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Single tickets for Franz Welser-Möst's farewell season with The Cleveland Orchestra go on sale August 18



Photo credit: Yevhen Gulenko

CLEVELAND— Single tickets for [The Cleveland Orchestra's 2026–27 season](#) at Severance Music Center, celebrating **Franz Welser-Möst's** 25th and final year as Music Director, go on sale on Tuesday, August 18.

The 2026–27 season reflects the artistic vision, repertoire, and unmistakable sound that have defined Welser-Möst's tenure as the Orchestra's seventh and longest-serving Music Director. Throughout the season, audiences will experience many of the composers and works that have shaped his relationship with The Cleveland Orchestra, including Beethoven, Mahler, and Richard Strauss, alongside rediscoveries, world premieres, and works with deep ties to Cleveland.

"In planning my final season as Music Director, it's going to show what we have achieved together in 25 years," Welser-Möst said. "Precision and transparency have always been defining qualities of The Cleveland Orchestra. But the spectrum of different sound colors, the warmth, the flexibility, and the singing in the sound — these are some of the things we have enhanced together."

Individual tickets go on sale on Tuesday, August 18, at 10 a.m., with a presale for eligible subscribers and donors beginning Tuesday, August 11, at 10 a.m. Subscriptions for the 2026–27 season are now on sale and start at only \$96 for a three-concert package. Subscribers receive priority seating and ticket exchange privileges. For tickets, contact the Severance Music Center Ticket Office at 216-231-1111 or visit clevelandorchestra.com.

Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra open the season on September 17 and 20 with Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, featuring the rich tones of soprano **Golda Schultz**, followed by Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8. Then on September 24 and 26, the program combines Liszt's symphonic poem *Orpheus*, Brahms's expansive Symphony No. 2, and Martinů's Symphony No. 2, which was commissioned by Czech Clevelanders and premiered by The Cleveland Orchestra in 1943.

On January 16 and 16, Welser-Möst returns to Severance Music Center for Beethoven's massive and deeply spiritual *Missa solemnis*, featuring **Schultz**, mezzo-soprano **Taylor Raven**, tenor **Julian Prégardien**, bass **Anthony Schneider**, and **The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus** under the direction of **Lisa Wong**. The Cleveland Orchestra has not performed this work in more than 20 years.

Welser-Möst leads the Orchestra in an all-Richard Strauss program on January 15, featuring orchestral selections from *Daphne*, alongside *Metamorphosen* — a reflection on the devastation of World War II — and *Symphonia domestica*, the composer's autobiographical portrait of family life.

As his final stretch of concerts as Music Director begins, Welser-Möst conducts Mahler's Symphony No. 9 on April 29, May 1, and 2. A composer central to Welser-Möst's career, Mahler explores life's fragility and the search for transcendence in this deeply moving work, culminating in one of music's most poignant farewells.

On May 6 and 7, Welser-Möst leads a program inspired by myth and legend. Stravinsky's *Orpheus* retells the ancient Greek tale with elegance and restraint, followed by Sibelius's *Four Legends from the Kalevala*, Finland's national epic, which includes a haunting depiction of the mystical Swan of Tuonela.

Credited with reviving staged opera at Severance Music Center, Welser-Möst marks the fifth annual Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Opera & Humanities Festival with Richard Strauss's beautiful and ambitious *Die Frau ohne Schatten* on May 16, 19, and 22. Staged by **Frederic Wake-Walker**, the production stars tenor **David Butt Philip**, soprano **Sara Jakubiak**, mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Johnson Cano**, baritone **Roman Burdenko**, and soprano **Ambur Braid**, with **The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus**.

"It's the perfect ending for both the season and my time in Cleveland," Welser-Möst said. "It's a huge score, and the Orchestra will have a blast with it. At the same time, it sums up what I personally believe music should be: That there is a humanitarian, philosophical element that is essential to what we do."

Welser-Möst concludes the 2026–27 season and his historic tenure with The Cleveland Orchestra with a series of three programs that celebrate his legacy and unique voice. On May 27, he conducts The Cleveland Orchestra and **The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus** in the first piece he conducted as Music Director during his inaugural season in 2002: Hadyn's *The Creation*. Joining the ensemble for this radiant oratorio are soprano **Joëlle Harvey**, tenor **Kai Kluge**, and baritone **Ludwig Mittelhammer**.

The May 28 concert opens with Bernd Richard Deutsch's *Intensity*, commissioned by The Cleveland Orchestra during his tenure as Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow, followed by Eastman's Symphony No. 2, returning after its Cleveland Orchestra premiere in 2023. The program concludes with Richard Strauss's vivid orchestral journey, *An Alpine Symphony*.

Welser-Möst's final concert, *The Last Waltz* on May 29, is a lively homage to the Viennese musical tradition that he holds so dear. This festive farewell features the spirited dances and overtures of Lanner and the Strauss family as Welser-Möst departs Cleveland with a smile.

Extraordinary Guest Artists

Throughout the 2026–27 season, The Cleveland Orchestra welcomes an incredible lineup of guest conductors to the podium at Severance Music Center: **Petr Popelka** (October 30, 31, and November 1, and November 5, 7, and 8), **Jane Glover** (November 12, 14, and 15), **Santtu-Matias Rouvali** (November 19, 20, 21, and 22, and February 25, 26, and 27), **Elim Chan** (November 27, 28, and 29), **Alan Gilbert** (December 3, 4, and 5), **Thomas Adès** (February 4, 5, 6, and 7), **Kazuki Yamada** (February 11, 12, 13, and 14), **Fabio Luisi** (February 18 and 20), Semyon Bychkov (March 4, 5, 6, and 7), **Esa-Pekka Salonen** (April 15, 17, and 18), and **John Adams** (April 22, 23, and 24).

The Cleveland Orchestra has a history of composers conducting their own works dating back to Sergei Prokofiev, Igor Stravinsky, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. That tradition continues this season. Adès conducts his *Inferno* Suite — drawn from his ballet inspired by Dante’s *Divine Comedy* — Salonen opens his program with his atmospheric work *NYX*, and Adams closes his concerts with his *Slonimsky’s Earbox*, a spirited tribute to the 20th-century conductor and musicologist Nicolas Slonimsky.

In addition to the incredible vocalists who will join Welser-Möst this season, these guest conductors join soloists like soprano **Julia Bullock** (November 12, 14, and 15), saxophonist **Steven Banks** (November 19, 20, 21, and 22), violinist **Veronika Eberle** (November 27, 28, and 29), violinist **Augustin Hadelich** (December 3, 4, and 5), pianist **Beatrice Rana** (February 11, 12, 13, and 14), violinist **Paul Huang** (February 18 and 20), pianist **Seong-Jin Cho** (February 25, 26, and 27), pianist **Alexandre Kantorow** (March 4, 5, 6, and 7), pianist **Yunchan Lim** (April 15, 17, and 18), and pianist **Conrad Tao** (April 22, 23, and 24).

Cleveland Orchestra Principal Oboe **Frank Rosenwein** is featured in the world premiere of Adolphus Hailstork’s *Distant Lands: Triptych for Oboe and Strings*, commissioned by The Cleveland Orchestra, on November 5, 7, and 8.

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus turns 75

Grammy Award–winning composer and conductor **Eric Whitacre** joins **The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus** to mark its 75th season in a special concert celebrating the ensemble’s rich legacy and bright future. Director of Choruses **Lisa Wong** opens the evening with the Dylan Thomas–inspired *Fern Hill* by John Corigliano. Following this, Whitacre leads the US premiere of his *Eternity in an Hour*, an expansive meditation on William Blake’s *Auguries of Innocence*.

Media Assets

For photos of Franz Welser-Möst during his tenure with The Cleveland Orchestra, [click here](#). For photos of The Cleveland Orchestra, [click here](#). For photos of the 2026–27 season guest artists, [click here](#).

Video of The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Music Center is available for [download here](#).

With Gratitude

With deepest gratitude, The Cleveland Orchestra thanks our Institutional partners whose vital support brings our concert seasons and programs to life:

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We also thank our entire community of donors who support the Annual Fund. Your generosity keeps our music playing strong for fans around the world. Thank you!

Calendar Listings

2026–27 Severance Music Center Season

Strauss & Shostakovich

Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 3 p.m.

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

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

Golda Schultz's performance is generously sponsored by Astri Seidenfeld

Brahms's Second Symphony

Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

LISZT *Orpheus*

MARTINŮ Symphony No. 2
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

The Chorus at 75 with Eric Whitacre

Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus
Members of The Cleveland Orchestra
Lisa Wong, *conductor*
Eric Whitacre, *conductor*

JOHN CORIGLIANO *Fern Hill*
ERIC WHITACRE *Eternity in an Hour*

Mahler's Fifth Symphony

Friday, October 30, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Petr Popelka, *conductor*

HAYDN Symphony No. 80
MAHLER Symphony No. 5

Brahms's Requiem

Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Petr Popelka, *conductor*
Frank Rosenwein, *oboe*
Julia Kleiter, *soprano*
Lucas Meachem, *baritone*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

ADOLPHUS HAILSTORK *Distant Lands: Triptych for Oboe and Strings* (World Premiere; TCO Commission)
BRAHMS *Ein deutsches Requiem*

Royal Illuminations

Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Jane Glover, *conductor*
Julia Bullock, *soprano*

HANDEL Suites Nos. 2 and 3 from *Water Music*
BRITTEN *Les Illuminations*
STACY GARROP *Spectacle of Light*
HANDEL *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Rouvali Conducts Strauss

Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 20, 2026, at 11 a.m.
Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 22, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Santtu-Matias Rouvali, *conductor*
Steven Banks, *saxophone*

BILLY CHILDS *Diaspora: Concerto for Saxophone**
R. STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben*

**Not performed on Friday's matinee concert*

Santtu-Matias Rouvali's performance is generously sponsored by Astri Seidenfeld

Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake

Friday, November 27, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 28, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Elim Chan, *conductor*
Veronika Eberle, *violin*

GUBAIDULINA *Fairytale Poem*
BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Suite from *Swan Lake*

Hadelich Plays Bartók

Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 4, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Alan Gilbert, *conductor*
Augustin Hadelich, *violin*

DALIT WARSHAW *Responses*
BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2
DEBUSSY *Images*

Beethoven's Missa Solemnis

Thursday, January 14, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 16, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Golda Schultz, *soprano*
Taylor Raven, *mezzo-soprano*
Julian Prégardien, *tenor*
Anthony Schneider, *bass*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

BEETHOVEN *Missa solemnis*

Taylor Raven's performance is generously sponsored by Claudia Woods and David Osage
Golda Schultz's performance is generously sponsored by Astri Seidenfeld

Welser-Möst Conducts Strauss

Friday, January 15, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

R. STRAUSS Introduction and Finale from *Daphne*
R. STRAUSS *Metamorphosen*
R. STRAUSS *Symphonia domestica*

Holst's The Planets

Thursday, February 4, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 5, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 6, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 7, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Thomas Adès, *conductor*
The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

THOMAS ADÈS *Inferno* Suite
FRANCISCO COLL *Lilith* (US Premiere)
HOLST *The Planets*

All Tchaikovsky

Thursday, February 11, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 12, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 13, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 14, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Kazuki Yamada, *conductor*
Beatrice Rana, *piano*

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

Huang Plays Barber

Thursday, February 18, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 20, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Fabio Luisi, *conductor*
Paul Huang, *violin*

BENT SØRENSEN *Evening Land*
BARBER Violin Concerto
NIELSEN Symphony No. 4, "The Inextinguishable"

Fabio Luisi's performance is generously sponsored by Tony and Diane Wynshaw-Boris

Cho Plays Chopin

Thursday, February 25, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 26, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 27, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Santtu-Matias Rouvali, *conductor*
Seong-Jin Cho, *piano*

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 15

Santtu-Matias Rouvali's performance is generously sponsored by Astri Seidenfeld

Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody

Thursday, March 4, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 5, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 6, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 7, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Semyon Bychkov, *conductor*

Alexandre Kantorow, *piano*

BRITTEN *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

RACHMANINOFF *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

Lim Plays Liszt

Thursday, April 15, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 17, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Esa-Pekka Salonen, *conductor*

Yunchan Lim, *piano*

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN *NYX*

LISZT *Piano Concerto No. 2*

BERLIOZ *Suite from Roméo et Juliette*

Adams & Tao

Thursday, April 22, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 23, 2027, at 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

John Adams, *conductor*

Conrad Tao, *piano*

WEILL *Suite from The Threepenny Opera*

COPLAND *Piano Concerto*

HARRIS *Symphony No. 3**

JOHN ADAMS *Slonimsky's Earbox*

**Not performed on Friday's matinee concert*

John Adams's performance is generously sponsored by Tony and Diane Wynshaw-Boris

Mahler's Ninth

Thursday, April 29, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 2, 2027, at 3 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

MAHLER *Symphony No. 9*

Stravinsky & Sibelius

Thursday, May 6, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 7, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

STRAVINSKY *Orpheus*

SIBELIUS *Four Legends from the Kalevala*

Die Frau ohne Schatten

Sunday, May 16, 2027, at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19, 2027, at 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 22, 2027, at 6 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

Frederic Wake-Walker, *director*

David Butt Philip, *tenor* (The Emperor)

Sara Jakubiak, *soprano* (The Empress)

Jennifer Johnson Cano, *mezzo-soprano* (The Nurse)

Roman Burdenko, *baritone* (Barak)

Ambur Braid, *soprano* (The Dyer's Wife)

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

R. STRAUSS *Die Frau ohne Schatten*

David Butt Philip's performance is generously sponsored by Tony and Diane Wynshaw-Boris

Ambur Braid's performance is generously sponsored by Mel Berger and Jane Haylor

Jennifer Johnson Cano's performance is generously sponsored by James and Marguerite Rigby

Haydn's Creation

Thursday, May 27, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

Joëlle Harvey, *soprano*

Kai Kluge, *tenor*

Ludwig Mittelhammer, *baritone*

The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus

HAYDN *The Creation*

Ludwig Mittelhammer's performance is generously sponsored by Dagmar and Ted Fellowes

Strauss's Alpine Symphony

Friday, May 28, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

BERND RICHARD DEUTSCH *Intensity*
EASTMAN Symphony No. 2
R. STRAUSS *An Alpine Symphony*

The Last Waltz

Saturday, May 29, 2027, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*

SCHUBERT Overture to *Rosamunde*
LANNER *Bolero*
LANNER *S'Hoamweh*
LANNER *Hexen-Tänze*
J. STRAUSS, JR. Overture to *Der lustige Krieg*
STEPHAN KONCZ *Czardas* (World Premiere; TCO Commission)
JOS. STRAUSS *Aquarellen-Walzer*
JOS. STRAUSS *Angelica-Polka*
J. STRAUSS, JR. Overture to *Die Göttin der Vernunft*

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