



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 9, 2025

## Rossen Milanov and the Columbus Symphony Announce the 2025-26 Masterworks Season

### *Subscriptions On Sale Now*

The [Columbus Symphony](#) and Music Director [Rossen Milanov](#) today announced the 2025-26 Masterworks season, with 12 programs full of unforgettable moments on the Ohio Theatre stage. Subscriptions are on sale now. Single tickets will go on sale at 10 am on Monday, June 9.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2025-26 Masterworks season will include three programs with Sunday matinee performances and one Saturday matinee.
- Accompaniment programs will continue, including Preludes, Mozart to Matisse, and the popular Friday Coffee Dress events that include complimentary coffee and donuts.
- The 2025-26 Masterworks season opens with the powerful music of Beethoven and two of his greatest compositions. Acclaimed pianist Anna Fedorova joins the orchestra for the majestic Piano Concerto No. 5 (“Emperor”). The concert concludes with the iconic Fifth Symphony.
- Masterworks audiences will be immersed in well-known compositions, including Handel’s *Messiah*, Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, and Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*. The orchestra once again presents a monumental Mahler piece, Symphony No. 1 (“Titan”). In the season finale, the orchestra presents Orff’s *Trionfo di Afroditi*, the final installment of a musical trilogy that opens with the well-known *Carmina Burana*.
- In a first for Masterworks, the orchestra and chorus will perform live to the Academy-Award winning film *Amadeus*!

- The orchestra will explore contemporary music in Viet Cuong's *Re(new)al* featuring Grammy Award-nominated percussion ensemble Sandbox Percussion, and the world-premiere of Jeffrey Mumford's *floating layers interwoven with expanding brightness*. The season also highlights works by woman composers, including Kaija Saariaho and African-American composer Florence Price.
- Continuing for the 2025-26 Masterworks season, all children aged 6-16 will receive free admission when accompanied by an adult.

## ACCOMPANIMENTS

**Preludes** - Prior to Masterworks performances, the CSO will offer a 30-minute, informational talk about the works or composers to be performed that evening, hosted by the Columbus Symphony's artistic team and special guests.

**Friday Coffee Dress** - Select Masterworks programs in 2025-26 season will offer \$18 general admission tickets (before fees) to Friday morning rehearsals. Complimentary coffee and donuts included.

**Mozart to Matisse** - The CSO and Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) will collaborate in a series of afternoon lectures that pair chamber music performances by CSO musicians with works from the CMA art collection. The presentations will focus on specific periods being presented in upcoming CSO Masterworks concerts, and explore the common themes and aesthetic influences between music and visual art.

**College Club** - This \$25 student membership program provides unlimited access to concerts all season long, as well as invitations to members-only events and discounts.

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## 2025-26 MASTERWORKS SEASON

### OPENING NIGHT: BEETHOVEN 5

Friday, September 26, 7:30 pm; & Sunday, September 28, 3 pm

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Anna Fedorova, piano

### Program:

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No. 5 ("Emperor")

Beethoven - Symphony No. 5

Our 2025-26 Masterworks Season opens with the powerful music of Beethoven and two of his greatest compositions! Acclaimed pianist Anna Fedorova joins the orchestra for the majestic Piano Concerto No. 5 (“Emperor”), a dynamic interplay between the brilliance of the piano and the lush symphonic backdrop. The concert concludes with the iconic Fifth Symphony – a thrilling narrative of fate and triumph. Join us for these masterpieces full of relentless energy that celebrate the timeless essence of classical music!

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### ***SCHEHERAZADE***

**Friday, October 3, 7:30 pm; & Sunday, October 5, 3 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Joanna Frankel, violin

Columbus Symphony Women’s Chorus

#### **Program:**

Debussy - Nocturnes

Saariaho - *Vers toi qui es si loin*

Rimsky-Korsakov - *Scheherazade*

Be swept away into an enchanting evening full of rich orchestral textures and evocative musical storytelling. The evening unfolds with the lush, dreamlike landscapes of Debussy’s Nocturnes. Each movement paints an impressionistic picture: slow-moving clouds, vibrant festivals, and the mysterious voices of Sirens, portrayed by the radiant voices of the Columbus Symphony Women’s Chorus. Kaija Saariaho’s *Vers toi qui es si loin* is a haunting exploration of longing and connection to what lies beyond our human existence. Finally, escape into the exotic musical landscapes of Rimsky-Korsakov’s colorfully orchestrated *Scheherazade*. Melodic tales of adventure and intrigue are brought to life featuring concertmaster Joanna Frankel as the “voice” of the Arabian princess Sheherazade weaving fairy tales for 1001 Nights.

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### ***MESSIAH***

**Friday & Saturday, November 14 & 15, 7:30 pm; & Sunday, November 16, 3 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Columbus Symphony Chorus

Stephen Caracciolo, chorus director

#### **Program:**

Handel - *Messiah* (arr. Mozart)

Mozart's orchestration of Handel's *Messiah* offers a new way of presenting this masterpiece. The reimagining of the oratorio allows for an expansion of sounds through additional instruments. In collaboration with the CSO Chorus, the brass section amplifies the triumphant energy of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, elevating its grandeur to new levels.

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## **LATIN RHYTHMS & HOLLYWOOD DREAMS**

**Friday & Saturday, January 16 & 17, 7:30 pm**

**Friday Coffee Dress: January 16, 10 am**

Josep Vicent, conductor

Blake Pouliot, violin

Griset Damas-Roche, flamenco dancer

### **Program:**

**Prokofiev:** Symphony No. 1 ("Classical")

**Korngold:** Violin Concerto

**Falla:** *El amor brujo*: Ballet Suite

**Márquez:** Danzón No. 2

Guest conductor Josep Vicent leads the orchestra in a captivating concert featuring Prokofiev's vibrant Symphony No. 1 ("Classical")—an echo of the elegant 18th-century musical style. Korngold's emotionally rich Violin Concerto will delight you and elevate the evening with its lyrical beauty. Falla's *El amor brujo* and Márquez's Danzón No. 2 complete the program in a lively homage to Flamenco, Latin dance, and Spanish passion.

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## **MOZART'S REQUIEM**

**Friday & Saturday, January 23 & 24, 7:30 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Lydia Grindatto, soprano

Mariya Kaganskaya, mezzo soprano

Angel Raii Gomez, tenor

Cumhur Görgün, bass

Columbus Symphony Chorus

Stephen Caracciolo, chorus director

### **Program:**

Mozart - Requiem

Experience the profound beauty of Mozart's unfinished masterpiece, now reimagined with a contemporary twist by acclaimed American composer Gregory Spears. Spears' music seamlessly blends echoes of Bach and Mozart with Romantic harmonies and modern nuances to complete the Requiem with its missing Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei. Join us for this unforgettable performance that bridges centuries of musical tradition with innovative artistry.

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**PRICE & TCHAIKOVSKY**

**Friday & Saturday, February 6 & 7, 7:30 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Melissa White, violin

**Program:**

**Copland:** Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo*

**Price:** Violin Concerto No. 2

**Tchaikovsky:** Symphony No. 1 ("Winter Dreams")

Experience the vibrant energy of Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*. Four folk-inspired dances from the ballet come alive, bursting with frontier spirit and lively rhythms. Described as elegant and thoughtful (*Cincinnati Business Courier*), violinist Melissa White will capture the sounds of American classical music with the soul-stirring lyricism of Florence Price's Second Violin Concerto. Finally, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 ("Winter Dreams") will take us on a charming musical ride full of dreamy landscapes and emotional depth.

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**MAHLER 1**

**Friday & Saturday, February 20 & 21, 7:30 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Lauren Cauley, violin

Mariel Roberts, cello

Jeffrey Mumford, composer

**Program:**

**Mumford:** *floating layers interwoven with expanding brightness*

**Mahler:** Symphony No. 1 ("Titan")

This captivating concert features Jeffrey Mumford's Double Concerto, a stunning fusion of rich textures, innovative harmonies, and intricate dialogue between the

orchestra and soloists Lauren Cauley, violin, and Mariel Roberts, cello. The program culminates with Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 1 ("Titan"), a work that takes listeners on a journey through expansive soundscapes of emotion, from robust triumph to serene reflection.

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### **AMADEUS**

**Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 7:30 pm**

Stuart Chafetz, conductor

Columbus Symphony Chorus

Stephen Caracciolo, chorus director

#### **Program:**

*Amadeus* Live

Celebrate the 270<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth and experience the Academy Award-winning film like never before! A breathtaking fusion of cinema and symphony, this is a must-see event for music and film lovers, with the soundtrack brought to life by Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz and the Columbus Symphony and Chorus.

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### **RACHMANINOFF 3**

**Saturday, March 14, 7:30 pm**

**Friday Coffee Dress:** March 13, 10 am

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Caroline Hong, piano

#### **Program:**

**Janáček:** *Taras Bulba*

**Gershwin:** *Rhapsody in Blue*

**Rachmaninoff:** Symphony No. 3

Immerse yourself in this exhilarating concert filled with heroic sounds, dazzling virtuosity, and musical drama! Janáček's dynamic *Taras Bulba* offers a vivid orchestral portrayal of heroism and sacrifice inspired by Nikolai Gogol's tales of war and death. Symphony pianist Caroline Hong brings Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* to life with sweeping lyricism and jazzy flair. Rachmaninoff's lush and dramatic *Symphony No. 3* weaves a poignant musical tapestry that will captivate your heart and stir your soul.

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**SHOSTAKOVICH 8**

**Friday & Saturday, March 27 & 28, 7:30 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Sandbox Percussion

**Program:**

**Viet Cuong:** *Re(new)al*

**Shostakovich:** Symphony No. 8

This evocative concert begins with the Grammy-nominated ensemble Sandbox Percussion's performance of Viet Cuong's *Re(new)al*—an innovative work for percussion quartet and orchestra full of eclectic soundscapes that explore themes of transformation and resilience. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8 is a powerful work reflecting on war as a force of destruction and suffering, while juxtaposing it with the endurance and resilience of the human spirit.

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**BEETHOVEN, SCHUMANN, & BRAHMS**

**Friday, April 17, 7:30 pm & Saturday, April 18, 3 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Maxim Lando, piano

**Program:**

**Beethoven:** *Egmont* Overture

**Schumann:** Symphony No. 4

**Brahms:** Piano Concerto No. 1

Musical brilliance abounds in this concert featuring works by three prominent composers from the Classical and Romantic eras. Beethoven's overture to *Egmont* is part of the incidental music he composed for the play by Goethe. It portrays in a brilliant and powerful way the ideas of oppression, struggle, and freedom. Schumann's music captures with its romantic passion and energy while offering an innovative formal design where all the movements of the symphony are linked together.

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**ORFF: *TRIUMPH OF APHRODITE***

**Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2, 7:30 pm**

Rossen Milanov, conductor

Aubry Ballarò, soprano  
Nicholas Nestorak, tenor  
Hugh Russell, baritone  
Columbus Symphony Chorus  
Stephen Caracciolo, chorus director  
BalletMet

**Program:**

**Dvořák:** *The American Flag*

**Orff:** *Trionfo di Afrodite*

Our season concludes with this vibrant finale featuring the Columbus Symphony musicians and Chorus, and dancers from BalletMet. Dvořák's *The American Flag* is a spirited blend of nationalism and folk elements that celebrates the composer's expressions of American patriotism and freedom. Orff's *Trionfo di Afroditi* is the final installment of a musical trilogy that opens with the well-known *Carmina Burana*. This spectacular work showcases the full power of the chorus and orchestra, explores love and beauty, and embraces the listener in its powerful climaxes.

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**Subscriptions** are on sale now and can be purchased in-person at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at [www.ColumbusSymphony.com](http://www.ColumbusSymphony.com), or by phone at (614) 469-0939.

Most packages are "create your own," a feature designed to give patrons the ability to curate their own experience. All subscribers receive discounted tickets, free ticket exchanges, a discount on additional tickets, and other benefits depending on the package selected. Patrons may also choose to pay in two separate payments.

The following packages are available:

**Masterworks 10-12** - Includes any 10-12 Masterworks programs of the patron's choice, free parking for one vehicle to each concert, four free tickets for friends or family to attend any Masterworks performance, and an invitation to the 2024-25 season kick-off party. Masterworks 10-13 subscriptions range from \$264.60-\$902.16. (20 percent off regular pricing)

**Masterworks 6-9** - Includes any 6-9 Masterworks programs of the patron's choice, two free tickets for friends or family to attend any Masterworks performance, and an invitation to the 2024-25 season kick-off party. Subscriptions range from \$167.16-\$716.58. (15 percent off regular pricing)



**Masterworks 4-5** - Includes any 4-5 Masterworks programs of the patron's choice and an invitation to the 2024-25 season kick-off party. Subscriptions range from \$116.96-\$420.25. (10 percent off regular pricing)

**College Club** - Students that purchase a \$25 College Club membership will receive one admission to each Masterworks concert in the season. Membership also includes the ability to purchase up to four additional student tickets per concert at \$8 each.

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**Programs and artists are subject to change.**

[www.ColumbusSymphony.com](http://www.ColumbusSymphony.com)

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**About the Columbus Symphony Orchestra**

Founded in 1951, the Columbus Symphony is the longest-running, professional symphony in central Ohio. Through an array of innovative artistic, educational, and community outreach programming, the Columbus Symphony is reaching an expanding, more diverse audience each year. This season, the Columbus Symphony will share classical music with more than 175,000 people in central Ohio through concerts, radio broadcasts, and special programming. For more information, visit [www.columbussymphony.com](http://www.columbussymphony.com).

The Columbus Symphony's 2024-25 season is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically. CAPA also appreciates the generous support of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, City of Columbus, Franklin County, and The Columbus Foundation's Kenneth L. Coe and Jack Barrow, Gertrude L. Jacob, Barbara B. Coons, W. W. Williams Family Field of Interest, and Martha G. Staub funds.

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