

2024-2025 Season Snapshot

MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Fall & Winter Issue

CLASSICAL

HOLIDAY

ORCHESTRA HALL

Holst's The Planets
Thursday Oct. 10 - Saturday Oct. 12

Shostakovich Symphony
Friday Oct. 18 - Saturday Oct. 19

Vänskä and Ross
Thursday Oct. 31 - Saturday Nov. 2

Merry Christmas, Baby - Tony Desare
Wednesday Dec. 11

A Rocky Mountain Holiday - John Denver
Friday Dec. 13

Merry & Bright - Charles Lazarus
Sunday Dec. 15

The Music of John Williams
Thursday Nov. 7 - Sunday Nov. 9

The Music of The Beatles
Saturday Jan. 4, 2025

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis
Tuesday Jan. 28, 2025

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Thomas Søndergård's upcoming second season

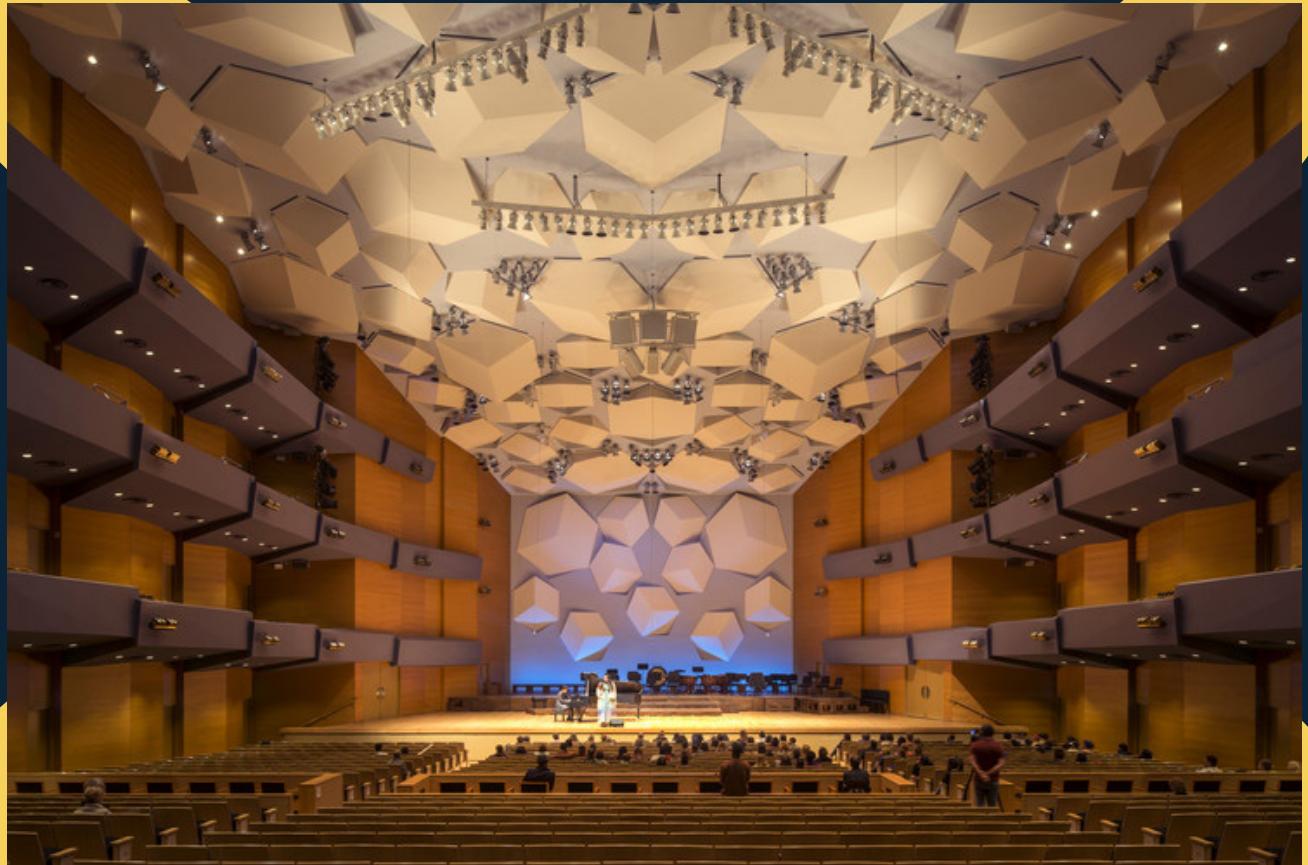
The Star Tribune hailed Music Director Thomas Søndergård's opening concerts last season as a display of "pure ecstatic triumph." Now in his second season, Søndergård's growing rapport with the Orchestra is evident. The first program of the 2024-25 season takes listeners on a musical journey to Italy, featuring Ottorino Respighi's Pines of Rome and

Andrea Tarrodi's Liguria, a piece that holds deep personal significance for Søndergård. From September 26 to 28, the second set of season-opening concerts will showcase two orchestration masters Søndergård feels a strong connection to: early modernist Maurice Ravel and contemporary composer Thomas Adès.

Celebrating 50 years at Orchestra Hall

Located on the recently revitalized Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, Orchestra Hall is also renowned for its acoustics, which were originally designed by Cyril M. Harris. Each feature was planned to enhance the warmth and richness of sound in the space, providing a superb aural experience. The Hall's signature architectural features include 114 large cubes that form a symmetrical "falling rock" pattern on the auditorium's ceiling and the stage's back wall, dispersing sound throughout the auditorium.

The upgraded spaces feature expanded public areas, updated backstage facilities, a refreshed auditorium preserving original acoustics, better accessibility, improved sound for amplified performances, new comfortable seating, and



other enhancements for a better concert experience. Any performing-arts organization exists to serve the magic that happens in the hall. But what happens in the lobby can be just as important... The Minnesota Orchestra proved this with the recent renewal of its Orchestra Hall...[with] civic spaces that have...created valuable community outreach." - Alex Bozikovic, Architectural Record

A half-century later, and the cubes of Orchestra Hall are still popping. This October marks 50 years since the first concert in our downtown Minneapolis home in 1974, and more than 10 million people have visited the iconic auditorium since. Stay tuned for special activities that we're planning to celebrate the milestone.

Featured Musician Yulianna Avdeena Pianist

When pianist Yulianna Avdeeva makes her Orchestra Hall debut on October 18 and 19, it won't be in a performance of a flashy concerto by Chopin or Rachmaninoff, but rather in Leonard Bernstein's contemplative Symphony No. 2—ominously subtitled The Age of Anxiety after W.H. Auden's book-length poem of the same name. We asked her some questions regarding her upcoming show.

1. You have a unique role in Bernstein's Age of Anxiety Symphony. Can you talk about what it's like to prepare and perform this piece and how it might differ from getting ready to perform a concerto?

Bernstein composed this amazing work, The Age of Anxiety, after a poem of W.H. Auden in which four protagonists, who don't know each other, meet in a bar in New York and start a conversation about their lives and philosophies. According to Bernstein himself, the piano should not be just a virtuoso solo role, but also an element incorporated into the entire story telling of the symphony. This was the reason why he titled the piece as a symphony instead of as a concerto for piano and orchestra.



"The piano in this symphony takes on many various roles—sometimes it is in a dialogue with orchestra, sometimes it competes with it; there are also beautiful solo, cadenza-like parts."

Nevertheless, the piano is always an essential part of the action. As I am convinced that the role of the orchestra in any piano concerto is very important I always very carefully study the orchestra score before performing a piece, so preparing and performing Bernstein's Age of Anxiety does not feel so different to me. The orchestra score in this symphony is very rich in detail and it involves a huge amount of instruments; it's a very exciting puzzle to put together!

Movies in Music

BACK TO THE FUTURE
Saturday Nov. 30 - Sunday Dec. 1
2 hours 21 min.

Recharge your flux capacitor...and get ready to celebrate this unforgettable movie classic! Back to the Future is the 1.21-giga-watt 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 traveling DeLorean 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 on a big high-def screen with the Minnesota Orchestra performing Alan Silvestri's dazzling musical score live.



STAR WARS A NEW HOPE: IN CONCERT
Tuesday Oct. 1- Sunday Oct. 6
2 hours 16 min.

Luke Skywalker begins a journey that will change the galaxy in Star Wars - A New Hope. Nineteen years after the formation of the Empire, Luke is thrust into the struggle of the Rebel Alliance when he meets Obi-Wan Kenobi, who has lived for years in seclusion on the desert planet of Tatooine. Obi-Wan begins Luke's Jedi training as Luke joins him on a daring mission to rescue Rebel leader Princess Leia from the clutches of Darth Vader and the evil Empire. Don't miss this iconic film with John Williams' score performed live by the Minnesota Orchestra.



DISNEY'S HOCUS POCUS
Friday Oct. 25 - Saturday Oct. 26
2 hours ~

Accidentally brought back to life in Salem on Halloween night, three witches, known as the Sanderson sisters, attempt to steal the life essence from the town's children so they can have eternal life. They are outwitted by a boy named Max Dennison, his young sister Dani and his girlfriend Allison, and aided by a boy, Thackery Binx, who had been changed into a cat for trying to interfere with the witches centuries earlier. Dust off your broom—or vacuum!—and zoom on down to Orchestra Hall for a night of magic and music.



ELF IN CONCERT
Friday Dec. 20 - Sunday Dec. 22
2 hours ~

Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler, and raised among Santa's elves. This holiday season Buddy travels to New York—with the Minnesota Orchestra! Experience John Debney's wonderful score as the full film plays on the big screen.



Making Music For All

Fall & Winter Sensory - Friendly Concert
50 min. at Target Atrium

Join us for an engaging and interactive concert experience in a relaxed environment where all audience members are welcome to be who they are while enjoying music with family and friends. This concert takes place in the Target Atrium, where you can see and hear the instruments up close and ask questions in a more intimate setting. Hosted by Lyndie Walker, MT-BC from Toneworks Music Therapy Services, this program features a Minnesota Orchestra musician and talented guest artists from the community.



Explore Music & Art with Thomas

1 Hour at Orchestra Hall

Explore connections between art and music: composers inspired by specific works of art, artistic movements, and friendships between artists and musicians. Your guide through this exciting exploration will be our Music Director Thomas Søndergård. Come early to participate in interactive activities in the lobby.

Our Relaxed Family Concerts are designed for audiences of all ages, including individuals with autism or sensory sensitivities. Each concert takes place in an inclusive environment where you're welcome to be who you are and enjoy music together with family and friends.

Thomas Søndergård's Second Season



Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who in September 2024 begins his second season as music director of the Minnesota Orchestra, is a highly regarded conductor in both the orchestral and opera spheres. He has earned a reputation for incisive interpretations of works by composers from his native Denmark, a great versatility in a broad range of standard and modern repertoire, and a collaborative approach with the musicians he leads.

Søndergård first conducted the Minnesota Orchestra in December 2021, establishing an immediate rapport with musicians and audiences; he was quickly reengaged for an April 2022 concert and then announced as the next music director in July 2022. His 2024-25 season in Minnesota begins in September 2024 with two weeks of season opening concerts featuring soloists Yunchan Lim and Leila Josefowicz. Other season highlights include performances of Mozart's Requiem and Puccini's Turandot, a January festival of music from Nordic countries and the return of the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute.