THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA
FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEWS

26 27 SEASON

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The Cleveland Orchestra announces limited edition vinyl box set celebrating Franz Welser-Möst's 25-year legacy as Music Director



CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra announces *Signature Welser-Möst*, a limited edition, 15-disc vinyl box set commemorating **Franz Welser-Möst**'s 25th and final season as Music Director. Personally curated by Welser-Möst, the deluxe collection celebrates this extraordinary artistic partnership, bringing together landmark recordings that have shaped The Cleveland Orchestra's acclaimed sound over the past quarter century.

Spanning works by **Haydn**, **Beethoven**, **Bruckner**, **Shostakovich**, **Richard Strauss**, **Eastman**, **Sibelius**, **Tchaikovsky**, **Schubert**, **Mozart**, and **Verdi**, the set reflects the scope and richness of Welser-Möst's tenure as the Orchestra's longest-serving Music Director. The collection also highlights his enduring commitment to contemporary music, featuring commissions by **Kaija Saariaho**, **Bernd Richard Deutsch**, and **Allison Loggins-Hull**, alongside three recordings with **The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus**.

"For this retrospective, I have selected pieces and recordings that are meaningful to me personally and significant to my quarter century as Music Director of The Cleveland Orchestra. I am deeply grateful to have shared this journey with all of you, here in Cleveland and all around the world," Welser-Möst said.

This vinyl set opens with Haydn's radiant oratorio *The Creation*, the first work Welser-Möst conducted as Music Director during his inaugural season in 2002, and concludes with Verdi's monumental Requiem, recorded during his penultimate season in 2026. The 14 featured recordings frame an era defined by artistic ambition, global recognition, and uncompromising excellence.

Welser-Möst's dedication to championing contemporary voices and expanding The Cleveland Orchestra's repertoire shines on *Signature Welser-Möst* through three of the 47 works he has commissioned during his tenure with the Orchestra. Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, the first composer Welser-Möst commissioned as Music Director, is represented by *Orion*, her vividly textured three-movement work, which received its world premiere from The Cleveland Orchestra in 2003. The collection also features two of the Orchestra's former Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellows. Austrian composer Bernd Richard Deutsch's *Intensity* was inspired by hearing The Cleveland Orchestra perform an all-Beethoven program in Vienna, making it a fitting inclusion for their final European tour together this October. The music of American composer Allison Loggins-Hull was first introduced to Welser-Möst by Principal Flute Joshua Smith. Premiered by the Orchestra in 2023, the orchestral version of Loggins-Hull's *Can You See?* incorporates melodic material from *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

The collection's only instrumental soloist is the late **Radu Lupu**, whose interpretation of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 was recorded with Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall in 2005.

"Radu Lupu was the most influential musician in my career. The way he approached music and the way he made music sound — his range of colors, his deep understanding of a piece — really influenced me. I'm so happy that we have this specific piano concerto on this set. I've never heard anybody in my life, other than Radu, play the piano's second entrance in the slow movement like he did, where one single note can have so much meaning," Welser-Möst said.

While 12 of the collection's 14 works were recorded at Severance Music Center, The Cleveland Orchestra's home in the city's University Circle neighborhood since 1931, two were captured at iconic venues closely connected to the music they feature. In 2006, Welser-Möst led the Orchestra in Bruckner's monumental and meticulously structured Symphony No. 5 at St. Florian Monastery in Upper Austria, where the composer is buried. Six years later, the Orchestra returned to Carnegie Hall, where Welser-Möst had made his first appearance with the ensemble in 2003, to play Shostakovich's enigmatic Symphony No. 6, with its expansive opening movement and exhilarating, fast-paced conclusion.

Signature Welser-Möst is available for $450, with pre-order now open through The Cleveland Orchestra Store ahead of its worldwide release on **November 6**. Customers who place their order before **September 21** will not only secure the limited-edition collection but will also receive an invitation to an exclusive meet and greet with Welser-Möst following The Cleveland Orchestra's September 26 concert at Severance Music Center. Cleveland Orchestra Store presale participants will also receive free domestic shipping and be entered to win a rare vinyl lacquer used in the original production of the recordings. International copies of the box set, excluding Japan, are also available through an exclusive distribution agreement with Presto Music. Distribution information for Japan is forthcoming.

With only 1,000 copies available, *Signature Welser-Möst* offers collectors and music lovers a rare opportunity to own a lasting document of one of the most significant artistic partnerships in The Cleveland Orchestra's history.

Find out how to preorder *Signature Welser-Möst* here.

Media Assets

Audio files for reviewers are available upon request. Images of *Signature Welser-Möst* are available for download here. Photos of Franz Welser-Möst during his tenure with The Cleveland Orchestra are available here.

Production Information

Franz Joseph Haydn
The Creation
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Malin Hartelius, *soprano*
James Taylor, *tenor*
Thomas Quasthoff, *bass-baritone*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus
Recorded in 2002

Kaija Saariaho
Orion
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2003

Ludwig van Beethoven
Piano Concerto No. 4
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Radu Lupu, *piano*
Recorded in 2005

Anton Bruckner
Symphony No. 5
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2006 at St. Florian Monastery in Austria

Dmitri Shostakovich
Symphony No. 6
The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2012 at Carnegie Hall in New York City

Richard Strauss
Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier* (compiled by Franz Welser-Möst)
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2022

Bernd Richard Deutsch
Intensity
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2022

Julius Eastman
Symphony No. 2
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2023

Jean Sibelius
Symphony No. 5
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2023

Allison Loggins-Hull
Can You See? (Orchestral Version)
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2023

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Symphony No. 2, "Ukrainian"
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2023

Franz Schubert
Mass No. 6
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Joélle Harvey, *soprano*
Daryl Freedman, *mezzo-soprano*

Julian Prégardien, *tenor*
Martin Mitterrutzner, *tenor*
Dashon Burton, *bass-baritone*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

Recorded in 2023

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Recorded in 2026

Giuseppe Verdi
Requiem
The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Asmik Grigorian, *soprano*
Deniz Uzun, *mezzo-soprano*
Joshua Guerrero, *tenor*
Tareq Nazmi, *bass*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

Recorded in 2026

With Gratitude
This box set is generously sponsored in memory of Dr. Marcia and Mr. Sanford Wile.

This box set is generously supported by Jeffrey Litwiller.

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In memory of Dr. Marcia and Mr. Sanford Wile

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, 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*, 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, Lisa Wong joined the Chorus staff and, in 2018, Welser-Möst 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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