



NEWS RELEASE
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LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 SEASON

**Bold Classical Masterworks, Innovative Premieres,
and Iconic Crossover Concerts**

LOUISVILLE, KY – Under the visionary leadership of **Music Director Teddy Abrams**, the **Louisville Orchestra** unveils an electrifying new season, blending **beloved classical works, groundbreaking world premieres, and bold cross-genre collaborations**. Featuring **renowned soloists, dynamic new compositions, and immersive concert experiences**, this season is a celebration of music's power to **inspire, challenge, and connect audiences**. Subscriptions are on sale now at LouisvilleOrchestra.org/subscribe.

From **Mahler's deeply personal Ninth Symphony** to the pastoral beauty of **Beethoven's *Pastoral*** and the raw energy of **Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra***, the season highlights orchestral music at its most profound. The orchestra welcomes world-class soloists including **Yuja Wang, Anne Akiko Myers, Jonathan Biss, and Tessa Lark**, alongside **Grammy-winning composer Eric Whitacre** and conductor **Robert Spano**, who leads a powerhouse performance of **Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto**.

The **Louisville Orchestra Creators Corps** continues to push the boundaries of symphonic music with world premieres from this season's resident composers, **Anthony Green and Chelsea Komschlies**. Their new works, written over the course of their yearlong residency in Louisville, offer fresh perspectives and bold artistic statements, reinforcing the orchestra's commitment to **innovation and contemporary voices**.

Further expanding the season's **spirit of creativity**, the orchestra presents a **world premiere violin concerto** by **Lisa Bielawa**, written for **Tessa Lark**, and **Mason Bates' Concerto for String Trio**, composed for the Grammy-winning ensemble **Time For Three**. Audiences will also experience new works like **Christopher Theofanidis' *On the Bridge of the Eternal*** and **John Luther Adams' *An Atlas of Deep Time***, pieces that explore vast musical landscapes and cutting-edge orchestral textures.

A season highlight, **Copland's *Appalachian Spring*** will be performed with the **Louisville Ballet**, bringing a stunning fusion of symphonic music and dance to the Whitney Hall stage. The orchestra also marks **100 years of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*** with a thrilling orchestral celebration of this jazz-infused masterpiece.

The **Pops Series** redefines symphonic crossover with an exciting new lineup. **Ben Folds** returns for an unforgettable orchestral collaboration, **Dolly Parton's *Threads: My Songs in Symphony*** offers a multimedia symphonic journey through her legendary career, and **Clouds in My Coffee** reimagines the timeless music of **Joni Mitchell, Carole King, and Carly Simon** with lush orchestrations. **Stewart Copeland** rounds out the series with his high-energy **Police Deranged** concert, reinventing the music of **The Police** with a full orchestra.

New this season, **Teddy Abrams** has personally selected **Teddy's Picks**, a four-concert package featuring the performances that excite him most. "This season is about storytelling in music," says Abrams. "Whether it's the emotional weight of Mahler's Ninth, the history of American music in *Sounds of a New Nation*, or the legendary artistry of Morgan Freeman in *Symphonic Blues*, these concerts aren't just performances—they're experiences. I've chosen these concerts because they capture music's ability to tell deep, human stories and connect us in powerful ways."

Subscribers also have **exclusive first access** to must-see **add-on concerts**, available only as part of a subscription package. **Disney's *Hocus Pocus in Concert*** brings the Halloween classic to the big screen with a live orchestral performance of John Debney's score, while **Beethoven X Coldplay**, created by composer-conductor **Steve Hackman**, seamlessly blends Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony with Coldplay's biggest hits.

Subscriptions are now on sale at LouisvilleOrchestra.org/subscribe, offering the best seats at the best prices before single tickets become available. Demand for these extraordinary performances is expected to be high—secure your place now for a season unlike any other.

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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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