



THE COLORADO SYMPHONY

The Colorado Symphony has brought the best in live symphonic music to Colorado for nearly a century, and there's plenty more in store for our 2020/21 Classics Season that's teeming with extraordinary talent and exciting repertoire.

Music Director: Brett Mitchell

Michael Maciejewski
ATLS 2300 – 014
Boulder, CO, 80302



Daniel Rankin
ATLS 235
Boulder, CO, 80302

20/21
COLORADO
SYMPHONY
CLASSICS

Rachmaninoff Rhapsody
on a Theme of Paganini with Joyce Yang

Theme and variation are at the forefront of this convivial concert beginning with Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis, a seminal influencer of Romanticism. Pianist Joyce Yang, whose playing was dubbed "vivid and beautiful" by The New York Times, makes her much-anticipated return to Boettcher Concert Hall as featured soloist on Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini while Tchaikovsky's romantic "Little Russian" Symphony incorporates variations of three Ukrainian folk songs in an unreservedly joyous finale, interpreted and conducted by Music Director Brett Mitchell.

Brett Mitchell, conductor
Simon Trpčeski, piano

NOV 20
7:30pm

HINDEMITH Symphonic Metamorphosis
RACHMANINOFF Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op.43
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Op. 17 "Little Russian"

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4
conducted by Gemma New

Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony – aptly titled "Italian" – evokes the ebullient spirit of Italy, conveying the warmth and vitality of its people in a can't-miss work teeming with color, lyricism, and energy in an extraordinary example of musical portraiture. Promising conductor Gemma New – dubbed "One of the brightest rising stars in the conducting firmament" by the St. Louis Post Dispatch – brings budding energy to the podium in her Colorado Symphony debut, leading the orchestra in Wagner's bombastic take on the world of French "Grand Opera." She'll be joined by the Colorado Symphony Chorus and four vocal soloists on Bruckner's Te Deum, a majestic hymn of thanksgiving and one of the greatest declarations of faith ever composed. Aaron Kernis' heavenly Musica Celestis completes this blissful collection of symphonic music that you'll need to see to believe.

Gemma New, conductor
Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duian Wolf, Director
WAGNER Rienzi Overture
BRUCKNER Te Deum, WAB 45
AARON KERNIS Musica Celestis
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90 "Italian"

JAN 29
7:30pm

Beethoven Symphony No. 6
"Pastorale"

Beethoven's "Pastorale" Symphony – originally dubbed "recollections of life in the country" – is the composer's ultimate homage to the great outdoors, brimming with color and texture that seem accessible to all the senses as it instantly transports you to the Viennese countryside. One of the most sought-after conductors of his generation, Markus Stenz lends his incredible talent to Beethoven's brilliant programmatic projection of nature. The first half features superstar violinist Leila Josefowicz in her return to Boettcher Concert Hall as featured soloist on John Adams' powerful Scheherazade.2 – a piece she debuted with the New York Philharmonic in 2015. In this poignant adaptation of the Arabian Nights tale which nods to Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite Scheherazade, Adams casts the violin as a modern-day Scheherazade – the woman who remains fearless in the face of immense cruelty. This is an illuminating performance that will resonate with all audiences.

Markus Stenz, conductor
Leila Josefowicz, violin
JOHN ADAMS Scheherazade.2
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68 "Pastorale"

MAR 19
7:30pm

Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2
featuring Stefan Jackiw

Join Music Director Brett Mitchell and your Colorado Symphony for an artful program unified by elements of dance. Stirring violinist Stefan Jackiw – called "...one of the most insightful violinists of his generation" by The Boston Globe – lends his athletic virtuosity to Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto which features a lively and dance-like final movement. Book-ending the concerto are a pair of dances with distinctive flair, beginning with Ravel's Valses nobles et sentimentales, a set of seven Schubert-inspired waltzes full of lyrical beauty, lilting and distinctive Viennese rhythm, and an entire gamut of color and feeling. Stravinsky's ballet Petrushka uses rhythm and harmony to create a dramatic atmosphere quivering with energy, while incorporating melodies from Russian folk songs and the French tune "Elle avait un' jambe en bois" – a frolicking finale to an evening of musical euphoria.

Brett Mitchell, conductor
Stefan Jackson, violin
BERLIOZ Béatrice et Bénédic: Overture
BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2, BB 117
BRAHMS Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

MAY 01
7:30pm

All Beethoven - Symphony No. 5

Celebrate the life and unmatched brilliance of a musical icon during this season's annual weekend of All Beethoven repertoire. One of America's emerging conductors, Joseph Young brings his energetic dynamism to the podium on Beethoven's breathtaking Fifth Symphony – a fundamental pillar of the symphonic canon which famously begins with the ominous four-note motif signifying "fate knocking at the door." The performance opens with Beethoven's powerful and expressive Egmont, a set of incidental music pieces for Goethe's play of the same name, wherein the composer exalts the heroic sacrifice of Lamoral, Count of Egmont, who was condemned to death after his valiant stand against oppression. This is a bombastic tour through Beethoven's heroic middle period as the Beethoven 2020 celebration nears its finale.

Joseph Young, conductor
Susanna Phillips, piano

DEC 04
7:30pm

BEETHOVEN Egmont (Incidental Music), Op. 84
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

Respighi Pines of Rome

Traverse the Italian countryside with Respighi's frolicking Fountains of Rome and Pines of Rome – the first two entries in his "Roman Trilogy" – painting a colorful symphonic portrait of light and land, while masterfully depicting Rome's famous fountains and pine trees in the course of a day. Conductor Christian Reif will be joined by virtuosic violinist Karen Gomyo – hailed as "...a first-rate artist of real musical command, vitality, brilliance, and intensity" by the Chicago Tribune – in her Colorado Symphony return as featured soloist on Shostakovich's folk melody-laden first Violin Concerto. This is a transportive performance sure to carry away your winter doldrums!

Christian Reif, conductor
Karen Gomyo, violin

FEB 20
7:30pm

RESPIGHI Fountains of Rome
RESPIGHI Pines of Rome
SHOSTAKOVICH Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 77

Bartók Violin Concerto No. 2
with Augustin Hadelich

Throughout his career, Brahms often felt the weight of Beethoven's omnipresent shadow looming over him, but with the long-awaited completion of his First Symphony, he emphatically vanquished his symphonic demons with a work that simultaneously contains echoes of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and stands alone as a truly magnificent symphonic work. Berlioz's Overture to Béatrice et Bénédic provides a spirited opener to the proceedings before conductor Peter Oundjian is joined by GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich in his much awaited return to Boettcher Concert Hall performing Bartók's vigorous and demanding Second Violin Concerto – a fitting flourish to an evening of explosive and energizing masterworks.

Peter Oundjian, conductor
Augustin Hadelich, violin
BERLIOZ Béatrice et Bénédic: Overture
BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2, BB 117
BRAHMS Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

MAR 26
7:30pm

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2
with Simon Trpčeski

Kindred spirits through bouts of depression and battles with self-doubt, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky nonetheless persevered to create many of the masterworks of the symphonic canon. With the help of hypnosis, Rachmaninoff overcame his crippling depression to compose his Second Piano Concerto – a romantic tour de force that progresses from somber introspection to triumphant celebration, reflecting his own journey out of depression. Soloist Simon Trpčeski is just the expressive virtuoso to bring this masterpiece to life. Tchaikovsky similarly battled uncertainty of his own following the unveiling of his Fifth Symphony, but its grandeur and majesty have stood the test of time and it is now recognized as one of his greatest works. Up-and-coming conductor Nicholas Carter, Music Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, leads your Colorado Symphony through all three works on the program, opening with Fauré's Pavane – a stunning take on 16th century Spanish court dances – and a delightful introduction to an evening of symphonic exuberance.

Nicholas Carter, conductor
Simon Trpčeski, piano

MAY 14
7:30pm

FAURÉ Pavane
RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24

Your Colorado Symphony and conductor Peter Oundjian usher in the start of a new decade of exquisite symphonic music with Dvořák's vibrant Eighth Symphony – a lively ode to the Bohemian folk music he so adored. Celebrated pianist Gabriela Montero makes her Colorado Symphony debut as featured soloist on Mozart's dark and stormy Piano Concerto No. 24 – one of only two concertos Mozart wrote in a minor key, illustrating a deliberate conveyance of a moodier and more tempestuous composition than past concertos from his exalted career. Strauss' Overture to Die Fledermaus is utterly poignant, both musically and dramatically, providing an ideal opening to this showcase of musical giants.

Peter Oundjian, conductor
Gabriela Montero, piano

JAN 08
7:30pm

J. STRAUSS II Overture to Die Fledermaus
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1
with Denis Kozhukhin

Among Mahler's nine symphonies, the Fourth occupies a unique place all its own. This luminous composition opens with sleigh bells, immediately pulling you into a bright, exuberant drama with frivolity, introspection, and ultimate innocence. Mahler ventures vividly into the world of nature and birdsongs – featuring bells, harp, and woodwinds – and in keeping with the lightness of the work, he insists the soprano perform "with childlike, cheerful expression." Featured soloist Denis Kozhukhin – the winner of the Queen Elizabeth Competition for piano in 2010 – makes his Colorado Symphony return on Tchaikovsky's heralded First Piano Concerto. The music of these two titans will shine in the hands of guest conductor Jaime Martín.

Jaime Martín, conductor
Denis Kozhukhin, piano
Kiera Duffy, Soprano

MAR 07
7:30pm

MAHLER Symphony No. 4 in G major
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 23

Brahms Requiem

Unlike other Requiem Masses, Brahms' A German Requiem is not primarily a Mass for the dead. Instead, it is intended as comfort and solace for those left behind, for the living who feel the pain and mourn the death of others. Brahms further differentiates his Requiem by setting excerpts from the Lutheran Bible and apocrypha in German instead of the Catholic, Latin text used by Mozart, Verdi, and Berlioz. The Colorado Symphony Chorus lends their distinguished voice to this stunningly beautiful masterpiece which stands as one of the greatest choral works ever composed. Just as A German Requiem confronts life as much as it does death, Mason Bates' Resurrexit musically details the resurrection story, exploring "...a biblical narrative full of mystery and the supernatural." The program begins with Wagner's "Good Friday Music" from his last work, Parsifal – a divine opener to a program celebrating life conducted by Music Director Brett Mitchell.

Brett Mitchell, conductor
Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director
Anna Christy, soprano
John Bracy, baritone
MASON BATES Resurrexit
BRAHMS A German Requiem
WAGNER "Good Friday Music" from Parsifalw

APR 03
7:30pm

Mahler Symphony No. 2
conducted by Brett Mitchell

Your Colorado Symphony and Chorus cap a season of extraordinary masterworks with a fitting flourish, showcasing Mahler's colossal Second Symphony conducted by Music Director Brett Mitchell. Aptly titled Resurrection," this heart-shattering work deals with nothing less than the meaning of life, as Mahler confronts an existential quest for understanding amid life's challenges and incomprehensibilities. A gripping, moody work of sheer brilliance, Mahler concludes with an expression of hope and optimism – a brilliant finale that will leave you simply spellbound.

Brett Mitchell, Conductor
Susan Platts, alto
Felicia Moore, soprano
Colorado Symphony Chorus, Duain Wolfe, director
MAHLER Symphony No. 2 in C minor, "Resurrection"

MAY 30
7:30pm