

**THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA**

FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEWS

**24
25**
SEASON

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The Cleveland Orchestra announces 2025 Blossom Music Festival



(Photo credit: Kevin Libal)

Seven spectacular classical programs feature *Carmina Burana*, Mahler’s “Titan” Symphony, Beethoven’s Violin Concerto and “Pastoral” Symphony, Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*

A dazzling array of pops favorites light up Blossom, from Cynthia Erivo and the Music of Dolly Parton to *The Billy Joel Songbook* and *A Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration*

Blockbuster movies come alive with performances of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* and *Disney’s The Lion King* live in concert

Eight soloists and four conductors make their Cleveland Orchestra debuts

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Orchestra is delighted to announce its [2025 Blossom Music Festival](#), promising an unforgettable summer of performances at Blossom Music Center.

The festival runs **July 3 through September 7** at the Orchestra's scenic home in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This exciting lineup features timeless classics, Blockbuster film scores, Broadway hits, and performances by some of today's biggest stars.

The festival kicks off on July 3 and 4 with the beloved ***Salute to America*** concerts featuring the Blossom Festival Band. These family-favorite patriotic performances include stirring marches and a salute to the Armed Forces, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display that marks the official start of the 2025 Blossom season.

The Cleveland Orchestra presents ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*** on July 5 and 6. Audiences can experience the magic of the film as the Orchestra performs John Williams's enchanting score live, immersing fans in the wizarding world like never before.

July 12 features a grand performance of Orff's ***Carmina Burana***, conducted by Osmo Vänskä who is joined by the Blossom Festival Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus, and vocalists Shelén Hughes, Reginald Mobley, and John Brancy. The evening also includes Sibelius's bittersweet tone poem *En Saga*.

The Orchestra brings Schumann's youthful **"Spring" Symphony** to life with conductor Petr Popelka on July 19. The work is paired with Beethoven's Violin Concerto, featuring violinist Veronika Eberle in her Cleveland Orchestra debut.

Conductor Jonathon Heyward also makes his Cleveland Orchestra debut the following week with Beethoven's countryside-inspired **"Pastoral" Symphony** in a joyous program including the Kent Blossom Chamber Orchestra on July 26. He'll also lead Jess Gillam in a performance of Anna Clyne's *Glasslands*, a new saxophone concerto.

The incomparable Cynthia Erivo takes the Blossom Music Center stage on July 27 with conductor Edwin Outwater. During ***An Evening with Cynthia Erivo***, the Oscar-nominated and Tony, Grammy, and Emmy Award-winning performer joins the Orchestra for both original and legendary hits. The concert follows the annual Blossom Summer Soirée, a special event to benefit the Orchestra's summer home.

Conductor Daniele Rustioni and pianist Alessio Bax both make their Cleveland Orchestra debuts on August 2 in a program featuring **Liszt's** demanding Piano Concerto No. 1 and **Brahms's** rich and powerful Symphony No. 1.

Elim Chan returns to Blossom on August 9 to lead a performance of **Mahler's** turbulent and triumphant **Symphony No. 1**, often nicknamed **"Titan."** The program also includes Ravel's *Arabian Nights*-inspired *Shéhérazade* with soprano Christiane Karg in her Cleveland Orchestra debut.

The Billy Joel Songbook with vocalist and pianist Tony DeSare on August 10 pays tribute to the Piano Man. The Cleveland Orchestra performs symphonic orchestrations with DeSare's unique take on some of Billy Joel's biggest hits, including "Only the Good Die Young," "Just the Way You Are," and "New York State of Mind."

August 16 offers a captivating evening led by Cleveland Orchestra Associate Conductor Daniel Reith. It starts with a new work by Gabriella Smith, co-commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, followed by Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Cleveland Orchestra

Assistant Concertmaster Stephen Tavani. The evening concludes with **Elgar's *Enigma Variations***, a heartfelt tribute to friendship.

Blossom favorite Andy Einhorn returns on August 17 to conduct ***A Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration***. Vocalists Hugh Panaro, Scarlett Strallen, and Ben Davis join the Orchestra to bring the golden age of musical theater to Blossom Music Center.

The classical experience continues on August 23 with **Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3***, inspired by the moors of Scotland and conducted by Stephanie Childress in her Blossom Festival debut. The program also includes Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1, performed by acclaimed cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

Over Labor Day weekend, The Cleveland Orchestra presents **Disney's *The Lion King*** on August 29, 30, and 31. The Orchestra performs Hans Zimmer's unforgettable score alongside the 1994 original animated film, conducted by Sarah Hicks and featuring the Blossom Festival Chorus.

The 2025 Blossom Music Festival concludes on September 7 with **Dolly Parton's *Threads: My Songs in Symphony***, an innovative multimedia experience featuring Dolly on screen, leading audiences on a journey through her songs, life, and stories. Accompanied by guest vocalists and musicians, *Threads* highlights new and innovative orchestrations of Dolly's hit songs woven together into an evening of symphonic storytelling with The Cleveland Orchestra.

Images of the [Blossom Music Festival](#) and [guest artists](#) are available for download.

2025 Tickets

Individual tickets for the 2025 Blossom Music Festival go on sale on January 21. For tickets, contact the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111 or by emailing boxoffice@clevelandorchestra.com. Tickets can also be purchased online at clevelandorchestra.com.

Lawn Ticket Books are a great way to save on tickets for the entire Blossom Music Festival season and can be used for most Blossom Music Festival concerts, including movie nights. Lawn Ticket Books, which include 10 adult vouchers, 20 Under 18s Free vouchers, and two free upgrade passes, are available for \$200. Some exclusions apply.

Under 18s Free

Under 18s Free helps make attending Blossom Music Festival concerts more affordable for families. With each regular-priced adult ticket purchased, a family can get two free Lawn vouchers for children 17 and under.

Under 18s Free is a program of The Cleveland Orchestra's Center for Future Audiences. The Center, created with a lead endowment gift from the Maltz Family Foundation, was established to fund programs to develop new generations of audiences for Cleveland Orchestra concerts in Northeast Ohio.

2025 Blossom Music Festival Sponsors

The Cleveland Orchestra is proud to partner with **The J.M. Smucker Co.** as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2025 Blossom Music Festival. We thank Festival Partners **The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company** and **Ohio CAT**, our Movie Night Presenter **NOPEC**, and our Blossom Family Engagement Sponsor **Acme Fresh Markets**

A Special Thank You

We share our deepest thanks to the following funders, whose support makes magical summer evenings at the Blossom Music Festival possible:

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Thank you to everyone in the community who supports the **Blossom Fund** and The Cleveland Orchestra's Annual Fund.

We thank members of the **Blossom Committee** and the **Blossom Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra** for their leadership, time, and support of the Blossom Music Festival.

We also recognize the following supporters, who established **Endowed Funds in support of Blossom Music Center and Blossom Festival**, providing vital support every year:

Blossom Festival Guest Artist

Dr. and Mrs. Murray M. Bett
The Hershey Foundation
The Payne Fund
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Zekan

Blossom Festival Family Concerts

David E. and Jane J. Griffiths

Landscaping and Maintenance

The William Bingham Foundation
Family and friends of Emily Blossom
The GAR Foundation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

About Blossom Music Center, Summer Home of The Cleveland Orchestra

Blossom Music Center was created as the summer home of The Cleveland Orchestra and opened in July 1968 with performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony conducted by George Szell. The 200-acre music park features the award-winning and acoustically acclaimed Blossom Pavilion, designed by renowned Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk and seating more than 5,000 people under cover. The adjoining Blossom Lawn accommodates as many as 15,000 more outside on an expansive natural-bowl amphitheater of grass surrounded by bucolic woods.

In the more than half-century since Blossom's opening, headline makers and yet-to-be-discovered young artists across all genres have created unforgettable musical experiences for more than 21 million visitors. In a typical summer, Blossom serves more than 400,000 visitors, who attend concerts ranging from rock, country, and pop to classical. Live Nation operates Blossom under a long-term contract with The Cleveland Orchestra, dividing each year between the Orchestra's Blossom Music Festival of orchestral performances, and a series of presentations from across many genres.

Located 25 miles south of Cleveland and just north of Akron, Blossom is situated in the rolling hills of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which preserves 33,000 acres of natural parkland along the Cuyahoga River. Blossom Music Center was named to honor the Dudley S. Blossom family, who have been major supporters of The Cleveland Orchestra throughout its history. Blossom lies within the city limits of Cuyahoga Falls, an Ohio community first settled in the early 1800s, at 1145 West Steels Corners Road in Summit County.

The Cleveland Orchestra's 2025 Blossom Music Festival

SALUTE TO AMERICA

Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 8 p.m.

Friday, July 4, 2025, at 8 p.m.

Blossom Festival Band*

Blossom's traditional, star-spangled celebration with the Blossom Festival Band returns with a mix of patriotic marches, Broadway favorites, an Armed Forces Salute, and more — concluding with a spectacular fireworks display.**

**Please note: The Cleveland Orchestra does not appear on this concert.*

***Fireworks immediately following the performance, weather permitting.*

HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

Saturday, July 5, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

JOHN WILLIAMS *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (film with live orchestra underscore)

Blossom Music Festival Movie Nights are Presented by NOPEC.

CARMINA BURANA

Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Osmo Vänskä, *conductor*

Shelén Hughes, *soprano*

Reginald Mobley, *countertenor*

John Brancy, *baritone*

Blossom Festival Chorus

The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus

SIBELIUS *En Saga*

ORFF *Carmina Burana*

BEETHOVEN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

Saturday, July 19, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Petr Popelka, *conductor*

Veronika Eberle, *violin*

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

R. SCHUMANN Symphony No. 1, "Spring"

BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL

Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Jonathon Heyward, *conductor*

Jess Gillam, *saxophone*

With the Kent Blossom Chamber Orchestra

DVOŘÁK *Carnival Overture*

ANNA CLYNE *Glasslands*

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"*

AN EVENING WITH CYNTHIA ERIVO

Sunday, July 27, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Edwin Outwater, *conductor*

Cynthia Erivo, *vocals*

Blossom Summer Soirée: This special fundraising event takes place before the concert. More information about the Blossom Summer Soirée, as well as ticket and table options, [here](#).

BRAHMS & LISZT

Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Daniele Rustioni, *conductor*

Alessio Bax, *piano*

WAGNER *Overture to Tannhäuser*

LISZT *Piano Concerto No. 1*

BRAHMS *Symphony No. 1*

MAHLER'S TITAN

Saturday, August 9, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Elim Chan, *conductor*

Christiane Karg, *soprano*

RAVEL *Shéhérazade*

MAHLER *Symphony No. 1*

THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL

Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Stuart Chafetz, *conductor*

Tony DeSare, *vocals and piano*

**Please note: Billy Joel does not appear on this concert.*

ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Daniel Reith, *conductor*

Stephen Tavani, *violin*

GABRIELLA SMITH New Work (TCO Co-commission)

BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 2

ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

The co-commission by Gabriella Smith is generously sponsored by Douglas and Noreen Powers

A RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN CELEBRATION

Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Andy Einhorn, *conductor*

Scarlett Strallen, *vocals*

Hugh Panaro, *vocals*

Ben Davis, *vocals*

MENDELSSOHN'S SCOTTISH SYMPHONY

Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Stephanie Childress, *conductor*

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, *cello*

BRITTEN *Simple Symphony*

SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 3, "Scottish"

DISNEY'S THE LION KING LIVE IN CONCERT

Friday, August 29, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, *conductor*

Blossom Festival Chorus

HANS ZIMMER Disney's *The Lion King* (film with live orchestra underscore)

Blossom Music Festival Movie Nights are Presented by NOPEC.

DOLLY PARTON'S THREADS: MY SONGS IN SYMPHONY

Sunday, September 7, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, *conductor*

**Please note: Dolly Parton does not appear on this concert.*

All programs, artists, and prices are subject to change.

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