The Minnesota Orchestra’s upcoming season pulses with the power of American music. Music Director Osmo Vänskä and our musicians have curated for you a season that spans the American musical landscape from sea to shining sea—the bold and energetic to the soulful and still.

Whether you join us in January for our high-voltage American Expressions Festival, showcasing 20 of our nation’s distinctly original composers, or throughout the season for concerts that pair American pioneers with mighty masters from Mozart to Mahler, we’ll share these musical gifts with emotion and depth—just as their creators intended, just for you.

“American composers are featured throughout the season. Look for this icon!”

As musicians, our job always starts with the composer. We bring together the composer’s notes, rhythms, ideas and voice to share his or her unique sound with audiences. This season, we have so many voices we want to share. Some are well-known and some are new; they all have something musically powerful to express.”

Osmo Vänskä
Music Director
Classical Concerts

Vänskä Conducts
The Planets
Thu Sep 27 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Sep 28 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Michael Collins, clarinet
Women of the Minnesota Chorale

This season we’re excited to share superb music inspired by disparate cultures. We start with Syrian-American composer Kareem Roustom, a compelling new voice in concert halls. His Ramal draws on ancient Arabic rhythms and cries out against the heartbreaking humanitarian situation in Syria. And traveling far beyond the bounds of cultures and nations, Holst’s glorious The Planets leaves Earth’s atmosphere to make a masterpiece inspired by our fellow travelers ‘round the sun.

Season Opening:
Osmo Vänskä and Emanuel Ax
Fri Sep 21 8pm
Sat Sep 22 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Emanuel Ax, piano

American composers are featured throughout the season. Look for this icon!

Emanuel Ax
Michael Collins

ROUSTOM
Ramal

ADAMS
Gnarly Buttons for Clarinet and Small Orchestra

HOLST
The Planets

Celebrating Northrop’s Restored Pipe Organ
Fri Oct 12 8pm
Sat Oct 13 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Paul Jacobs, organ

This concert is presented in collaboration with Northrop, University of Minnesota.

Please note: This concert will be performed at Northrop.

BACH / Hubay
HARRISON
Chaconne from Partita No. 2
What Do We Make of Bach?
for Orchestra and Obligato Organ
[World Premiere]

SAINT-SAËNS
Symphony No. 3, Organ Symphony

The Minnesota Orchestra, known at the time as the Minneapolis Symphony, performed this glorious Bach Chaconne at Northrop Auditorium in 1932, and this weekend we’re back with Bach in our decades-long former home at the University of Minnesota. We’re here to celebrate Northrop’s famed pipe organ, silent for many years, but now ready to ring out. One of the world’s great organ virtuosos, Paul Jacobs, showcases the instrument in a brilliant Bach-inspired premiere by John Harbison, the Minnesota Orchestra’s 2018-19 Featured Composer. And to close, Northrop will resonate with Saint-Saëns’ beloved Organ Symphony.

“...I’m really excited to play this program. We get to give the world premiere of a new piece by one of my favorite living American composers, John Harbison, which includes a chance to hear Northrop’s restored pipe organ. It should be a really special event!”

—R. Douglas Wright, principal trombone

Don’t miss the Minneapolis return of Santtu-Matias Rouvali, the young Finnish firebrand. His charismatic conducting is drawing global raves, and the Los Angeles Times exclaimed: “Rouvali’s spectacular musicality is exceptional.” An added treat is the return of one of the most beloved guest to the Orchestra Hall stage, Gil Shaham, for the soulful, singing Concerto No. 1 by Prokofiev.

Rouvali and Shaham
Thu Oct 18 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Oct 19 8pm
Santtu-Matias Rouvali, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin

STRAUSS
Suite from Der Rosenkavalier

PROKOFIEV
Violin Concerto No. 1

BRAHMS
Symphony No. 1

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Guarantors’ Week: Anthony Ross Plays

Shostakovich

Thu Nov 15 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Nov 16 & Sat Nov 17 8pm
Brett Mitchell, conductor
Anthony Ross, cello

PUTS

SHOSTAKOVICH

Inspiring Beethoven
Cello Concerto No. 2

Celebrate Beethoven's soaring spirit with his Seventh Symphony, a virtuosic whirlwind. Though two centuries old, the Seventh is still an inspiring force, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts brings pieces of it into his exciting work Inspiring Beethoven. Speaking of virtuosity, our gifted principal cellist, Anthony Ross, rounds out the program with Shostakovich's riveting, yet rarely performed Cello Concerto No. 2.

Vänskä Conducts

Mahler’s Seventh

Fri Nov 2 8pm
Sat Nov 3 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor

MAHLER

Symphony No. 7

The Orchestra’s emerging cycle of recordings devoted to Mahler’s symphonies has already earned a Grammy nomination and rave reviews from critics. These concerts will be just as extraordinary. The Seventh demands virtuosity from every musician onstage, though it began with a chance inspiration: Mahler's fascination with the simple rhythm of the oars against a little boat he rowed one afternoon. From that off-kilter beat sprang sweeping color, melody and drama—adding up to a masterpiece.

A Christmas Oratorio

Sat Dec 8 8pm / Sun Dec 9 2pm

BACH

Orchestral Suite No. 3
Christmas Oratorio, Cantatas 4, 5 and 6

See page 19 for full concert listing.

American Expressions

A Festival Celebrating the Musical Spirit of a Diverse and Vibrant Nation

Dec 31 – Jan 18
There’s this sense of possibility, a sense of hope, a sense of adventure, and certainly, the American spirit in American music.”

Kenneth Freed, viola

John Harbison is the Minnesota Orchestra’s 2018-19 Featured Composer. His music will be performed during the American Expressions Festival and at the October 12-13 concerts at Northrop.

A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION: VÄNSKÄ CONDUCTS BERNSTEIN, COPLAND AND GERSHWIN

Mon Dec 31 8:30pm

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Aaron Diehl, piano

COPLAND
Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo

GERSHWIN
Rhapsody in Blue

BERNSTEIN
Three Dance Episodes from On the Town

HARBISON
Remembering Gatsby: Four Tastes for Orchestra

PAULUS
Impassioned, from Symphony in Three Movements

GERSHWIN
An American in Paris

We ring in the New Year with the start of our American Expressions Festival, continuing our season-long commitment to celebrating and exploring this country’s bold, imaginative and diverse classical music tradition. From the first notes of Copland’s brilliant ballet Rodeo, Yankee energy bounds through this dance-inspired program. Aaron Diehl performs Gershwin’s classic Rhapsody in Blue and Bernstein salutes New York in his dances from On the Town. The program continues with the 2018-19 Featured Composer John Harbison’s Remembering Gatsby and soars with Impassioned, which Stephen Paulus wrote expressly for the Minnesota Orchestra. We cap the night with Gershwin’s An American in Paris, a love letter to the City of Light.

STARGASM: A NEW HOPE IN CONCERT WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

Thu Jan 3, Fri Jan 4 & Sat Jan 5 7:30pm
Sun Jan 6 2pm Coffee Concert

Boasting an epic story, an unforgettable musical score and groundbreaking special effects, the original 1977 film Star Wars is a pop culture landmark adored by millions of fans throughout the world. Bring the whole family to experience the adventure that introduced legions of fans to Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo and a pair of loveable droids as the Minnesota Orchestra performs John Williams’ Oscar®-winning score live in sync with a full-length screening of the movie.

VÄNSKÄ CONDUCTS
BARBER, COPLAND AND SHAW
Thu Jan 10 11am Coffee Concert
Fri Jan 11 8pm

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Gabriel Campos Zamora, clarinet

BARBER  Symphony No. 1
COPLAND  Clarinet Concerto
SHAW  Clarinet Concerto
HANSON  Symphony No. 2, Romantic

The earliest master composers in our nation of immigrants absorbed the lessons of their European predecessors and set about to create an exciting new American sound. Here are four shining examples—music that is tender and poetic one minute, and hard-swinging the next. As a special treat, our brilliant principal clarinetist, Gabriel Campos Zamora, steps into the spotlight for two jazz-inspired concertos that seem tailor-made for his virtuosity.

VÄNSKÄ CONDUCTS
AMERICAN NOMAD
Sat Jan 12 8pm
Sun Jan 13 2pm Coffee Concert

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Charles Lazarus, trumpet

SCHUMAN  New England Triptych
HEITZEG  American Nomad for Trumpet and Orchestra
PRICE  Symphony No. 3

Celebrations like our American Expressions Festival can give music lovers the thrill of discovery, and here are two beauties we think you’ll cherish: Minnesota composer Steve Heitzeg’s soaring American Nomad, written for Orchestra musician Charles Lazarus, a trumpet virtuoso who thrives in the intersection of symphonic jazz music and Florence Price’s Third Symphony—written by an African American woman who overcame enormous odds in the 1930s and created music of sweeping lyricism and passion.

VÄNSKÄ CONDUCTS
FUTURE CLASSICS
Fri Jan 18 8pm

Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Kevin Puts, Composer Institute director

There’s no better way to cap our American Expressions Festival and this exciting start to the New Year than with a long look ahead. Here we introduce composers on a blazing path to create the next generation’s orchestral masterpieces. This annual event is unique in American cultural life: a major orchestra performing a full concert wholly devoted to deserving young artists. The career of the next Copland, Bernstein or Barber may launch tonight, and you can say you heard them when.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS
Bizet, Mozart and Vivaldi
Thu Jan 31 11am Coffee Concert
Fri Feb 1 8pm

Jane Glover, conductor
Karen Gomyo, violin
Roma Duncan, piccolo

RAVEL  Le Tombeau de Couperin
MOZART  Violin Concerto No. 5, Turkish
VIVALDI  Piccolo Concerto in C major
BIZET  Symphony No. 1

A program of transparent and shimmeringly beautiful orchestral music, spotlighting three gifted artists. On the podium: Jane Glover, who led the London Mozart Players to worldwide prominence, now in her Orchestra Hall debut. And in the solo spotlight: Karen Gomyo, who wowed audiences here two seasons ago with Bartók; plus the Orchestra’s own Roma Duncan, whose piccolo virtuosity is top-notch.

“Many violinists, including myself, played Mozart’s Fifth Concerto as part of our audition to join the Minnesota Orchestra. Despite all those hours of practicing it inside-out, it has never gotten old to me—it’s a charming, dramatic, and effervescent piece of music, and I can’t wait to hear Karen Gomyo’s interpretation!”

—Rebecca Corruccini, first violin

Symphony in 60
Sat Feb 2 6pm & 8:15pm

Jane Glover, conductor
Roma Duncan, piccolo

One hour program featuring pre-concert happy hour and post-concert (9:15pm) meet-and-greet with musicians.

RAVEL  Le Tombeau de Couperin
VIVALDI  Piccolo Concerto in C major
BIZET  Symphony No. 1

In under an hour, here’s shimmeringly beautiful music spotlighting two gifted artists. Conductor Jane Glover led the London Mozart Players to worldwide prominence, and now makes her Minneapolis debut. The Orchestra’s own Roma Duncan, whose piccolo virtuosity is top-notch, solos in Vivaldi’s joyful concerto. An added treat: a rare performance of George Bizet’s First Symphony, probably the most remarkable musical creation of any 17-year-old.
Prokofiev's Symphony No. 7
Fri Mar 1 8pm
Sat Mar 2 8pm
Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor
Johannes Moser, cello

As Osmo Vänskä travels the world guest conducting, he continually keeps his ears open for surprising talent to present at Orchestra Hall. The gifted young Russian Dima Slobodeniouk is one such “Osmo find,” and here’s your chance at discovery. Slobodeniouk leads the Orchestra in a Prokofiev rarity, the composer’s warm and lyrical final symphony. We’ll also welcome the German-Canadian phenomenon Johannes Moser, one of the new guard of acclaimed cellists, for Lutosławski’s Concerto.

Many musicians of other disciplines such as jazz or rock and roll often reference Prokofiev when they talk about classical or orchestral music as an influence. You can’t help but be intrigued by the sounds he could produce from an orchestra!

—Matthew Frischman, bass

Vänskä, Currie and Copland
Thu Mar 14 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Mar 15 8pm
Sat Mar 16 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Colin Currie, percussion

Many of us first learned of Missy Mazzoli at a Future Classics concert at Orchestra Hall several seasons ago, when she was a student at Yale. Mazzoli has gone on to a big career, and she’s back now with These Worlds in Us, a hauntingly beautiful work dedicated to her Vietnam-veteran father. Superstar percussionist Colin Currie’s mallets will be flying in Martland Memorial.

And Copland’s Third, the American symphony that all but shouted victory in the months following World War II, closes this inspiring program.

American symphonic music has become beloved the world over, thanks to its powerful spirit. Missy Mazzoli, our friend since the first Future Classics concert in 2006, showcases that spirit well. I’m excited to perform music by her and other talented women this season.

—Greg Milliren, associate principal flute

Beethoven and Strauss
Thu Feb 7 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Feb 8 8pm
Sat Feb 9 8pm
Vasily Petrenko, conductor
Nikolai Lugansky, piano

The program opens with a whisper-quiet solo for piano in Beethoven’s Concerto No. 4. By the climactic final chord of Strauss’ Ein Heldenleben, you’ll experience the whole dynamic range of a virtuoso orchestra. This is Beethoven at his sunniest, and Strauss full of brass-first glory. And you won’t want to miss the Orchestra Hall debut of an artist on our “wish list” for many years, Nikolai Lugansky.

Mozart’s Double Piano Concerto
Fri Feb 22 8pm
Sat Feb 23 8pm
Edo de Waart, conductor
Christina Naughton, piano
Michelle Naughton, piano

It takes not one but two world-class pianists to bring to life the 10th of Mozart’s 27 heavenly piano concertos. The Naughton twins fit the bill fabulously, with an uncanny communicative ability and talent to burn. Former Music Director Edo de Waart opens the concert with Mason Bates’ outrageous Garages of the Valley and caps the evening with one of his specialties: the incandescent colors of Respighi’s Church Windows.

FAMILY CONCERT
Joyful Rhythms, Joyful Sounds
Sun Mar 10 2pm

From Latin grooves to swingin’ sounds and floating waltzes, this program is sure to make you feel the rhythm! This concert is Sensory-Friendly and is designed for audiences of all ages and abilities, including individuals on the autism spectrum and those with sensory sensitivities.

American orchestras have long been a showcase for the world’s most gifted women. Missy Mazzoli was featured in the 2006 Future Classics concert, and we’re thrilled to have her back this season with These Worlds in Us.

—Greg Milliren, associate principal flute
Classical Concerts

Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony
Thu Mar 21 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Mar 22 8pm
David Danzmayr, conductor
Alina Ibragimova, violin

LARSEN
SCHUMANN
SCHUBERT
J STRAUSS, Jr.

Symphony: Water Music
Viola Concerto
Symphony in B minor, Unfinished
On the Beautiful Blue Danube

Here in the first hours of spring, from a man famous for song and symphony in praise of this most beautiful season, Schumann’s lovely and lyrical Violin Concerto is a testament to his heart-on-sleeve hope for the world. Libby Larsen’s Symphony: Water Music gets us underway and is a gorgeous scene-setter for Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony, whose melodies flow effortlessly as a new spring brook. Making his debut on the podium is the dynamic Austrian David Danzmayr.

Symphony in 60
Sat Mar 23 6pm & 8:15pm
David Danzmayr, conductor

One hour program featuring pre-concert happy hour and post-concert (9:15pm) meet-and-greet with musicians

Libby Larsen’s Symphony: Water Music gets us underway and is a gorgeous scene-setter for Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony, whose melodies flow effortlessly as a new spring brook. As winter snows give way on this first weekend of spring, water music begins to flow at Orchestra Hall under the baton of up-and-coming Austrian David Danzmayr.

Vänskä Conducts Beethoven and Sibelius
Thu Apr 25 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Apr 26 8pm
Sat Apr 27 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor
Timothy Zavadil, bass clarinet
Víkingur Ólafsson, piano

BEETHOVEN
GORDON
SIBELIUS

Overture to The Creatures of Prometheus
Piano Concerto No. 2
Tapiola

The Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä have won fans across the globe by performing music of Beethoven and Sibelius. These iconic composers bookend this program, beginning with the curtain-raiser to Beethoven’s only full-length ballet. He and contemporary composer Geoffrey Gordon were both inspired by the Greek myth of the god Prometheus who gave humanity the gift of life. Sibelius, moved by a different spirit, gets the last word with his beautiful Tapiola, depicting the god of the Finnish forest.

Stephan Hough Plays Mendelssohn
Thu Apr 4 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Apr 5 8pm
Sat Apr 6 8pm
Han-Na Chang, conductor
Stephen Hough, piano

SHEPHERD
MENDELSSOHN
BEETHOVEN

Silvery Rills
Piano Concerto No. 1
Symphony No. 3, Eroica

No guest at Orchestra Hall is more eagerly anticipated than Stephen Hough. This British pianist turns the thorniest passages into moments of utter grace. Mendelssohn, writing 200 years ago, must have dreamt of a pianist like Hough. Speaking of welcome guests, we last saw Han-Na Chang as a cello soloist, but since then she’s turned her talents to conducting, reveling in works like Beethoven’s revolutionary Third Symphony.

Rivas Conducts Dvořák
Fri Apr 12 8pm
Sun Apr 14 2pm
Coffee Concert
Ilyich Rivas, conductor

GINASTERA
DVOŘÁK

Program to include:
Ballet Suite from Estancia
Symphony No. 8

We introduce a bright new talent in these concerts. Ilyich Rivas made his professional conducting debut at just 16. Now in his mid-20s, the dynamic Venezuelan-American conductor has been described by The Guardian as a "phenomenon" who is "strikingly, almost disconcertingly good." Hear for yourself what the excitement is about as Rivas makes his Minnesota Orchestra debut leading Dvořák’s bucolic Eighth Symphony. Dvořák penned this radiant work in just a few months, saying its melodies "simply pour out of me."

minnesotaorchestra.org / 612-371-5656
Here is Leonard Bernstein’s beautiful violin-concerto-by-another-name, the Serenade. Inspired by the ancient Greeks, Bernstein called this music “a series of statements in praise of love.” Written a few years before West Side Story, the Serenade offers hints of Maria in these glitteringly transparent textures for strings, harp and percussion. The brilliant Erin Keefe steps away from her concertmaster’s chair and into the solo spotlight. Touching classics from Bernstein’s heroes, Haydn and Mozart, bookend the program.

Erin Keefe Plays
Bernstein’s Serenade
Fri May 3  8pm
Sat May 4  8pm
Juanjo Mena, conductor
Erin Keefe, violin

Verdi Requiem
Fri May 17  8pm
Sat May 18  8pm
Sun May 19  2pm
Coffee Concert
Edward Gardner, conductor
Ailyn Pérez, soprano
René Barbera, tenor
Eric Owens, bass-baritone
Minnesota Chorale

Verdi, whose riveting operas remain among the world’s most popular, poured all he’d learned from the stage into this masterpiece for the church. The Requiem has been called his greatest “opera,” with moments of indescribable beauty and earthshattering power—all in service of this ancient Mass for the Dead. Guest conductor Edward Gardner is a Verdi master, and he brings to the Requiem the richness of his lifetime in the world’s leading opera houses.

Gershwin Piano Concerto in F
Thu May 30  11am
Coffee Concert
Fri May 31  8pm
Andrey Boreyko, conductor
Orion Weiss, piano

Verdi, whose riveting operas remain among the world's most popular, poured all he’d learned from the stage into this masterpiece for the church. The Requiem has been called his greatest “opera,” with moments of indescribable beauty and earthshattering power—all in service of this ancient Mass for the Dead. Guest conductor Edward Gardner is a Verdi master, and he brings to the Requiem the richness of his lifetime in the world’s leading opera houses.

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Classical Concerts

Nagano Conducts Bruckner
Thu Jun 6 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Jun 7 8pm
Kent Nagano, conductor
Till Fellner, piano

MOZART
BRUCKNER
Piano Concerto No. 20
Symphony No. 6
We've invited two very special guests to join us for this concert: the Austrian pianist Till Fellner, who visited Orchestra Hall several seasons ago to play Beethoven, and whose fans have been eagerly awaiting his return; and Kent Nagano, who has brought the Montreal Symphony Orchestra enormous acclaim as its music director. Nagano conducts his specialty, Bruckner's soaring Symphony No. 6.

Season Finale: Vänskä Conducts Mahler's Tenth
Thu Jun 13 11am
Coffee Concert
Fri Jun 14 8pm
Sat Jun 15 8pm
Osmo Vänskä, conductor

MAHLER/Cooke
Symphony No. 10
Of all Gustav Mahler's world-embracing symphonies, No. 10 is his most personal. Marked by a twofold anguish (his knowledge that he may not live to finish it, and his discovery of his wife's affair), the Tenth is Mahler's great cry for humanity. Amazingly, its final pages offer a serenity unlike any in orchestral music—an unforgettable ending to this symphony and an equally gorgeous close to our season.

"Mahler's most hauntingly beautiful symphony. It starts off with an enigmatic solo viola theme, and rushes head-on into some of Mahler's most beautiful writing. His lush exploration around the edges of tonality makes me wonder what he would have written if he had lived another 10 years. I can't wait to perform and record this piece!"

—Aaron Janse, second violin

"Want to get into the holiday spirit? We're offering up seasonal favorites, sentimental stories of holidays past and great arrangements of jazzy, brassy carols. Make Orchestra Hall part of your holiday tradition!"

Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota Orchestra
Kent Nagano
Till Fellner

HOLIDAY
Want to get into the holiday spirit? We’re offering up seasonal favorites, sentimental stories of holidays past and great arrangements of jazzy, brassy carols. Make Orchestra Hall part of your holiday tradition!

Charles Lazarus
Trumpet
2018–19 Season Concerts

Fri Dec 14  8pm
Sun Dec 16  2pm
Coffee Concert
Thu Dec 20  11am
Coffee Concert
Sarah Hicks, conductor
Conceived and directed by Peter Rothstein
Written and narrated by Kevin Kling
Original music by Robert Elhai and Peter Ostroushko

Home for the Holidays returns! Take a big Midwestern family, a lost mitten and the meaning of home and mix it all up for a lutefisk-tinged holiday show that weaves brilliant storytelling, laugh-out-loud humor and beloved holiday music played by the Minnesota Orchestra into a sparkling performance. Master storyteller and Minnesota treasure Kevin Kling and a host of talented Twin Cities actors join conductor Sarah Hicks and the Orchestra for an event (with a few surprises) destined to become your new holiday tradition.

“Kevin Kling is a genius. What a funny and heartwarming take on Minnesota culture and nostalgia.”

“My family and I loved it! We’re making this show our holiday tradition.”

– Audience Members

Nat “King” Cole and Me, starring Gregory Porter with the Minnesota Orchestra

Sat Dec 1  8pm
Gregory Porter, vocals
Vincent Mendoza, conductor and arranger
Gregory Porter, Nat “King” Cole and Me, two-time Grammy® winner, jazz vocalist, actor and singer-songwriter Gregory Porter does more than interpret Cole—he channels him, bringing warmth, polish and his incandescent presence to every note. Embrace the nostalgia of the season with Porter and the Minnesota Orchestra as they perform conductor-arranger Vincent Mendoza’s artfully lush arrangements of Cole’s classic repertoire including “Mona Lisa” and “Nature Boy” plus holiday favorites like “The Christmas Song.”

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A Christmas Oratorio

Sat Dec 8  8pm
Sun Dec 9  2pm
Coffee Concert
Nicholas Kraemer, conductor
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano
Robin Blazes, countertenor
Richard Croft, tenor
Christopher Edwards, baritone
Minnesota Chorale

BACH
Orchestral Suite No. 3
Christmas Oratorio, Cantatas 4, 5 and 6

Last December, Minnesota Orchestra audiences experienced our first-ever performance of Bach’s moving Christmas Oratorio at Orchestra Hall. Because of its length, we could only offer the Oratorio’s first half, in which the angels bring news of the Christ child to the shepherds. Led this weekend by the superb Bach specialist Nicholas Kraemer, the Orchestra reveals the rest of the story: the naming of the child and the Three Kings’ tender adoration.
Merry and Bright
A Big, Brassy Christmas with Charles Lazarus
Sat Dec 15 8pm
Charles Lazarus, trumpet
Tommy Barbarella, piano and keyboards
Jeff Bailey, bass
David Schmalenberger, drums
The Lazarus Brass

Unique as a snowflake and just as magical, this holiday performance blends traditional Christmas carols, soul, reggae and glorious New Orleans big band sound in a concert that puts an irresistible jazz spin on the joy of the season. The Minnesota Orchestra’s own inimitable trumpeter Charles Lazarus leads this ensemble of amazing instrumentalists and vocalists plus special musical guests for the fourth year of this sizzling holiday tradition.

An Evening with George Winston
Fri Dec 21 8pm
George Winston, piano

Specializing in melodic folk piano, New Orleans R&B and stride piano styles, George Winston combines impressionistic reveries with American musical influences ranging from “Fats” Waller and Professor Longhair to The Doors and Randy Newman to create a sound all his own. Winston’s philosophy: “The music tells me what to do, and I do it.” Take a break from the holiday rush with the empathic, ethereal and inspiring music of this talented performer.

From dazzling vocalists and madcap musical satire to America’s biggest blockbuster film scores and the best of Tin Pan Alley, this year’s Live at Orchestra Hall concerts are not to be missed.”

Sarah Hicks
Principal Conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall
Singer, songwriter and essayist Dessa takes the stage with the Minnesota Orchestra for a powerful collaboration that transcends genre. With her charismatic wit, potent lyrics and an expressive alto voice, Dessa has earned a national reputation for crafting ambitious, multi-disciplinary live shows that move, entertain and surprise her audiences. Onstage at Orchestra Hall, she'll debut several new, dynamic arrangements of songs from her most recent album, *Chime*. 

**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™**

Relive the magic of your favorite wizard in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™ — in Concert. Based on the third installment of J.K. Rowling’s classic saga, fans of all ages can now experience the thrilling tale accompanied by the music of a live symphony orchestra as Harry soars across the big screen. From the moment Harry uses the Marauder’s Map to when the Patronus Charm bursts from his wand, you’ll be transported back into the world you love.

Join the United States Naval Academy Glee Club for a special Veterans Day concert that includes a thrilling selection of patriotic songs, anthems and Broadway hits, as well as renowned choral pieces from opera and the classical world. Serving as musical goodwill ambassadors both at home and abroad, the USNA Glee Club has won loyal audiences for their deft arrangements, disciplined power and amazing sound.

A magnetic performer who’s already earned her own star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame, Broadway favorite Kristin Chenoweth returns to the Minnesota Orchestra for an encore of her phenomenal 2017 performance. Don’t miss this Emmy® and Tony Award® winning actress as she brings her sparkling wit, nonstop charm and incredible vocals to Orchestra Hall for an evening of radiant entertainment.

One of the most thrilling science fiction adventures ever made, *Jurassic Park* transformed the movie-going experience for an entire generation and won three Academy Awards®. Masterfully directed by Steven Spielberg and based on the best-selling novel by Michael Crichton, *Jurassic Park* transports us to a secluded island where scientists have succeeded in reviving the age of dinosaurs in a brand new, immersive theme park, the likes of which has never been seen before. This live music event features the full-length movie with the Minnesota Orchestra performing John Williams’ magnificent score in its entirety. Welcome to... *Jurassic Park*!
With their swooping sonic harmonies, inventive lyrics and visceral presence, Indigo Girls’ Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have vocal talents that mesh perfectly with orchestral arrangements to infuse each song with new beauty and depth. As the only duo with top 40 titles on Billboard’s 200 each decade since the 1980s, the Indigo Girls’ continued creative evolution has earned them generations of devoted fans and critical acclaim.

Indigo Girls with the Minnesota Orchestra
Fri Feb 15 8pm
Sarah Hicks, conductor

The Julian Bliss Septet
Gershwin and Tin Pan Alley
Sun Feb 17 2pm
Please note: The Minnesota Orchestra does not perform on this program.

Julian Bliss interprets some of Tin Pan Alley’s best-known works with a spotlight on the music of George Gershwin, including a suite from Porgy and Bess, an excerpt from Rhapsody in Blue and the American standards I Got Rhythm, Embraceable You and Lady Be Good, arranged especially for his septet. Gershwin transformed American music by fusing sweeping symphonic sounds from the European classical tradition with popular musical elements drawn from jazz, swing and ragtime. Celebrate this revolutionary composer at Orchestra Hall.

The Swingles
Sun Mar 24 2pm
Please note: The Minnesota Orchestra does not perform on this program.

Celebrating the human voice as the extraordinary instrument it is, The Swingles have taken some of the world’s most recognizable classical, pop and jazz pieces and transformed them with a richly exuberant a cappella swing sound. Originally formed in Paris in 1962, the group’s membership has changed, but their passion for musical excellence has not. Join us for a remarkable evening that honors their founder Ward Swingle’s classical influences, as well as contemporary pop legends.

Star Trek Into Darkness
with the Minnesota Orchestra
Fri Mar 29 & Sat Mar 30 8pm
Sarah Hicks, conductor

Grab your phasers and join Kirk (Chris Pine), Spock (Leonard Nimoy/Zachary Quinto) and the Enterprise crew as they go beyond the darkness to confront a super-villain (Benedict Cumberbatch) and one of the greatest threats Starfleet has ever faced. The Minnesota Orchestra goes full-on Trekkie with Michael Giacchino’s award-winning score for a live full-length performance that takes fans to the farthest reaches of the galaxy.

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Igudesman & Joo
BIG Nightmare Music
with the Minnesota Orchestra
Sat May 11 8pm
Sarah Hicks, conductor
Aleskay Igudesman, violin
Hyung-ki Joo, piano

Seriously talented and seriously funny, Igudesman and Joo return to the Minnesota Orchestra for a reprise of audience favorites, plus new moments of madcap musical satire. This duo crafts a delightful nightmare of music and mayhem that spoofs classical legends like Beethoven and Rachmaninoff as well as popular sensations like Riverdance.

Revolution: The Beatles
Symphonic Experience
with the Minnesota Orchestra
Sat Jun 22 8pm
Jeff Tyzik, conductor

All you need is love... and the Beatles! Celebrate Liverpool’s favorite sons with an evening featuring symphonic arrangements of platinum hits as well as amazing archival material. Grammy Award® winner Jeff Tyzik’s thoughtful arrangements are interspersed with freshly unearthed images from The Beatles Book Archives, the single largest collection of Beatles photos. Join us for an unforgettable experience of one of the 20th century’s most influential bands brought to life through pictures and music.

WHAT IS ITC?
Principal Conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall Sarah Hicks and host violist Sam Bergman explore classical music through witty conversation and orchestral excerpts, as well as complete performances of featured works. Arrive early for happy hour and stay late for a post-concert reception with musicians.

We’re thrilled to invite you to our Inside the Classics series. If you’re looking for a deeper exploration of classical music in a relaxed format, these concerts are for you.”

Sam Bergman
host of ITC and violist

The Puppet Master: Stravinsky’s Petrushka
Sat Feb 16

Amy Beach: American Pioneer
Sat Apr 13

Love that Dare Not Speak
Sat Jun 1
CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE TARGET ATRIUM

When you experience Minnesota Orchestra musicians in a chamber music setting, you’ll get an even closer look at their individual artistry and astonishing technique. These concerts will surely enhance your love of live music and introduce you to a few of the incredible pieces written for smaller ensembles.

Harbison and Stravinsky
Sun Dec 9 4:30pm

Beethoven and Bacewicz
Sun Feb 10 4:30pm

Brahms and Desby
Sun Apr 28 4:30pm

Shostakovich and Bartók
Sun Jun 2 4:30pm

JAZZ IN THE TARGET ATRIUM

ADVENTURE AND TRADITION.

With evenings of solo improvisations from New York greats Peter Bernstein and Myra Melford, and the world premiere of a suite for trio and voice by Artistic Director Jeremy Walker, season five presents music of daring personal expression, all in the face-to-face setting of the Target Atrium.

One: Peter Bernstein Solo Guitar
Fri Oct 19 8pm

One for All: Walker, Osowski, Cox and Washington
Fri Feb 8 8pm
Jeremy Walker, piano and artistic director / Clara Osowski, vocals
Anthony Cox, bass / Kevin Washington, drums

Another One: Myra Melford Solo Piano
Fri Apr 12 8pm

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Whether you’re looking for a relaxing evening, a thought-provoking discussion, or a pint of beer with a piano concerto, we offer fresh, surprising and even whimsical opportunities to enjoy the Orchestra Hall experience beyond what you might expect.

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• Refreshments and Décor: Drink and cuisine specials, Coffee Concerts featuring complimentary coffee and donuts for all Thursday 11 a.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. Classical concerts as well as decor add to the ambience of Orchestra Hall.

OH+ (Orchestra Hall Plus)

Through OH+ we collaborate with community partners to curate a variety of pre- and post-concert extras that speak to the many reasons you visit Orchestra Hall, while creating and deepening connections to the featured repertoire, themes and performers.

minnesotaorchestra.org/ohplus
Yoga Class at Orchestra Hall
Sun salutations meet live music in our new Yoga at Orchestra Hall series. Practice the art of yoga in the serenity of the Orchestra Hall lobby while members of the Minnesota Orchestra play musical selections that inspire and center body and soul. Whether you are new to yoga or looking to transform your practice, join us to experience this harmonious interweaving of music and movement!
- Sundays 11am–12pm
- Nov 18, 2018 / Feb 10, 2019 / Mar 24, 2019
- minnesotaorchestra.org/yoga

Sensory-Friendly Family Concerts
We are committed to making great symphonic and chamber music more accessible to all. Our Sensory-Friendly Family Concerts are designed for people of all ages and abilities, including individuals on the autism spectrum and those with sensory sensitivities. Each concert takes place in a relaxed and inclusive environment where audience members are welcome to be who they are and enjoy music together with family and friends.
- minnesotaorchestra.org/sensoryfriendly

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- minnesotaorchestra.org/accessibility
This cover is one of eight versions celebrating the musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra and Music Director Osmo Vänskä. Special thanks to photographer Travis Anderson for beautifully capturing the energy and spirit of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Osmo Vänskä  
Music Director

Gabriel Campos Zamora  
Principal Clarinet

Ellen Dinwiddie Smith  
Horn

Kathryn Nettleman  
Acting Associate Principal Bass

Michael Gast  
Principal Horn

Pitnarry Shin  
Cello

Greg Milliren  
Associate Principal Flute

Rui Du  
Assistant Concertmaster

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Photo credits available online. Coffee Concert donuts provided by A Baker’s Wife Pastry Shop

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
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Sunday Matinee Coffee Concerts
Let the Minnesota Orchestra fill your Sunday afternoons with beauty! Recharge your spirit for the week ahead. Select our traditional 4-concert Sunday Matinee series or mix it up with a Sunday Sampler. Includes complimentary coffee and cookies.
• SUNDAY COFFEE MATINEE SERIES AT 2PM (4 Concerts)
• SUNDAY SAMPLER MATINEE SERIES AT 2PM (3 Concerts)

Thursday Morning Coffee Concerts
Treat yourself to the ultimate coffee break! Arrive early for complimentary coffee, tea, cookies and donuts in the Orchestra Hall lobby prior to each concert.
• THURSDAY PRELUDE SERIES AT 11AM (7 Concerts)
• THURSDAY INTERMEZZO SERIES AT 11AM (7 Concerts)

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Weekends are alive at Orchestra Hall–complete with brilliant music and energy to match! Choose the night that works for you.
• FRIDAY FULL AND HALF SERIES AT 8PM (24 and 12 Concerts)
• FRIDAY ENCORE, OVATION, BRAVO AND FORTE SERIES AT 8PM (6 Concerts)
• SATURDAY FULL AND HALF SERIES AT 8PM (17 and 11 Concerts)
• SATURDAY PRESTO, VIVACE AND ALLEGRO SERIES AT 8PM (6 Concerts)

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