

**THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA**

FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEWS

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The Cleveland Orchestra to host free Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert on January 11 at Severance Music Center



(The 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert. © Roger Mastroianni)

Free concert tickets available starting January 3

MLK Community Open House & Day of Music at Severance Music Center on January 19

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Orchestra will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with its 46th annual [Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert](#) on Sunday, January 11, at 7 p.m. in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center.

This beloved annual event is free and open to the public, celebrating Dr. King's enduring message of hope, justice, and unity through the power of music. The concert will be led by Cleveland Orchestra Assistant Conductor Taichi Fukumura and features acclaimed soprano Latonia Moore alongside the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Chorus, an all-volunteer community ensemble directed by Dr. William

Henry Caldwell. The evening's program will take audiences on a musical journey reflecting Dr. King's evolution as a visionary leader and tireless advocate for equality.

The celebration continues on Monday, January 19, with the [MLK Community Open House & Day of Music](#) from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Severance Music Center. This free, family-friendly event invites visitors of all ages to explore the building, experience live performances from community ensembles, and take part in interactive activities in a casual atmosphere.

The day includes appearances by 10K Movement, Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Cleveland Classical Guitar Society Student Showcase, The Cleveland Orchestra Learning Ensembles: Bassoon Farm & Music Mentors, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Chorus Chamber Ensemble, Medina High School Encore Entertainment Company, Shaw High School Mighty Marching Cardinals Band, and St. Edward High School Trash Talkers.

Guests can also enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies and take complimentary family portraits in the Grand Foyer. No tickets are required for entry.

Photos for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Open House & Day of Music are available for [download here](#).

KeyBank is the Community Access Partner for the 2026 MLK Day of Music.

The MLK Day of Music is generously sponsored by the Iris and Tom Harvie Fund for Strengthening Community.

The Cleveland Orchestra recognizes and thanks Jayne M. Zborowsky for her support of this concert.

2026 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service in the Arts Awards

The 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Awards will be presented as part of the concert on January 11. This is the 22nd year for the awards, which recognize individuals and organizations whose work has had a positive impact on music and the arts in our beloved community, reflecting the spirit, example, and teachings of Dr. King.

The 2026 recipients are:

- Dianna Richardson, Orchestra Director, Cleveland School of the Arts, Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Honey Bell-Bey, Poet Laureate, Founder, The International Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word
- Prester Pickett, Coordinator of the Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center, Cleveland State University
- Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center, East Cleveland Public Library

Ticket Information

Although the concert is free, tickets are required and available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on Saturday, January 3, at 10 a.m., through the Severance Ticket Office in person, by phone at 216-231-1111, or online at [clevelandorchestra.com](#). There is a limit of four tickets per household.

To ensure a smooth ticketing experience, guests are encouraged to download The Cleveland Orchestra app and create an account in advance of the on-sale date.

We recommend guests get their tickets early. For those unable to secure tickets in advance, a standby line will be available on the day of the concert, and every effort will be made to accommodate as many guests as possible.

Parking Information

Parking in the Case Western Reserve University Campus Center Garage (Lot 29, adjacent to Severance) for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert on January 11 will be available for free, on a first-come, first-served basis. The parking rate for the Community Open House & Day of Music on January 19 will be \$7 per vehicle. Pre-paid parking is not available for this event. For more information about parking, please visit clevelandorchestra.com.

Livestream and Radio Broadcast

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert on January 11 will be available to watch live for free on Adella.Live, the digital home of The Cleveland Orchestra, and YouTube.com/ClevelandOrchestra. The concert will also be broadcast live on WCLV 90.3 and WKSU 89.7, and live, simultaneous streaming will be available on ideastream.org, smart speakers, and the Ideastream Public Media app, expanding access to this musical experience.

Calendar Listing:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert

Sunday, January 11, 2025, at 7 p.m.
Severance Music Center, Mandel Concert Hall
The Cleveland Orchestra
Taichi Fukumura, *conductor*
Dr. William Henry Caldwell, *conductor*
Latonia Moore, *soprano*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Chorus

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Open House & Day of Music

Monday, January 19, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Severance Music Center
12 p.m.: Shaw High School Mighty Marching Cardinals Band
12:30 p.m.: 10K Movement Dance Workshop, The Cleveland Orchestra Learning Ensemble: Music Mentors
1:15 p.m.: Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Chorus Chamber Ensemble, Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers
2 p.m.: Medina High School Encore Entertainment Company
2:30 p.m.: St. Edward High School Trash Talkers
3 p.m.: Cleveland Classical Guitar Society Student Showcase
3:30 p.m.: The Cleveland Orchestra Learning Ensemble: Bassoon Farm
4 p.m.: The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra

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