THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA
FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEWS

26 27 SEASON

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The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra celebrates 40th season with three free concerts




(Photo credit: Yevhen Gulenko)

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra's 2026–27 season celebrates 40 years of shaping the next generation of classical musicians, audiences, and advocates by offering free concert tickets.

Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO) Principal Conductor and Musical Advisor James Feddeck leads three performances at Severance Music Center: **COYO Plays Tchaikovsky** on Friday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m., **COYO & COYC in Concert: Brahms & Billy the Kid** on Sunday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m., and **COYO Plays Pines of Rome** on Saturday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Admission to Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra concerts is free, but tickets are required. Tickets may be reserved through the Severance Music Center Ticket Office at 216-231-1111 or online at clevelandorchestra.com. These complimentary performances, made possible through a grant from Daniel Mansoor, offer friends, family members, classmates, and the wider community an opportunity to celebrate COYO's 40th anniversary and share this special milestone.

Founded in 1986, COYO is comprised of nearly 100 middle-school and high-school students from across Northeast Ohio, selected through a competitive audition process. The ensemble provides a space for these young musicians to challenge themselves, grow, and perform at a high level with instruction from Cleveland Orchestra musicians. Currently, seven members of The Cleveland Orchestra are alumni of the youth ensemble, demonstrating its lasting impact on the music community.

“It is a great honor to continue my association with The Cleveland Orchestra’s Youth Orchestra. I have witnessed its profound impact: a lasting legacy that produces exceptional musicians many of whom perform with orchestras around the world, while instilling a deep passion for music in every young person it touches,” said Feddeck, who served as COYO Music Director from 2009 to 2013 and returned to lead the ensemble in 2025.

“I remain grateful to The Cleveland Orchestra’s musicians for their support and committed presence to COYO, which for 40 years has stood as the centerpiece of The Cleveland Orchestra’s educational work and an indispensable part of our community,” Feddeck said.

COYO’s season opens on Friday, November 20, with music full of drama and color, from the emotion of Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet* Overture-Fantasy to the rhythm of Falla’s Three Dances from *The Three-Cornered Hat*. The concert culminates in Borodin’s richly textured Symphony No. 2.
COYO is joined by The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus on Sunday, February 28, for a program that blends the two groups in powerful ways. Copland’s Suite from *Billy the Kid* brings an unmistakable American sound to the stage while Brahms’s *Nänie* and Vaughan Williams’s *Toward the Unknown Region* offer moments of reflection, showcasing the possibilities of large-scale collaboration.

The 2026–27 season comes to a close on Saturday, May 8, with a world premiere work by Tyler Taylor, The Cleveland Orchestra’s current Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow. The evening also features a concerto performed by the winner of COYO’s annual Concerto Competition, alongside Respighi’s *Pines of Rome.*

Media Assets
Photos are available for download here

With Gratitude
Major support for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra provided by The Geoffrey and Sarah Gund Endowment.

Additional Support for COYO is provided by:
Akron Children’s
William E. Dean Jr. and Gloria P. Dean
The George Gund Foundation
Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
The Laufey Foundation
Dr.* and Mrs. Anthony T. Lauria
The Jules and Ruth Vinney Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra Touring Fund
Jessica and James Warren

**In memoriam*

We wish to acknowledge Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra for their support of coaching sessions with TCO musicians.

Complimentary tickets to COYO concerts are made possible by Daniel Mansoor

About The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra

The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO) is a full symphonic ensemble composed of 98 musicians from 40 communities in 12 counties. Founded in 1986 by Jahja Ling (then Resident Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra), COYO provides serious young music students of middle and high school age with a unique pre-professional orchestral training experience.

Among the acclaimed artists to work with COYO are Cleveland Orchestra Music Director Franz Welser-Möst, Marin Alsop, Pierre Boulez, Stéphane Denève, Christoph von Dohnányi, Giancarlo Guerrero, Witold Lutosławski, Yo-Yo Ma, Gil Shaham, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Antoni Wit. The ensemble has been featured on three international tours.

Generously supported by The Geoffrey and Sarah Gund Endowment, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra is part of a suite of Cleveland Orchestra programs designed to nurture aspiring young musicians, which also includes The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, The Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus and Preparatory Chorus, and the Crescendo, Music Mentors, and Bassoon Farm pathways initiatives for students in Cleveland schools.

In addition, and with the support of many generous individual, foundation, corporate, and governmental funding partners, the Orchestra's full range of education and community programs reach more than 100,000 young people and adults annually, helping to foster a lifelong relationship with music by removing barriers to participation, advocating for and helping to facilitate equitable access to comprehensive music education in schools, and harnessing the life-changing power of music in service to the community.

For more information, please visit: clevelandorchestra.com/coyo

2026–27 COYO Season Calendar

COYO Plays Tchaikovsky
Friday, November 20, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY *Romeo and Juliet* Overture-Fantasy
FALLA Three Dances from *The Three-Cornered Hat*
BORODIN Symphony No. 2

COYO & COYC in Concert: Brahms & Billy the Kid
Sunday, February 28, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra
The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus

COPLAND Suite from *Billy the Kid*
BRAHMS *Nänie*
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Toward the Unknown Region*

COYO Plays Pines of Rome
Saturday, May 8, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra

TYLER TAYLOR World Premiere
Concerto performed by the COYO Concerto Competition winner
RESPIGHI *Pines of Rome*

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