

*The Colorado Symphony 2017–2018 Season presents a wealth of world-class artistry performed by the critically acclaimed orchestra, the region's only full-time professional orchestra.*

2017–2018

# COLORADO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Classics Series

Formerly "Masterworks," the newly reimagined "Classics" 2017–2018 continues with the transition of integrating innovative artists with the best of symphonic work envisioned with a contemporary twist. Colorado Symphony musicians and guest artists will wow you all season long as soloists on some of symphonic music's greatest pieces.

CONCERTS

7:30 PM  
Boettcher Concert Hall

*See Reverse for Schedule*

Mozart's “Jupiter” Symphony No. 41

Markus Stenz, conductor  
Karen Gomyo, violin

WAGNER *Siegfried Idyll*  
SIBELIUS *Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47*  
MOZART *Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551, “Jupiter”*

This convivial concert brims with music as a celebration of life. Mozart’s final Symphony No. 41 — also known as “Jupiter” — is jubilant and vibrantly atmospheric, and was deemed by Woody Allen as something that makes “life worth living”. Wagner drew upon birdsong and sunrise to honor the birth of his son and namesake of the bucolic Siegfried Idyll, which is followed by violinist Karen Gomyo glorifying Sibelius’ decadent and gleaming Violin Concerto in D minor.

All Beethoven

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Jeffery Kahane, piano

BEETHOVEN *Leonore Overture No. 3, Op. 72a*  
BEETHOVEN *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58*  
BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 4 in B-flat major, Op. 60*

Jeffrey Kahane, former Music Director of the Colorado Symphony, returns to join Music Director Brett Mitchell onstage in this season's rendition of our annual All-Beethoven weekend. Kahane, who is lauded for his exquisite piano work and legacy of leadership at the Colorado Symphony, will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, a musician favorite. Leonore and Symphony No. 4 boast of Beethoven’s range as a composer, from his dark and brooding moods through his playful ornamentation and triumphant bravado. The symphony will shine at the hands of Mitchell and Kahane!

Ravel’s Daphnis et Chloé

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Jessica Rivera, soprano  
Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director  
DEBUSSY *Syrinx*  
DEBUSSY *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*  
ESA-PEKKA SALONEN *Five Images After Sappho*  
RAVEL *Daphnis et Chloé (complete ballet)*

French masters divine beautiful music from Greek myths as the Colorado Symphony Chorus revels in Ravel’s romantic, virtuosic ballet Daphnis et Chloé, while Debussy’s Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun tells the risqué tale of a thwarted, woodland tryst. Soprano Jessica Rivera, deemed “rapturous” by the LA Times, lends her exquisite voice to Esa-Pekka Salonen’s Five Images After Sappho, inspired by the ancient Greek poet’s enigmatic and incomplete writings. Be still, our coeurs.

Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Olga Kern, piano

KILAR *Orawa*  
LUTOSLAWSKI *Concerto for Orchestra*  
TCHAIKOVSKY *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 23*

Denver favorite Olga Kern, whose extraordinary talent and star power has captivated critics around the world, returns to Boettcher Concert Hall for an incomparable performance of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1. Brett Mitchell leads the Colorado Symphony through works by two Polish composers who could very nearly steal the stage from the Russian great. Lutoslawski’s capricious Concerto for Orchestra illuminates every section of the Symphony, creating an orchestra of soloists. Its big sound and contrasting moods are set off by the driving energy of Kilar’s Orawa, which creates lush layers using strings.

Copland’s Rodeo

Andrew Litton, conductor  
Alban Gerhardt, cello  
COPLAND *Rodeo: Ballet in One Act*  
BARBER *Cello Concerto, Op. 22*  
BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73*

Maestro Litton revisits Copland’s rollicking piece of Americana Rodeo: Ballet in One Act, which Litton recorded and released with the Symphony and was named one of Colorado’s best classical albums of 2016. Masterful cellist Alban Gerhardt joins Litton onstage for a rare performance of Barber’s exceptionally challenging Cello Concerto, while Brahms’ rustic, energetic Symphony No. 2 — the Symphony that put him on the map — is the crown jewel of this concert. Bravo, Maestro Litton!

Mozart’s “Elvira Madigan” Piano Concerto No. 21

Ken-David Masur, conductor  
Susanna Phillips, soprano | Orion Weiss, piano  
Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director  
MOZART *Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, K. 492*  
MOZART *Piano Overture No. 21 in C major, K. 467*  
FAURE *Pavane, Op. 50*  
POULENC *Gloria*

Conductor Ken-David Masur opens this evening with Mozart’s sprightly Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, then leads pianist Orion Weiss and the Colorado Symphony in performing Mozart’s tranquil Piano Concerto No. 21, often called “Elvira Madigan” due to the use of its well-known Andante in the film of the same name. The concerto is well-matched with Fauré’s stately and soothing Pavane, while Poulenc’s reverent, spirited Gloria — featuring Susanna Phillips and the Colorado Symphony Chorus — concludes this blissful collection of symphonic music.

Boettcher Concert Hall  
1000 14<sup>th</sup> Street #15  
Denver, Colorado 80202

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Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3

Andrew Litton, conductor  
Natasha Paremski, piano  
LIADOV *The Enchanted Lake, Op. 62*  
RACHMANINOFF *Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30*  
PROKOFIEV *Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, Op. 100*

Natasha Paremski graces the stage once more to artfully present Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3. This piece is as elegant as it is foreboding: it’s considered one of the most technically challenging classical piano concertos, and is approached by even the most accomplished pianists with trepidation. Prokofiev’s delightful Symphony No. 5 is a cheerful cap to a night of dazzling Russian virtuosity, interpreted and conducted by famed Colorado Symphony Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Litton.

Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Angelo Xiang Yu, violin  
VIVALDI *The Four Seasons for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 8*  
BERLIOZ *Roman Carnival Overture*  
RESPIGHI *The Pines of Rome*

Take a tour of the Italian countryside with Vivaldi’s perennial The Four Seasons and Respighi’s The Pines of Rome, a “surround sound” frolic that takes the audience to breathtaking heights. These narrative pieces paint a fanciful portrait of Italy’s light and land, with one-to-watch violinist Angelo Xiang Yu debuting in Denver to carry you through the Seasons as featured soloist. Glimpse into the lively tradition of Roman Carnival, as told by Berlioz.

Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Kirill Gerstein, piano  
RACHMANINOFF *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18*  
STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

Stravinsky’s primal The Rite of Spring is renowned for inciting a riot at its 1913 Paris debut. The causes are still debated — was it the eccentric asymmetry of the music or Nijinsky’s shocking choreography? — and the escalation often exaggerated (objects may have been thrown at the musicians, and a bald man’s head was allegedly drummed upon). Nonetheless, this can’t-miss master work radically changed twentieth-century composition. Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2, performed by Kirill Gerstein, completes a program of distinctly Russian flair conducted by Music Director Brett Mitchell.

Beethoven’s “Emperor” Concerto No. 5

Andrew Litton, conductor  
Zhang Zuo, piano  
BEETHOVEN *Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 58, “Emperor”*  
SHOSTAKOVICH *Symphony No. 11 in G major, Op. 103, "The Year 1905"*

Roll over Beethoven: the Colorado Symphony has corralled electrifying pianist Zhang Zuo (“Zee Zee”) to perform the composer’s vigorous and demanding Piano Concerto No. 5. Zee Zee, dubbed “full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigor of youth” by Chinese Gramophone, is just the firebrand to live up to the wiles of the majestic “Emperor” concerto. Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Litton will lead the orchestra in Shostakovich’s massive, volatile Symphony No. 11 — a powerful piece full of moody contrasts — for a night of explosive and energizing masterworks.

Wagner: The Ring Without Words

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
WAGNER arr. Maazel *The Ring without Words*

Richard Wagner’s The Ring of the Nibelung notoriously takes days to perform in its entirety. In this unique treatment created by conductor and composer Lorin Maazel, Music Director Brett Mitchell leads the orchestra through the fundamental sequences of Wagner’s Ring cycle in a once-in-a-lifetime performance. (Mitchell will describe the leitmotifs in a musical demonstration at the top of the concert, preceding a condensed performance without words.) This is an illuminating and rare performance of The Ring that will resonate with all audiences.

Two Titans: Bernstein & Mahler

Brett Mitchell, conductor  
Yumi Hwang-Williams, violin  
BERNSTEIN *Overture to Candide*  
BERNSTEIN *Serenade (After Plato’s Symposium)*  
MAHLER *Symphony No. 1 in D major, “Titan”*

Your Colorado Symphony marks the centennial of Leonard Bernstein’s birth with a program highlighting the maestro as both composer and conductor. Music Director Brett Mitchell leads the orchestra through Bernstein’s spirited Overture to Candide, then showcases Concertmaster Yumi Hwang-Williams’ artistry in Bernstein’s Serenade (After Plato’s Symposium), a violin concerto in all but name. Finally, to honor Bernstein’s lifelong study and reverence of Gustav Mahler, we will cap off our Classics season with the flourish it deserves: a performance of Mahler’s aptly named “Titan” Symphony — a gripping work of unceasing energy performed by the full orchestra.

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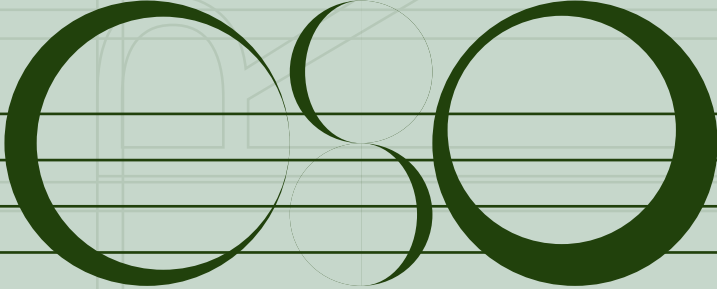
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Spencer Wegner  
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Boulder, Colorado 80305



Colorado Symphony Orchestra