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[Press Kit](#)



Pittsburgh Symphony Announces 26/27 Classical Season

Season includes 9 artist debuts, 3 world premieres, 2 US premieres, 3 PSO commissions, 3 co-commissions, and 10 PSO premieres

Season also celebrates a Beethoven anniversary, Mozart festival, and continued evolution of subscription concerts

PITTSBURGH – The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) today announced its 26/27 classical season under the collaborative artistic leadership of **Music Director Manfred Honeck** in his 19th season. Honeck and the PSO unveiled programming shaped by visionary voices, deep artistic relationships, and a far-reaching vision that affirms the PSO as a premier American orchestra of the 21st century. Subscriptions and renewals for the BNY Classics series are on sale now through the Symphony’s [website](#) and [box office](#), with single tickets available in summer.

“After almost 19 years together, what continues to inspire me most is the depth of trust and curiosity we share as an orchestra,” said **Music Director Manfred Honeck**. “This season reflects that spirit of the artistic mission and its intensity, where we stand side by side to challenge and inspire one another. I am restless in my search for the essential meaning of the music and am grateful to our wonderful musicians that they are so devoted in this exploration.”



“This season reflects an orchestra driven by a proud sense of Pittsburgh, excellence, and intense artistry” said **President & CEO Melia Tourangeau**. “Through bold programming, deep collaborations, and excellence in innovation, the PSO continues to define what it means to be a great American orchestra, one which belongs to its city and shares our superb music with the world.”

A Family of Artists

At the heart of the 26/27 season is PSO’s long-standing relationship with world-class artists, bringing together a roster of returning collaborators, rising stars, and exciting debuts. Returning conductors with a deep creative history alongside the PSO include Dima Slobodeniouk, Petr Popelka, Daniele Rustioni, Juraj Valčuha, Elim Chan and Donald Runnicles. World-class artists such as Lang Lang, Augustin Hadelich, Jeanine De Bique, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Kirill Gerstein, and many more perform with the orchestra as part of the PSO’s ever-evolving artistic family. Across the season, 10 star pianists and 5 violin virtuosos will be featured as guest soloists alongside the most diverse guest conductor lineup in PSO’s history.

The 26/27 season also highlights Pittsburgh and PSO musicians: Principal Tuba Craig Knox will perform the World Premiere of a PSO-commissioned tuba concerto written for Knox by Nick DiBerardino, and Principal Clarinet Michael Rusinek will perform Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto on a recording weekend complemented by Mahler’s First Symphony. The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh joins the Symphony on the PSO Premiere of Beethoven’s Mass in C major in December 2026, as well as Carmina Burana in February 2027.

Visionary Voices

The 26/27 season continues the PSO’s advocacy of contemporary composers and commitment to cultivating the next generation of musical talent. Three conductors make their PSO debuts—Karina Canellakis, Kevin John Edusei, and Kahchun Wong—alongside pianist Alexander Malofeev, mezzo-soprano Julie Boulianne, violinist Francesca DeGo, soprano Joelle Harvey, baritone Will Liverman, and violinist Tessa Lark.

The PSO is championing works by some of today’s greatest composers, including Anna Clyne, Mason Bates, Victoria Borisova, Camille Pepin and Arvo Pärt, performing 10 PSO premieres across its season. Commissions and world premieres include a new work by Bates, the aforementioned tuba concerto by Nick DiBerardino for Principal Tuba Craig Knox, and the latest entry in the acclaimed series of operatic suites by Manfred Honeck and Tomas Ille: Korngold’s



Die tote Stadt. In partnership with peer orchestras, the PSO is also co-commissioner of premieres by Juri Reinvere, Samy Moussa, and Carlos Simon.

Beethoven Anniversary and Mozart Marathon

The PSO will mark the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death with a theme spanning the full season: in addition to the PSO premiere of Beethoven's Mass in C major, March 19-21 brings an all-Beethoven program featuring Beethoven's Fifth led by Honeck and Augustin Hadelich performing the composer's Violin Concerto. A US premiere by Juri Reinvere opens the program—the work meditates on Beethoven's final words.

In April 2027, the PSO will host an All-Mozart weekend led by Honeck and joined by pianist Rudolf Buchbinder for two separate programs on the weekend. Buchbinder will play the composer's 20th and 21st piano concertos, and Honeck will lead the orchestra in Symphonies No. 40 and 41. On Saturday of that weekend, the PSO will perform two concerts of *Amadeus* in a film with live orchestra concert, led by Associate Conductor Jacob Joyce.

Concert Evolution

As part of its ongoing commitment to meeting audiences where they are, the PSO continues to expand and evolve the concert experience itself. From live video feed to a festival-style weekend and special event programming, the 2026–27 season includes enhanced theatrical presentations, immersive formats, and special projects that deepen engagement and invite audiences into the music in new and meaningful ways.

Personal welcomes from the stage, insider context, digital content, lighting and stagecraft, interactive questions, expanded program book content, as well as Q&A's and performances both before and after concerts will all be deployed across subscription weekends throughout the season. While the former series of Disrupt and Saturday Sessions will discontinue, this evolution brings insights from the standalone series into the regular subscription concert experience.

Audio Recording

Building on its distinguished audio recording history which includes 11 GRAMMY nominations in the past decade, the PSO will capture two concerts for inclusion on later releases: Mahler's Symphony No. 1, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto performed by Principal Clarinet Michael Rusinek, a new work by Samy Moussa, the Honeck/Ille arrangement of Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2.



Ticket Information

Subscription packages to the 26/27 BNY Classics series are available now [online](#) or through the [box office](#) starting at \$153. The PSO's Pops season, including PNC Pops and Movies, will be announced March 10, when PNC Pops subscriptions will be available. The 26/27 Fiddlesticks season will also be announced in March, and 26/27 Schooltime programs will be announced alongside registration openings August 1.

Last week, the PSO announced its 2026 Cinematic Summer Festival which includes Disney's Fantasia, Danny Elfman, and the return of Mad About the Movies, along with free concerts: Fiddlesticks in Your Neighborhood at Woodland Hills and Americana Concert at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum.

With Gratitude

With deep gratitude to our sponsors and to our donors who support the Annual Fund, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra continues to thrive as a cultural cornerstone of Pittsburgh, enriching lives through the power of music. This season is only possible due to the generous support of the following:

- BNY Classics concerts are made possible by title sponsorship support from BNY. The 2026/2027 season marks BNY's 26th consecutive year as title sponsor of the series.
- Support for PSO operations and for capital improvements for Heinz Hall is made possible by the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD).
- The PSO is grateful for overall support from local and state government entities: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Endowment funding for the performance of Handel's Messiah is provided by the Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation.
- Fairmont Pittsburgh is the official hotel of the Pittsburgh Symphony.
- Fort Pitt Piano Company is the official piano store of the Pittsburgh Symphony.
- Delta Airlines is the official airline of the Pittsburgh Symphony.
- Radio station WQED-FM 89.3/WQEJ-FM 89.7 is the official voice of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
- The PSO is grateful to the PA Department of Education with support from State Senator Camera Bartolotta; the Arts, Equity, & Education Fund; Hans and Leslie Fleischer; EQT



Foundation; Myles & Joan Bradley; Linda & Robert Ellison; Connie & Mike Phillips; Helge & Erika Wehmeier; and Anonymous Friends of the Orchestra (2) for major support of the Paul J. Ross Fellowship.

Complete 2026/2027 Classical Season Listing

** Indicates a PSO debut*

Opening Night Gala

September 26

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Lang Lang, piano

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5, “Emperor”

Other programming to be announced

BNY Classics: Gerstein Plays Brahms

October 2 & 4

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Kirill Gerstein, piano

Anna Clyne: *Masquerade* (PSO Subscription Premiere)

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4, “Italian”

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2

BNY Classics: Romantic Rachmaninoff

October 16 & 18

Juraj Valčuha, conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Prokofiev: Sinfonia Concertante for Cello and Orchestra

Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 2



PSO360: Alisa Weilerstein

October 17

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Program to be announced

BNY Classics: Barnatan Plays Beethoven

October 23 & 25

Karina Canellakis, conductor*

Inon Barnatan, piano

Victoria Borisova-Ollas: *The Kingdom of Silence* (PSO Premiere)

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances

BNY Classics: Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

November 3-5

Kevin John Edusei, conductor*

James Ehnes, violin

Sophia Jani: *I Wish You Daisies and Roses* (PSO Premiere)

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto

Strauss: *Also sprach Zarathustra*

BNY Classics: Strauss and Tchaikovsky

November 27 & 29

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Alexander Malofeev, piano*



Mason Bates: New Work (World Premiere and PSO Commission)
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1
Haydn: Symphony No. 60 in C Major, "Il distratto"
Strauss Viennese Favorites

BNY Classics: Beethoven's Mass

December 4 & 6

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Jeanine De Bique, soprano
Julie Boulianne, mezzo-soprano*
John Matthew Myers, tenor
Alexander Birch Elliott, baritone
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Arvo Pärt: *Fratres*
Hindemith: Mathis der Maler
Beethoven: Mass in C Major

Handel's *Messiah*

December 5

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Jeanine De Bique, soprano
Julie Boulianne, mezzo-soprano*
John Matthew Myers, tenor
Alexander Birch Elliott, baritone
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Handel: *Messiah*

Holiday Brass Spectacular

December dates at Waynesburg University and Heinz Hall to be announced



BNY Classics: Dvořák's Seventh

January 8 & 10

Andres Orozco-Estrada, conductor

Tessa Lark, violin*

Strauss: *Don Juan*

Bruch: "Scottish Fantasy" for Violin and Orchestra

Dvořák: Symphony No. 7

BNY Classics: Pictures at an Exhibition

January 15-17

Kahchun Wong, conductor*

Francesca DeGo, violin*

Ifukube: *Dance of the Seven Veils* (PSO Premiere)

Brahms: Violin Concerto

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

BNY Classics: Shostakovich's Seventh

January 30 & February 1

Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

Khachaturian: Piano Concerto

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 7, "Leningrad"

BNY Classics: Carmina Burana

February 12-14

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Joelle Harvey, soprano*



Reginald Mobley, countertenor
Will Liverman, baritone*
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Youth Chorus

Camille Pépin: *Les eaux célestes* (PSO Premiere)
Falla: Suite from *The Three-Cornered Hat*
Orff: *Carmina Burana*

BNY Classics: Ott Plays Ravel

February 19 & 21

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Alice Sara Ott, piano

Jonathan Blumhofer: *Semper Dowland, semper dolens* (PSO Premiere)
Ravel: Piano Concerto in G Major
Zemlinsky: *The Mermaid*, Fantasy for Orchestra

BNY Classics: Bruckner's Fourth

March 5 & 7

Sir Donald Runnicles, conductor
Jan Lisiecki, piano

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23
Bruckner: Symphony No. 4, "Romantic"

PSO360: Jan Lisiecki

March 6

Jan Lisiecki, piano

Program to be announced



BNY Classics: Beethoven's Fifth

March 19-21

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Augustin Hadelich, violin

Juri Reinvere: New Work (US Premiere and PSO Co-Commission)

Beethoven: Violin Concerto

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

BNY Classics: Stravinsky's Firebird

April 2-4

Petr Popelka, conductor

Yefim Bronfman, piano

Wagner: "Prelude und Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde*

Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 1

Tchaikovsky: *Francesca da Rimini*

Stravinsky: Suite from *The Firebird* (1919)

BNY Classics: All Mozart

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Friday, April 16

Mozart: Overture to *The Magic Flute*

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 20

Mozart: Symphony No. 40

Sunday, April 18

Mozart: Overture to *La clemenza di Tito*

Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21

Mozart: Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"



Amadeus

Film with Orchestra

April 17, 1:30PM and 7:30PM

Jacob Joyce, conductor

BNY Classics: Mahler's First

April 23-25

Manfred Honeck, conductor

Michael Rusinek, clarinet

Samy Moussa: New Work (US Premiere and PSO Co-Commission)

Mozart: Clarinet Concerto

Mahler: Symphony No. 1

(Recording Weekend)

BNY Classics: Ax Plays Beethoven

May 14 & 16

Elim Chan, conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

Gubaidulina: *Fairytale Poem*

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3

Lutosławski: Concerto for Orchestra

BNY Classics: Ravel's La Valse

May 21 & 23

Daniele Rustioni, conductor

Craig Knox, tuba



Menotti: "Prelude" from *Amelia Goes to the Ball*
Nick DiBerardino: New Tuba Concerto (World Premiere and PSO Commission)
Stravinsky: *Petrushka* (1947 revision)
Ravel: La Valse

BNY Classics: Kanneh-Mason Plays Elgar

June 4 & 6

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

Carlos Simon: New Work (PSO Premiere + Co-Commission)
Elgar: Cello Concerto
Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3, "Scottish"

PSO360: Sheku Kanneh-Mason

June 5

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello

Program to be announced

BNY Classics: Duenas Plays Prokofiev

June 11-13

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Maria Duenas, violin

Korngold (arr. Honeck/Ille): *Die tote Stadt* Suite (World Premiere and PSO Commission)
Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

(Recording Weekend)



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