

**THE  
CLEVELAND  
ORCHESTRA**  
FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

**NEWS**

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SEASON

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## **The Cleveland Orchestra announces concert with Jon Batiste at Blossom Music Center**



CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra is excited to announce it will perform with eight-time Grammy Award–winning artist [Jon Batiste](#) on August 20 at Blossom Music Center as part of the 2026 Blossom Music Festival.

Renowned for his genre-defying artistry, Batiste joins the Orchestra under the baton of Jonathan Taylor-Rush, in his Cleveland Orchestra debut, for a program that blends originals with classics. The evening features selections from his acclaimed albums *Hollywood Africans*, *WE ARE*, *World Music Radio*, *Beethoven Blues*, and *BIG MONEY*, alongside distinctive interpretations of standards like “What a Wonderful World” and “Georgia on My Mind.”

Bringing together Batiste’s expressive, genre-spanning style with the Orchestra’s precision and versatility, the performance promises a high-energy experience that flows seamlessly across musical styles.

This performance is part of the [2026 Blossom Music Festival](#), which opens July 3 with a special program celebrating America's 250th anniversary. The season features a diverse lineup of concerts including *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* on July 11 and 12, *An Evening with Idina Menzel* on July 26, and *Summer in Vienna* with Music Director Franz Welser-Möst on August 29.

### **Media Assets**

Photo available for [download here](#).

### **Ticket and VIP Information**

Ticket presale for eligible Cleveland Orchestra donors and patrons starts Wednesday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to midnight. Tickets go on sale to the public on Thursday, April 9, at 10 a.m. VIP packages are available.

For tickets, contact the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111. Tickets to this performance and Blossom Music Festival packages can also be purchased online at [clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com).

### **About Jon Batiste**

Jon Batiste is an eight-time Grammy and Academy Award-winning singer, songwriter, and composer. His ninth studio album, *BIG MONEY* (released August 22 via Verve/Interscope) is rooted in American traditions spanning gospel and soul to blues, folk, and rock & roll. Featuring special guests such as No I.D., Randy Newman, and Andra Day, the album was nominated for three 2026 Grammy Awards — Best Americana Album, Best American Roots Performance, and Best American Roots Song, and earned the Grammy Award for Best Americana Album. Batiste recently wrapped his national headlining tour in support of the project, which stopped at over 30 venues across the US, including Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, CO and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

*BIG MONEY* caps a landmark year that included Batiste's Super Bowl performance and the chart-topping success of his album *Beethoven Blues*, which debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Classical Albums chart and delivered his biggest sales week to date. *Beethoven Blues* followed 2023's *World Music Radio*, which earned five Grammy nominations including Album of the Year. In 2021, Batiste released *WE ARE*, an album that earned nine Grammy nominations and five wins including Album of the Year. His life during that period—marked by both career highs and his wife's return of long-dormant cancer—is captured in the moving 2024 Netflix documentary *American Symphony*. Batiste co-wrote the film's original song "It Never Went Away," which earned a Grammy Award and Oscar nomination for Best Original Song.

Batiste's accolades also include an Academy Award for Pixar's *Soul* and a seven-year tenure as band leader and musical director of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*.

### **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 the Orchestra's then-Music Director George Szell. The 200-acre music park features the award winning and acoustically acclaimed Blossom Pavilion, designed by Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk and seating more than 5,000 people. 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 concertgoers. 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 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.

### **With Gratitude**

### **Calendar Listing**

#### **Jon Batiste with The Cleveland Orchestra**

Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 7 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Jonathan Taylor-Rush, *conductor*  
Jon Batiste, *vocals and piano*

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