

Journey with us through a host of magnificent symphonic works that you’ve come to know and love, reach new heights with elevated guest artists, and explore additional terrains with innovative and diverse programming.

2025 Colorado Symphony Classics

Caitlin Owen
ATLS 2300
Section 014



Susannah Owen
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Friday, March 7, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, March 9, 2025 1:00PM

Music of the Americas feat. Copland Symphony No. 3

Celebrate the music of the Americas with two distinctly American works by Bernstein and Copland alongside a pair of pieces by Mexican composers Carlos Chávez and Salvador Contreras, all led by dynamic Mexican conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto. Few, if any, 20th century musicians left as important and enduring a heritage for their native country as Carlos Chávez has in Mexico. “Sinfonia india” is emphatically in the composer’s Mexican style, with irregular and cross-rhythms, syncopations, and stunning instrumental colors contributing to a driving, folklike energy that will come alive under the baton of Maestro Prieto. Chichester Psalms is Bernstein’s most important sacred score, combining six Psalms set in Hebrew with a hint of West Side Story, showcasing the versatility and power of the Colorado Symphony Chorus. Known as the “Dean of American Composers,” Copland’s Third Symphony stands between his abstract works and the more accessible ballet and film music, offering an emotional journey from the uneasy tranquility of the opening movement to the heroic optimism of the finale which incorporates elements of his famous Fanfare for the Common Man.

Repertoire: CHÁVEZ Symphony No. 2, "Sinfonia india", BERNSTEIN Chichester Psalms, CONTRERAS Corridos, COPLAND Symphony No. 3

Featured Artists: Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor, Colorado Symphony Chorus

From Saturday, March 15, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, March 16, 2025 1:00PM

The Four Seasons with Avi Avital

Baroque is at its best with this stirring program showcasing a perennial masterpiece: Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons. A narrative piece that paints a portrait of Italy’s expansive landscapes, mandolinist Avi Avital shows the versatility that this age-old warhorse maintains to this day. In a stunning performance not to be missed, Avital will shine on mandolin while simultaneously leading the ensemble.

Repertoire: VIVALDI Concerto in D major, RV 93, BACH Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041, BACH Concerto in D minor for Violin and Oboe, BWV 1060, VIVALDI The Four Seasons, Op. 8

Featured Artists: Avi Avital, mandolin, Nicholas Tisherman, oboe, David Belkovski, harpsichord

Friday, March 21, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, March 23, 2025 1:00PM

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony with Peter Oundjian

Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony has been dubbed the ‘apotheosis of dance’ due to the whirling, spinning motion at the heart of the composition. The iconic second movement “Allegretto” stands alone as a powerful, hauntingly beautiful, and relentlessly rhythmic piece of music that remains one of Beethoven’s most beloved and well-known works. Your Colorado Symphony’s own Principal Oboe Peter Cooper takes center stage on the delightful Hidas Concerto for Oboe & Orchestra while Rossini’s Overture from William Tell highlights some of the most recognizable musical passages of all time, including the thunderous finale which is sure to have you on the edge of your seat.

Repertoire: ROSSINI William Tell: Overture, HIDAS Concerto for Oboe & Orchestra, BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

Featured Artists: Peter Oundjian, conductor, Peter Cooper, oboe

Friday, April 4, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, April 6, 2025 1:00PM

Carmina Burana with the Colorado Symphony Chorus

Conductor Ken-David Masur and your Colorado Symphony present Carl Orff’s powerhouse Carmina Burana, a symphonic exploration of love, lust, and the perils of earthly pleasures. Featuring the Colorado Symphony Chorus, Colorado Children’s Chorale, and a cast of soloists, Carmina Burana is a true spectacle and one of the most well-known pieces of the 20th century, combining powerful rhythms and robust vocals in a dynamic performance you won’t want to miss. Hear it alongside Haydn’s Symphony No. 96, adding a counterpoint of symphonic bliss to a night of choral cataclysm.

Repertoire: HAYDN Symphony No. 96 in D major, "The Miracle", ORFF Carmina Burana, BACH Concerto in D minor for Violin and Oboe, BWV 1060, VIVALDI The Four Seasons, Op. 8

Featured Artists: Ken-David Masur, conductor, Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director, Colorado Children's Chorale, Emily Crile, director

Friday, May 16, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, May 18, 2025 1:00PM

Beethoven & Brahms with Christopher Dragon

Celebrate rarely performed gems by two titanic icons: Ludwig van Beethoven and Johannes Brahms. Your Colorado Symphony’s own Concertmaster Yumi Hwang-Williams and Principal Cello Seoyoen Min grace the stage with the mesmerizing interplay of the Brahms Concerto for Violin and Cello. Brahms, who spent much of his life coping with societal expectations of being the next Beethoven, capped an illustrious career with this never-before-seen double concerto pairing which often features violin and cello in dovetailing running scale lines, creating the effect of a single string instrument with a five-octave range. Beethoven’s Second Symphony offers a glance to the past while looking ahead to the groundbreaking compositions to come that would usher in a new era of music. Set within the framework of Haydn’s classical orchestra, audiences will hear Beethoven’s new path taking shape, with subtle previews of the earth-shattering “Eroica” Symphony. Repertoire: PRICE Dances in the Canebrakes, BRAHMS Concerto for Violin & Cello, BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 36

Featured Artists: Christopher Dragon, conductor, Yumi Hwang-Williams, concertmaster, Seoyoen Min, principal cello

From Friday, October 3, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, October 5, 2025 1:00PM

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

Two auspicious debuts are sure to dazzle as Bulgarian-born Delyana Lazarova takes to the podium joined by one of today’s most sought-after pianists in Martin Helmchen on Mozart’s captivating Piano Concerto No. 24. A highlight among Mozart’s two dozen beloved piano concertos, the piece projects a reflective, personal, almost intimate quality that will showcase the virtuosity of the prodigious Helmchen. The grand finale – Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony – is a meticulously paced reckoning with fate and one of Tchaikovsky’s most enduring masterpieces. The piece was a turning point for Tchaikovsky on multiple levels: as a composer, toward mastery of technique; and as a human, toward confronting his darkest emotions. Over four movements, he transforms his battle with fate into one of humanity’s most powerful works of art which electrifies in the hands of the dynamic Lazarova.

Repertoire: UNSUK CHIN subito con forza, MOZART Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491, —INTERMISSION—, TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36

Featured Artists: Delyana Lazarova, conductor, Martin Helmchen, piano

Friday, April 25, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, April 27, 2025 1:00PM

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with Gabriela Montero

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky – so highly regarded for his symphonic compositions – placed himself among the greats of the keyboard with the completion of his First Piano Concerto; filled with gorgeous lyrical melodies and unmistakable Romantic spirit. For many, it has become the standard against which all virtuosos must measure themselves, featuring iconic opening flourishes and a pyrotechnic-filled finale. Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero lends her dazzling technique and improvisatory nature to this cornerstone of the classical canon. Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 11, “The Year 1905”, references the First Russian Revolution, in which civilians revolted against Tsar Nicholas II, culminating in the uprising known as Bloody Sunday. Growing up in a country where democracy was a distant dream and any act of criticism of the leading party relentlessly punished, Shostakovich became a master of hidden truths, using his music as a sort of covert confessional. In his way, the 11th Symphony stands as a requiem for all innocent victims of war and violence, injustice and arbitrariness – capping a poignant performance led by Principal Conductor Peter Oundjian.

Repertoire: TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23, SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 11 in G minor, Op. 103 "The Year 1905"

Featured Artists: Peter Oundjian, conductor, Gabriela Montero, piano

Friday, May 2, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:00PM

Holst The Planets

Holst’s cosmic masterpiece – The Planets – offers an enchanting portrayal of Earth’s celestial neighbors. Listen as Holst draws on astrological traits and mythological nature to create seven unique scores that are both timeless and otherworldly – from the ominous, fierce, and remorseless Mars to the majestic and poignant beauty of Saturn – taking listeners on a musical journey through our solar system. Hear this timeless classic alongside Brahms’ Schicksalslied “Song of Destiny” featuring the Colorado Symphony Chorus in a piece that expresses the profound chasm between gods and people and contrasts the happy and sheltered existence of the former to the hardships endured by the latter. Ravel’s La Valse, poeme choregraphique, and Valerie Coleman’s Fanfare for Uncommon Times round out a weekend of music offering an eclectic array of old and new led by guest conductor Eric Jacobsen.

Repertoire: VALERIE COLEMAN Fanfare for Uncommon Times, BRAHMS Schicksalslied, Op. 54 "Song of Destiny", RAVEL La Valse, poeme choregraphique, HOLST The Planets

Featured Artists: Eric Jacobsen, conductor, Colorado Symphony Chorus

Friday, May 30, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, June 1, 2025 1:00PM

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Augustin Hadelich

Tchaikovsky—known for his lush, sweeping melodies for strings—surprisingly composed only one concerto for violin, but his lone installment overflows with a world of emotions. Principal Conductor Peter Oundjian and your Colorado Symphony are joined by acclaimed GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich in his much-anticipated return to Denver as featured soloist on Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto – a piece initially considered so difficult to perform that the premiere was delayed after his first two soloists declined the invitation. Hadelich himself described the piece as one of the most exhausting concertos in the violin repertoire, both emotionally intense and physically demanding. Berlioz’s Symphonie fantastique – a work epic in scale and ambition – requires tremendous forces and uses a recurrent melodic theme that ties the work together, surfacing in every scene of this epic and tragic journey. The composer’s own self-destructive passions are on full display as he takes audiences through the gamut of human emotions, capping a season finale that is dramatic and stirring.

Repertoire: COLERIDGE-TAYLOR Ballade in A minor, Op. 33, TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35, BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique, Op. 14

Featured Artists: Peter Oundjian, conductor, Augustin Hadelich, violin

From Friday, September 19, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, September 21, 2025 1:00PM

Respighi Pines of Rome with Peter Oundjian

Peter Oundjian welcomes audiences to a new season at Boettcher Concert Hall with a celebration of his own musical journey in his first concerts as the Colorado Symphony’s Music Director. Peter’s dear friend and mentor Pinchas Zukerman lends his uncompromising artistry to Bruch’s Violin Concerto and, as a bonus, will delight listeners with Beethoven’s gorgeous Romance in F major.

Oundjian and composer Joan Tower have worked closely together for decades, and the result is a tailor-made suite which captures the power of her Beethoven-inspired Concerto for Orchestra. Maestro Oundjian’s twenty-year relationship with your Symphony is highlighted in Respighi’s glittering Pines of Rome, which paints a stunning sonic portrait of Rome’s scenery and its ancient secrets hidden within, concluding an opening weekend program that will captivate from the first note to the last.

Repertoire: JOAN TOWER Suite from Concerto for Orchestra, BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26, – INTERMISSION –, BEETHOVEN Romance No. 2 in F major, Op. 50, RESPIGHI Pines of Rome

Featured Artists: Peter Oundjian, conductor, Pinchas Zukerman, violin

From Friday, October 17, 2025 7:30PM to Sunday, October 19, 2025 1:00PM

Mahler Symphony No. 9 with Andrew Litton

Mahler’s “farewell to the world” caps the career of one of history’s most emotive and daring composers in a work brimming with blistering intensity, paralyzing terror, and tender nostalgia in equal measure before its trademark finale gradually gives way to calm repose. Never one to shy away from a grand musical endeavor, Andrew Litton has longed to take on Mahler’s Ninth since his days as Music Director here in Colorado. During the genesis of the work, an ever-superstitious Mahler was keenly aware of the deaths of Beethoven, Schubert, and Anton Bruckner, all taken shortly after the completion of their respective ninth symphonies. He even went so far as to compose a “Tenth Symphony,” Das Lied von der Erde, after his eighth in an effort to creatively avoid the same fate. In the end, Mahler too would succumb before he could hear a performance of this incredible meditation on mortality. Whether or not you believe in the “Curse of the Ninth,” these performances will leave you with a deep sense of profundity and peace.

Repertoire: MAHLER Symphony No. 9 in D major

Featured Artists: Andrew Litton, conductor