

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

NEWS

**26
27**
SEASON

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The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra announces 2026–27 season, celebrating 40th anniversary



(Photo credit: Yevhen Gulenko)

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO) marks its 40th anniversary during its 2026–27 season, celebrating the artistic energy and curiosity that have shaped the ensemble since its founding.

COYO Principal Conductor and Music Advisor James Feddeck leads three concerts at Severance Music Center, bringing together bold orchestral favorites, collaborative works, and a world premiere to offer a vibrant look at both COYO’s history and its future. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, all COYO concerts will be free, inviting the community to be part of this special season.

“The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra represents both our legacy and our future. For 40 years, it has nurtured extraordinary young musicians who carry forward the artistic excellence, discipline, and spirit that define The Cleveland Orchestra,” said André Gremillet, Cleveland Orchestra President & CEO, The Richard K. Smucker Chair. “As we celebrate this milestone in the 2026–27 season, we honor the generations of students, families, and mentors who have built this legacy, and reaffirm our belief that investing in young artists is essential to the cultural vitality of our community, our Orchestra, and the future of music itself.”

Founded in 1986, COYO has provided a space for young musicians to challenge themselves, grow, and perform at a high level with instruction from Cleveland Orchestra musicians. Today, the ensemble includes nearly 100 middle-school and high-school students from across Northeast Ohio, reflecting its

commitment to education and the depth of musical talent throughout our communities. COYO's legacy resonates well beyond the program. When The Cleveland Orchestra begins its 2026–27 season, seven of its members will be COYO alumni.

The ensemble'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 joins forces with 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 season closes 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*, bringing the anniversary season to an exhilarating finish.

As it celebrates 40 years, The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra continues to build on its founding vision to cultivate the next generation of musicians, audiences, and advocates who will sustain and strengthen The Cleveland Orchestra's artistic excellence and community impact for years to come. The 2026–27 season is both a celebration and an invitation to hear where the next generation is headed.

Media Assets

Photos are available for [download here](#).

Ticket Information

Secure your free tickets now through the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111 or through clevelandorchestra.com.

Support for COYO is provided by:

Akron Children's
Friends of The Cleveland Orchestra
The Geoffrey and Sarah Gund Endowment
Gerrie E. Berena
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

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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: clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com

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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