press room, [nyphil.org/pressroom](http://nyphil.org/pressroom), or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or [pr@nyphil.org](mailto:pr@nyphil.org).

Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [What's New](#).

###