



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Louisville Orchestra Announces February 2026 In Harmony Tour, Extending One of Kentucky's Largest Statewide Arts Initiatives

Free performances led by Music Director Teddy Abrams to take place in Berea, Frankfort, and Danville

LOUISVILLE, KY (January 7, 2026) The Louisville Orchestra will bring its In Harmony tour to central Kentucky in **February 2026** with three free performances in **Berea, Frankfort, and Danville**, led by Music Director Teddy Abrams. The concerts are part of a publicly funded, multi year statewide initiative that has reshaped access to live orchestral music across the Commonwealth, reaching tens of thousands of Kentuckians through performances in communities often underserved by the arts.

Launched in 2022, In Harmony has grown into one of the most ambitious and sustained orchestral touring initiatives in the state. Supported by \$2.1 million annually from the Kentucky General Assembly, the tour has reached more than **52,000 people** across **49 counties** through concerts, schools, libraries, and community partnerships. The program's statewide impact was recently recognized at the national level when **Musical America named Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers to its annual "Top 30 Professionals of the Year"** list, citing his leadership and support of the arts through the In Harmony tour. To date, the initiative has encompassed **219 total events**, including **42 full concert performances** in 28 counties, engaging more than 34,500 audience members, alongside **177 community partnership events** across 66 unique ZIP codes serving more than 18,000 additional participants.

The February 2026 performances extend this statewide impact with a program that balances accessibility with artistic ambition, offering first time audiences and longtime listeners alike a compelling introduction to the power and range of orchestral music.

Under the direction of Teddy Abrams, the program features Beethoven's Egmont Overture, the driving Allegro from Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5, and the electrifying finale of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. Louisville Orchestra Concertmaster Gabe Lefkowitz will be featured as soloist in Saint Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso.

The program also highlights contemporary voices and Kentucky rooted storytelling, central pillars of the In Harmony initiative. Audiences will hear *Testify* by Brittany J. Green, a bold and reflective work exploring truth and transformation, alongside *The Trestle Tree* by Donald Sorah and Roy Crawford, inspired by Appalachian stories and landscapes. A work by former Louisville Orchestra Creators Corps composer Brittany J. Green underscores the Orchestra's ongoing commitment to living composers and the creation of new music shaped by place and community.

"In Harmony is about showing up, listening, and sharing music in a way that feels immediate and human," **said Teddy Abrams, Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra.** "This tour reflects what is possible when communities and public partners invest in the arts as a shared civic resource."

One of the February performances will introduce a new In Harmony venue at Madison Southern High School Gymnasium in Berea, while the tour will also return to longtime community partners in Frankfort and Danville, continuing relationships built through previous visits.

February 2026 In Harmony Tour Dates

- **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**
Madison Southern High School Gymnasium
279 Glades Rd. Berea, KY 40403
- **Thursday, February 26, 2026**
Western Hills High School Gymnasium
100 Doctors Dr. Frankfort, KY 40601
- **Friday, February 27, 2026**
Norton Center for the Arts
600 W Walnut St. Danville, KY 40422

All In Harmony performances are free, but ticket reservations are required due to limited seating. Venue details and ticket registration for each stop are available at louisvilleorchestra.org/inharmonytour.

The Kentucky In Harmony tour is made possible through a partnership with the Kentucky General Assembly. Additional support is provided by the Brown Forman Foundation, Humana Foundation, LG&E, Lindy B. Street, Brook and Pam Smith, and The Dr. M. Lee Pearce Foundation, Inc.

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About the Louisville Orchestra

The Louisville Orchestra was created in 1937 and sprung up in a time of need, just after the great flood and in the wake of the depression. Robert Whitney was invited to conduct the newly

established orchestra, known then as the Louisville Philharmonic, and arrived from Chicago that same year. In its formation, the goal was to create a new model for the American symphony orchestra, as it was conceived through an ambitious effort that emphasized innovation through the commissioning, performance, and recording of new works by contemporary composers. The Louisville Orchestra garnered international critical acclaim, became the first orchestra to establish a record label, and cemented a place in history for its contribution to contemporary classical music. In its first two decades, the Louisville Orchestra commissioned/recorded up to 52 new works annually and ultimately created 150 vinyl recordings (LPs) of more than 450 works.

The Louisville Orchestra continues to be recognized as a cornerstone of the Louisville performing arts community. Music Director Teddy Abrams has helmed the Louisville Orchestra since 2014, and the Louisville Orchestra has returned to its origins of commissioning new music and recording, having released two albums under the prestigious Decca Gold label. A wide variety of immersive and innovative concert performances and educational programming continue to receive national attention. Recent press coverage includes articles and mentions in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork*, and *CBS Sunday Morning*. Accolades include three invitations to perform at Carnegie Hall; the Leonard Bernstein Award for Excellence in Educational Programming; the League of American Orchestras 2019 Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service; and 19 American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) awards for adventurous programming in use of contemporary music.

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