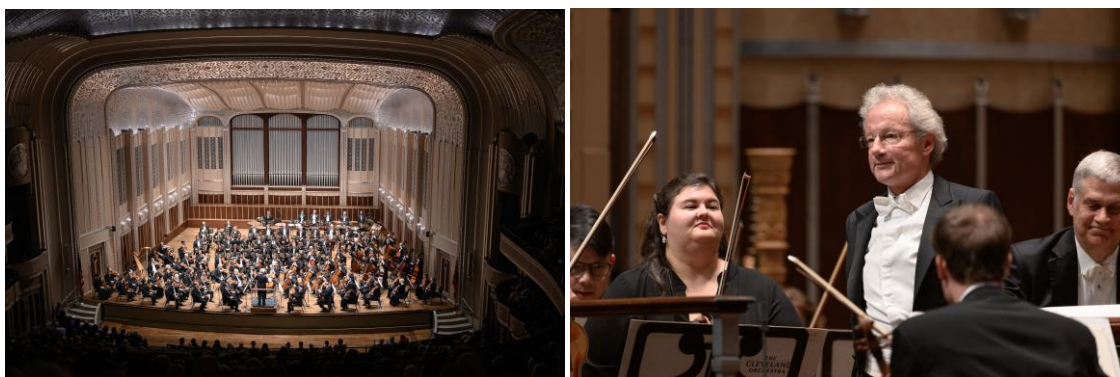




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## The Cleveland Orchestra and Franz Welser-Möst embark on final European tour together



*(Photos courtesy: Yevhen Gulenko)*

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra and Music Director **Franz Welser-Möst** return to Europe for their final international tour together, a 15-concert journey through nine countries and 13 distinguished venues. The tour runs October 2 through 21, at the beginning of Welser-Möst’s 25th and final season as Music Director. On select dates, they are joined by South African soprano **Golda Schultz**.

Welser-Möst first led The Cleveland Orchestra on a European tour in 2003. Over more than two decades, their international appearances have brought the ensemble’s clarity and expressive range to many of the world’s leading concert halls. This final European tour celebrates the artistic partnership that has helped define the Orchestra’s sound in the 21st century and deepened its global reputation.

The itinerary returns the Orchestra to stages central to Welser-Möst’s career while extending the reach of their collaboration. It begins at Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Germany on October 2 and 3, then continues to Konzerthaus in Dortmund, Germany on October 4, Philharmonie in Luxembourg on October 5, Philharmonie de Paris in France on October 6, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Belgium on October 8, Reduta Hall in Bratislava, Slovakia on October 10, Brucknerhaus in Linz, Austria on October 11, and National Concert Hall in Budapest, Hungary on October 13. There are three performances in Vienna, Austria: Musikverein on October 15 and 16, and Konzerthaus on October 17. The Cleveland Orchestra makes its debut in Slovenia at Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana on October 18, before concluding with its first concerts in Greece at Thessaloniki Concert Hall on October 20 and Megaron in Athens on October 21.

The tour’s repertoire reflects Welser-Möst and the Orchestra’s history. Richard Strauss, a composer closely associated with Welser-Möst’s work in Cleveland, appears throughout the tour in *Four Last*

*Songs*, *Symphonia domestica*, and the Introduction and Finale to *Daphne*. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8 delivers a searing journey through despair and resilience, Brahms's Symphony No. 2 offers radiant lyricism and breadth, Liszt's symphonic poem *Orpheus* gives life to the Greek myth, and Mozart's Symphony No. 34 brings fanfare to this celebration. Martinů's Symphony No. 2 holds a special place in Cleveland Orchestra history. Commissioned by a group of Czech Clevelanders, it received its world premiere with the Orchestra in 1943.



As a celebrated opera conductor, it's no surprise Welser-Möst would incorporate voice into his last major tour with The Cleveland Orchestra. Golda Schultz brings her luminous vocals to Strauss's contemplative *Four Last Songs* in Hamburg, Dortmund, Luxembourg, Paris, and Brussels. She first appeared with Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra in 2018.

The tour also reflects Welser-Möst's advocacy for contemporary music. Austrian composer **Bernd Richard Deutsch's** *Intensity*, commissioned by The Cleveland Orchestra during his 2018–211 tenure as Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow and premiered at Severance Music Center in 2022, is performed in Hamburg, Linz, and Vienna.

The European tour marks the beginning of The Cleveland Orchestra's 2026–27 digital season with a concert livestreamed from Philharmonie de Paris on October 6. The performance, pairing *Four Last Songs* featuring Schultz with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8., will be broadcast live on [Adella](#), the digital home of The Cleveland Orchestra, at 8 p.m. local time in Paris and 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

From cherished stages to first-time venues, the tour offers European audiences a final opportunity to experience the musical partnership Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra have built over 25 years.

#### **Media assets**

Photos of opening weekend of The Cleveland Orchestra's 2026–27 season at Severance Music Center are available for [download here](#).

#### **2026 European Tour Calendar Listing**

##### **Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, Germany**

Friday, October 2, 2026, at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Golda Schultz, *soprano*

R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*  
SHOSTAKOVICH *Symphony No. 8*

**Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, Germany**

Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

MOZART *Symphony No. 34*  
BERND RICHARD DEUTSCH *Intensity*  
R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

**Konzerthaus, Dortmund, Germany**

Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 4 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Golda Schultz, *soprano*

LISZT *Orpheus*  
R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*  
BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2*

**Philharmonie, Luxembourg**

Monday, October 5, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Golda Schultz, *soprano*

R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*  
R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

**Philharmonie de Paris, France**

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*  
Golda Schultz, *soprano*

R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*  
SHOSTAKOVICH *Symphony No. 8*

**Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium**

Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

Golda Schultz, *soprano*

LISZT *Orpheus*

R. STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*

BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2*

**Reduta Hall, Bratislava, Slovakia**

Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*

MARTINŮ *Symphony No. 2*

BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2*

**Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria**

Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

MOZART *Symphony No. 34*

BERND RICHARD DEUTSCH *Intensity*

R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

**National Concert Hall, Budapest, Hungary**

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*

MARTINŮ *Symphony No. 2*

BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2*

**Musikverein, Vienna, Austria**

Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*  
MARTINŮ Symphony No. 2  
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

**Musikverein, Vienna, Austria**

Friday, October 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

R. STRAUSS Introduction and Finale to *Daphne*  
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8

**Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria**

Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

MOZART Symphony No. 34  
BERND RICHARD DEUTSCH *Intensity*  
R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

**Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*  
MOZART Symphony No. 34  
R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

**Thessaloniki Concert Hall, Greece**

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 8:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

R. STRAUSS Introduction and Finale to *Daphne*  
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 8

**Megaron, Athens, Greece**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 8:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*

MARTINŮ Symphony No. 2

BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

### **About The Cleveland Orchestra**

The Cleveland Orchestra, under the leadership of Franz Welser-Möst since 2002, is widely recognized as one of the world's leading ensembles. Praised by *The New York Times* as "America's Finest," the Orchestra is renowned for its virtuosity, elegance of sound, and chamber-like musical flexibility. In his 25th and final season as Music Director, Welser-Möst concludes a transformative partnership that has been marked by exceptional artistic ambition, growing international recognition, and deep community connection.

During his tenure, the Orchestra has achieved major institutional milestones, including groundbreaking residencies at the Musikverein in Vienna — the first by an American orchestra — and at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami. In 2023, The Cleveland Orchestra launched the annual Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Opera & Humanities Festival, presenting acclaimed opera productions alongside art exhibits, community events, and civic conversations.

Through concerts, broadcasts, recordings, tours, and digital initiatives, The Cleveland Orchestra reaches an ever-growing audience around the world. Its in-house recording label and streaming platform, [Adella.live](https://adella.live), capture and share performances from the Welser-Möst era while introducing new generations of fans to the Orchestra's artistry.

Founded by Adella Prentiss Hughes, The Cleveland Orchestra gave its inaugural concert in December 1918. Over more than a century, it has grown into a treasured community institution, enriching lives through music, education, and a deep commitment to Northeast Ohio. Today, more than 400,000 people attend Cleveland Orchestra concerts each year. From its year-round home at Severance Music Center to its summer season at Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Orchestra continues to serve audiences across the region.

Seven Music Directors — Nikolai Sokoloff, Artur Rodziński, Erich Leinsdorf, George Szell, Lorin Maazel, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Franz Welser-Möst — have shaped the ensemble's distinctive musical identity and celebrated "Cleveland sound." Welser-Möst's tenure as the longest-serving Music Director in Cleveland Orchestra history stands as a defining chapter in that evolution.

### **About Franz Welser-Möst**

Franz Welser-Möst has forged one of the most transformative artistic legacies in the history of The Cleveland Orchestra, as its seventh and longest-serving Music Director. Now in his 25th and final season, he has shaped its sound with extraordinary care and imagination, cultivating greater warmth and flexibility, while preserving precision and transparency. Since beginning his tenure in 2002–03, his leadership has characterized a quarter century of artistic excellence, community outreach, and global prominence.

Welser-Möst first appeared with The Cleveland Orchestra as a guest conductor in February 1993 and has returned every season beginning in 1995. By the end of the 2026–27 season, he will have led the

Orchestra in more than 1,200 performances in 93 cities spanning 15 US states and 26 countries, including 701 concerts at Severance Music Center. He has appointed 56 of the Orchestra's 100 current musicians, profoundly shaping its sound for a new generation. Welser-Möst's tenure ushered in major milestones, from innovative opera stagings to the launch of its streaming platform, Adella.live, and its recording label.

Widely admired for his interpretations of Central European and Russian repertoire, Welser-Möst has also championed living composers, specifically through the Orchestra's Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellowship. His artistic partnerships have resulted in dozens of commissions and co-commissions, and at the close of the 2026–27 season, he will have led The Cleveland Orchestra in 27 world premieres and 21 US premieres.

Welser-Möst has made opera an annual tradition at Severance Music Center, culminating in the creation of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Opera & Humanities Festival in 2023. Acclaimed productions of Dvořák's *Rusalka*, Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* demonstrated his commitment to large-scale storytelling. In May 2027, Welser-Möst leads a fully staged production of Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, a fitting capstone to his enduring artistic vision and remarkable legacy with The Cleveland Orchestra.

A defining aspect of Welser-Möst's Cleveland career has been his work with The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. He has consistently advocated for the all-volunteer ensemble as an essential artistic partner in performances ranging from symphonic masterworks to staged opera productions. In 2010, Welser-Möst appointed Lisa Wong to work with the Chorus and, in 2018, he named her Director of Choruses. Together, they have elevated the Chorus with performances at home and on the road.

Beyond Cleveland, Welser-Möst maintains a distinguished international career, marked by a longstanding artistic partnership with the Vienna Philharmonic. He regularly leads the ensemble at the Musikverein and on major international tours, and has already conducted the celebrated annual New Year's concert three times. In 2024, he was named an Honorary Member of the Vienna Philharmonic, one of its highest honors. He is also celebrated for his interpretations of opera, conducting productions which have been widely acclaimed at the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna State Opera.

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