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2025-2026 Season

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Dearborn Symphony
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dearbornsymphony.org

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MUSIC THAT *moves* 25/26 SEASON



DEARBORN SYMPHONY

Steven Jarvi, Music Director

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

James Clements, *Executive Director*

Dennis Carter II, *Office Manager*

John Hartwick, *Orchestra Personnel Manager*

Seth Larson, *Music Librarian & Stage Manager*

The Dearborn Symphony



Dearborn Symphony, incorporated as the Dearborn Orchestral Society (DOS), was founded in 1960 by a group of musicians and music educators led by Jim Irwin. The Friends of the Dearborn Symphony, founded one year later, is an all-volunteer organization whose purpose is to provide additional and special support for the Symphony.

Driven by its mission, “The Dearborn Symphony inspires, uplifts, and enriches its audiences and musicians by presenting high caliber, engaging orchestral performances and educational programs.”

Through the generous cooperation of the City of Dearborn and the Ford Motor Company, the orchestra has performed at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center since the Center opened in 2001.

The Symphony office is in North Empire’s Fairlane Office Centre. Because of management by skilled staff and volunteers, overhead is less than 20% of the annual budget. The DOS pays its musicians, music director, executive director, office manager, personnel manager, librarian, etc., and has all of the other expenses typical of a vigorous business. Orchestra members are paid professionals, many of whom are members of the Detroit Federation of Musicians - Local 5. Because revenue from admissions provides less than 25% of the yearly budget, the DOS relies heavily on Friends of the Dearborn Symphony, volunteers, sponsors, contributors, advertisers, grants, and bequests.

Six-times voted “The Outstanding Community Orchestra” (2021, 2019, 2016, 2013, 2008, 2007) by Detroit Music Awards, the Dearborn Symphony has been called the “cultural cornerstone of Dearborn” and has enhanced the quality of life in the great metro area for over 60 years. It offers free children’s concerts, annually performs a “side-by-side” concert with the Dearborn Youth Symphony, and performs at other special events. The DOS also conducts in-school clinics for students in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

Music Director Welcome



Steven Jarvi

Music Director & Conductor, Dearborn Symphony

Dearborn Symphony is excited to welcome you to our 64th season. It is an honor to lead these fabulous musicians, and this season of *Music That Moves* is going to be one of our most interesting, entertaining, and moving collections of concerts to date. We open with Can-Can kicks and majestic sonic landscapes and end with the powerful Verdi *Requiem*, including world-class soloists and over 150 musicians on stage. Along the way we will journey to Europe onscreen with Rick Steves in an orchestral travel show experience, dance the night away, and celebrate the world's most famous marches in a sport-centric evening of familiar favorites.

Our opening concert shows off your Dearborn Symphony in grand style, using the full forces of the orchestra and even bringing musicians into the audience. This powerhouse of a musical journey ends with a sonically gigantic finale that nearly shakes the hall. Goosebumps are guaranteed.

In November, we welcome travel guru Rick Steves with custom video narration and scenes from his PBS series projected above the orchestra. It's a one-of-a-kind blend of music, storytelling, and breathtaking visuals that offers something for families, travel lovers, and classical fans alike.

In 2026, we're excited to collaborate with Downriver Dance Academy as professional dancers perform live on stage with the orchestra. That same night features our annual Side-by-Side event with the talented musicians of the Dearborn Youth Symphony—an inspiring evening of movement and music.

In March, we turn up the volume with a concert packed with marches that have stirred hearts across generations—from concert halls to parades, films, and stadiums. Expect surprise guests and a festive spirit from start to finish.

Our season finale is not to be missed, as we are once again joined by Vanguard Voices under the direction of G. Kevin Dewey and world-class soloists for Verdi's *Requiem*. One of the most moving and massive pieces of the classical repertoire, it must be experienced live to be fully appreciated. With soaring solos and the thunderous *Dies Irae*, this work pulls on the heartstrings. It's a dramatic musical experience that will leave you breathless.

The Dearborn Symphony is made up of the finest and most dedicated musicians in our region who are committed to bringing you the highest-level musical experience. Their talents, combined with one of the region's best concert halls make for an unforgettable evening. This season brings together many gifted people from around the region, and I can't wait for you to join us for this season of *Music That Moves*.

Steven Jarvi

Welcome from the President & Executive Director



Yasmin W. Eloian

President, Dearborn Orchestral Society

It is a true honor to step into the role of President of this esteemed organization and join the vibrant community of musicians, staff, patrons, and volunteers who make the Dearborn Symphony so extraordinary. I am deeply humbled to follow in the footsteps of the remarkable presidents who came before me. Their leadership and unwavering dedication have shaped the Symphony into the renowned cultural treasure it is today.

Dearborn Symphony's rich history and cultural significance are deeply respected, and I am committed to contributing to its continued growth and success. Music has the power to inspire, educate, and unite—and it is this transformative force that fuels our vision for the future. Our shared vision includes building a vibrant and inclusive future, strengthening community engagement, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

We are thrilled to present this season's theme—**Music That Moves**—which celebrates the emotional and narrative power of movement in music. This season is a testament to our belief that music is not just heard but felt.

As we move forward, we will foster a culture of collaboration, transparency, and innovation. By working closely with our talented musicians, dedicated staff, and supportive board, we will continue to share the joy of music with our community for generations to come.

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yasmin".

James Clements

Executive Director, Dearborn Orchestral Society



Welcome to a new season with Dearborn Symphony! It is a joy to continue this journey as we explore our 64th season of *Music That Moves*. Each concert this year has been designed to stir the heart, ignite the imagination, and remind us of the power music holds to move us.

What makes Dearborn Symphony truly special is not only the artistry on stage but the community that surrounds it: you, our audience, alongside our musicians, Board, and supporters. Together, we create something greater than ourselves: a shared experience where music uplifts, connects, and inspires.

Thank you for being part of this season. May the performances ahead move you in unforgettable ways and stay with you long after the final note.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James".



2025 – 2026 CONCERT SEASON

Saturday, October 11, 2025 from 10:00am - 7:00pm

BACH PIPE ORGAN MARATHON

A Day-Long Fundraising Event for the Restoration of the 1958 Austin Pipe Organ featuring the Organ Works of Johann Sebastian Bach in nine 50-minute-long recitals
10am Charles Miller / 11am Nicole Keller / 12pm Joseph Balistreri
1pm Jonathan Ryan / 2pm David Hufford / 3pm Caroline Robinson
4pm Jeremy David Tarrant / 5pm David Stultz / 6pm James Kibbie
Donations accepted at the door. Come and stay as long as you'd like!

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 6:00pm

VANGUARD VOICES: Christmas Lessons and Carols
G. Kevin Dewey, conductor / Charles Miller, organist

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 4:00pm

CHAMBER MUSIC BY RAVEL, PROKOFIEV, & BACH

Joseph Deller, violin/Ivana Biliskov, cello
Patrick Johnson, piano

Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3:00pm

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Christopher Hall, conductor

Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 4:00pm

VANGUARD VOICES

featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*
G. Kevin Dewey, conductor

CHERRY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 24110 Cherry Hill Road (at Telegraph), Dearborn, MI 48124

Rev. Teresa Peterson, Interim Pastor / Charles Miller, Director of Music

For additional concert information, please visit www.cherryhillchurch.org

Children's Introduction to the Symphony

The Dearborn Symphony is pleased to offer this unique educational outreach program. It provides children with an introduction to the orchestra during dress rehearsals — FREE of charge.

Studies show that symphonic music helps kids concentrate, helps brain development, helps them feel relaxed, and they might actually like it!

We ask that proper concert etiquette be observed and a parent or other adult accompany elementary and junior high school students.



Please notify us at the symphony office at 313.565.2424 prior to the rehearsal date you wish to attend.

Dear Friends:

I am thrilled to welcome the 64th Season of
The Dearborn Symphony Orchestra.
A Season That Really Moves!

The lineup promises memorable performances:

1. MYTH, MOTION, AND MAJESTY
2. RICK STEVES' SYMPHONIC EUROPE
3. SHALL WE DANCE?
4. MAD ABOUT MARCHES
5. VERDI'S REQUIEM



The talented musicians of the Dearborn Symphony captivate audiences with inspiring performances while fostering creativity in young artists through scholarships and educational outreach. These programs provide aspiring musicians with opportunities to develop mastery of challenging and beautiful repertoire while gaining valuable ensemble experience.

I am proud to be associated with the Symphony, its supporters and volunteers who work together to support the classical music enduring power, and maintain Dearborn's reputation as a popular destination for the arts. The Symphony is a Dearborn treasure. I am excited to see the array of musical performances that the Symphony has in store this season.

We are fortunate to have audiences and sponsors like you to reinforce the importance of cultural contributions that the Dearborn Symphony delivers to the community. We look forward to seeing you throughout the season.

Abdullah H. Hammoud
Mayor of Dearborn

Music Medley

Presented by *Friends of the Dearborn Symphony*

Hear YOUR Dearborn Symphony musicians!

Enjoy refreshments at each concert's afterglow.
Meet and greet the performers
and our community friends.

Info & Tickets: Jane Mykytenko
313.657.2776
or email janeell@me.com
dearbornsymphony-friends.org

Tickets

\$25/concert
\$20 - Friends members
Season subscriptions available

Concert Location

First Presbyterian Church
600 N Brady Road, Dearborn



Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.
"Praise & Thanksgiving" | David Stultz, organist

Sunday, January 11, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.
Candlelight Concert featuring the
New Verse Chamber Ensemble


Sunday, February 15, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.
returning performance of the
Velvet Fluegeltones

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.
"From Renaissance to Baroque"
an afternoon of early music featuring "Caruela Duo,"
"Cherry Hill Consort," "Littlefield Recorders" and others

Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.
Cello City: Sara Haupt & Michael Kaoub
Donna Kallie, flute & piano

Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.
The Dearborn Big Band



 AMA WATERWAYS



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Steven Jarvi, Music Director

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Friends of the Dearborn Symphony

Established 1962



Celebrating 63 Years of Harmony and Community

Founded in 1962 by 60 visionary charter members, Friends of the Dearborn Symphony began as the Women's Association for the Dearborn Orchestral Society (WADOS). Over time, the group evolved—welcoming men into its ranks and adopting a new name about a decade ago to better reflect its inclusive mission and growing impact.

Today, this dynamic, all-volunteer organization boasts over 100 members who are deeply committed to supporting the Dearborn Symphony. Through financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and

educational outreach, Friends helps cultivate enthusiastic audiences and enriches the musical lives of students and adults alike.

A Legacy of Generosity

As the Symphony's largest single donor, Friends has contributed more than \$935,000 since 1974. This includes underwriting part of an annual concert and donating \$120,000 to the Endowment Fund—ensuring the Symphony's future remains bright.

Fundraising with Flair

Friends host a variety of beloved events to raise funds and foster community spirit, including: Music Medley Series; Dinner with the Conductor; Taste of Music; Oktoberfest; and, many more!

Behind the Scenes & Beyond

From providing refreshments at dress rehearsals to organizing music clinics and workshops in local schools, Friends is always finding new ways to support the Symphony. The Friends Education Fund also awards scholarships to outstanding young musicians through the Dearborn Youth Symphony.

Get Involved

To learn more about Friends of the Dearborn Symphony, upcoming events, or how to get involved, visit dearbornsymphony-friends.org or follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/FriendsOfTheDearbornSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheDearbornSymphony).

To Our Members: Thank you for your continued support and dedication. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the fun and make a difference!

Join Today Call Linda Freitag at (313) 294-9006 or stop by the membership table at Dearborn Symphony concerts, staffed by the ever-welcoming Patti and Don Mack.



Youth Artists Solo Competition

Each spring, Dearborn Symphony seeks to identify, recognize, and encourage young musicians in southeastern Michigan. This prestigious award includes \$500 plus the opportunity to be a featured soloist with the Dearborn Symphony.

Donate today to support the 2026 Competition!

Visit dearbornsymphony.org for more info



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(continued on pg. 21)

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MICHAEL A. GUIDO THEATER

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MAR 5 7 PM

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MAR 11 7 PM

“THE WICKED WIZ OF OZ”

SPRING CONCERT

DEARBORN COMMUNITY CHORUS,
DEARBORN YOUTH VOICES, FT. BRASS TAXX

APR 19 5 PM

VANGUARD VOICES & BRASS SPRING CONCERT

VANGUARD VOICES & BRASS

APR 23 7 PM

VERDI “REQUIEM”

DEARBORN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA &
VANGUARD GRAND CHORUS

MAY 8 7:30 PM

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DEARBORN YOUTH SYMPHONY

MAY 10 4 PM

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DEARBORN YOUTH SYMPHONY

MAY 21 7 PM

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MAY 31 3 PM

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(continued from pg. 19)

(as of April 24, 2026)

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Please submit your feedback no later than May 31, 2026

Dearborn Orchestral Society's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
6 Parkland Blvd, Suite 550

Everyone is welcome to attend this special gathering as we celebrate the successes of the past season and continue looking forward to build a bright future together.

Voting privileges are limited to current members. The Annual Meeting of the DOS Endowment Fund will take place immediately following.

The Dearborn Symphony

FORD COMMUNITY & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Steven Jarvi

Music Director & Conductor

Christina Parson, soprano • **Kristin Clark, mezzo-soprano**

Cameron Barrett Johnson, tenor • **Brian Kontes, bass**

Vanguard Grand Chorus, under the direction of G. Kevin Dewey

Friday, May 8, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

- Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)** **Messa da Requiem (1874)**
- I. Requiem et Kyrie (Quartet and Chorus)
 - II. Dies Irae
 - *Dies irae* (chorus)
 - *Tuba mirum* (chorus and bass)
 - *Mors stupebit* (bass)
 - *Liber scriptus* (mezzo-soprano and chorus)
 - *Quid sum miser* (soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor)
 - *Rex tremendae* (quartet and chorus)
 - *Recordare* (soprano and mezzo-soprano)
 - *Ingemisco* (tenor)
 - *Confutatis* (bass and chorus)
 - *Lacrymosa* (quartet and chorus)
 - III. Offertorio (quartet)
 - IV. Sanctus (chorus)
 - V. Agnus Dei (soprano, mezzo-soprano, and chorus)
 - VI. Lux Aeterna (mezzo-soprano, tenor, and bass)
 - VII. Libera Me (soprano and chorus)

Performed without intermission
Estimated duration: 1 hour 50 minutes



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November 6, 2026
Forces of Nature
February 5, 2027
Four Seasons
March 19, 2027
Interstellar Incredibles
May 7, 2027
The Planets

Guest Artists



German-American soprano, **Christina Parson** has been seen on stage as Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*), Mother (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Chrysothemis (*Elektra*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Contessa (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Blanche (*Dialogue of the Carmelites*) and La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*). Upcoming performances include heroines of Strauss and Wagner with OpéraFest Toronto as well as Helmwigie with the American Wagner Festival.

As a Fellow at the Atlantic Music Festival and a Young Artist at the Lotte Lehmann Akademie, Christina has performed in scenes as Arabella (*Arabella*), Agathe (*Der Freischütz*), Magda (*La Rondine*), Frau Fluth (*Lustigen Weiber*), Eva (*Meistersinger*), Christine (*Intermezzo*), Eudoxie (*La Juive*), and Marschallin (*Rosenkavalier*). In addition to opera, Liederabende (song evenings) play a large role in Ms. Parson's artistic activity, featuring repertoire of many romantic composers, as well as a plethora of songs by living American composers.

Kristin Clark, mezzo-soprano, has been praised for her "technical prowess" and "approachability" (classical.net). She appears as Electre on the GRAMMY-nominated recording of Milhaud's *L'Orestie d'Eschyle*, and her solo album, *Fate & Fury: The Mythological World of Franz Schubert*, is available on all major streaming platforms. A sought-after concert soloist, Kristin made her Carnegie Hall solo debut in 2015 performing Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, and she has since returned for Duruflé's *Requiem* (2024) and Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (2026). She has appeared as a guest artist with organizations such as the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony, the Bozeman Symphony, Manhattan Concert Productions, the University Musical Society, the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, and the Adrian Symphony. Other notable appearances include the world premiere of Susan Botti's *Tagore Madrigals* at the American Academy in Rome and a Canadian tour of Copland's *In the Beginning*. Kristin holds doctoral and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and is Associate Professor and Chair of Performing Arts at Adrian College, where she received the 2024 Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching.



Cameron Barrett Johnson is an operatic American tenor originally from California. He received his bachelors degree from Cal State University, Fullerton as well as his masters and specialist degrees from the university of Michigan. Cameron has had the honor of studying voice under esteemed tenor George Shirley for the past 6 to 7 years. He has also had the pleasure of performing with the Detroit Opera Chorus and the Cincinnati opera Chorus for the past five seasons.

Praised by *Opera News* for his "dark bass and strong dramatic energy," **Brian Kontes'** 2025-26 season includes the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with The Florentine Opera, Benoit in *La bohème* and Elder McLean in *Susannah* with Sarasota Opera, and Verdi's *Requiem* with the Dearborn Symphony.

Kontes' 2024-2025 season included a role debut of the Sacristan in *Tosca* with Pittsburgh Opera, as well as Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Sarasota Opera and Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Colorado's Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra.

During the 2023-2024 season, Kontes returned to Pittsburgh Opera, where he sang the role of Don Basilio in their production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He also returned to The Metropolitan Opera to cover the Bonze in *Madame Butterfly* for the entire season. Career highlights for Kontes at The Metropolitan Opera have included HD productions of *Die Meistersinger Von Nürnberg* under the baton of Maestro James Levine, *Der Rosenkavalier* under the baton of Maestro Sebastian Wiegler, and *The Nose* led by Maestro Valery Gergiev.



DOS Endowment Fund

The Dearborn Symphony Endowment Fund was established in 1992 to provide a perpetual base of support for the Symphony, ensuring its artistic and financial stability. The Fund is invested judiciously to preserve its principal. The income generated from investments funds one concert annually and the Youth Artist Solo Competition winner; supports young musician development; and participates in the Send a Child to the Symphony program. As the endowment grows, it will provide an increasingly substantial source of stable funding to sustain the symphony's creativity and vitality. Through the generosity of numerous donors and prudent investments, this permanent endowment has amassed over \$1,900,000.

Several tax-deferred donation strategies exist, including qualified charitable distributions from IRAs, charitable remainder trusts, and donating appreciated stock. These strategies offer tax benefits such as immediate deductions, capital gains tax avoidance, and potential tax-free growth. Consulting a financial advisor is recommended to determine the most suitable strategy based on individual circumstances.

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The Fund will sponsor the October 2025 concert, fund the Youth Artist Solo Competition winner, provide youth music development, and support Send a Child to the Symphony.

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The DOSEF Board of Trustees honors Bruce Simpson, our founding member of Musical Legacy Society which recognizes those who have included the Dearborn Orchestral Society Endowment in their estate plans.

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Linda Fox
Mary Hawthorne
Patty Jylkka
Christine Kavka
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SOPRANO 2

Pamela Willwerth Aue
Shari Ballard
Jennifer Burke
Christel Ciolino
Laura Cloutier
Judy Anne Dever
Catherine Dicks
Jane Grad
Alexandra Kaplan
Susan Mark Long
Sarah R. Miller
Angel Murton
Chandra Montgomery Nicol
Rachel Pedersen
Tracey Head Turbett

ALTO 1

Kimberlee Allan
Maureen Abele
Cynthia Alliston
Kimberly Bemus
Laura Bogojevich
Brienne Boyd
Becky Bucata
Ame Church
Karen Cunnie
Suzanne Czurylo
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ALTO 2

Heather Bauman
Karin Demuth
Tess Dowgiallo
Sara Errante
Jordan Falby
Darlene Herm
Kathy Johnson
Rachele Karteczka
Cynthia Keleman

ALTO 2 (continued)

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Diana D. Brehob
Diane Droba
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Michael Cavallero
Kevin Dewey
Paul Frost
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Wayne Johnson
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Jake Lanning
Huibert Mees
Thomas Murphy
Tony Pak
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Sayzay Tellewoyan
Bob Vreeland
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BASS 2

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Paul Bronni
Bill Cunnie
Erick Long
David Lurie
Clifford McCardell
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Vanguard Grand Chorus comprises amateur and semi-professional choristers from the Dearborn area and beyond. At its heart is Dearborn's own Vanguard Voices, a 75-voice chorus which has provided entertaining and enriching concert programs for over three decades. This is the second time VGC will have performed Verdi's *Requiem* with Dearborn Symphony, the first having been the grand opening of the Michael A. Guido Theater in 2001!

Program Notes

by Ava McDowell

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901) was born in Le Roncole, Italy, the eldest child of Carlo Verdi and Luigia Uttini. In the nineteenth century, his operas became staples of the repertoire, and several conservatories and theaters were named in his honor. Verdi shared, “From the ages of 13 to 18, I wrote a motley assortment of pieces,” while mentor Antonio Barezzi declared, “He shows a vivid imagination, a philosophical outlook, and sound judgment.”

In 1834, Verdi became rehearsal director for Rossini’s *La Cenerentola* at the Società Filarmonica. Following several revisions, his first opera, *Oberto*, was successfully staged in 1839. However, following the failure of his second opera and the deaths of his wife and two children, Verdi had no interest in composing until a chance meeting led him to a libretto that opened to the line: “Va, pensiero, sull’ali dorate.” The result was *Nabucco*, a juggernaut that premiered in 1842.

The trio of operas—*Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore*, and *La traviata*—cemented his reputation as a master. Composed between 1851 and 1853, all three featured heroines who come to grief because of sexual transgression, perhaps a reflection of Verdi’s relationship with Giuseppina Strepponi. In *La traviata*, Verdi opened the door to a new style of opera, *verismo*, a realistic portrayal of everyday situations. Over the next 18 years, Verdi moved into politics, taking a seat on a provincial council. His final major works—the *Requiem*, *Otello*, and *Falstaff*—incorporated more drama and emotion. He died at the age of 87.

Messa da Requiem

Verdi’s relationship with the Catholic Church was antagonistic at best; friends considered him an agnostic, much to the chagrin of his second wife. However, Verdi ardently believed in Italy and two artists who represented its culture: Gioachino Rossini and Alessandro Manzoni.

Following the death of Rossini in 1868, Verdi organized thirteen composers to create a *Messa per Rossini*. The project collapsed due to lack of finances, leaving Verdi’s contribution, the “*Libera me*,” unperformed. When the great author Alessandro Manzoni died in 1873, a deeply moved Verdi decided to compose a full *Messa da morto* in his honor. He wrote to his publisher: “I would like to compose a Mass... of quite vast proportions.”

Structure

Verdi was not a composer known for subtlety. His mass of “vast proportions” was interpreted as “grand opera” proportions, taking the listener through a full range of emotions.

The *Requiem* begins with the *Introit’s* whispered entrance followed by the *Kyrie’s* plea for mercy. Fully one-third of the work consists of the *Dies irae*, which has become synonymous with judgment and fear. This movement moves through hope, despair, and judgment, ending on a plea for mercy. Critics described it as “full of things terrifying and at the same time moving and pathetic.”

The *Offertorio* provides an offering of prayers for the departed, combining liturgical chant with the rich emotion of opera, concluding with the heartbreaking *Lacrymosa*. The *Sanctus* begins with a joyous brass fanfare, followed by a fugue for divided chorus and an antiphonal Hosanna. The *Agnus Dei* is the most ethereal of Verdi’s works, introspective and simple in its orchestration to allow the voices to shine.

The work concludes with the *Libera me*, the movement originally sketched for Rossini. Opening with a dramatic soprano solo, Verdi builds in layers from previous movements amid Gregorian chant and Baroque fugue. The work concludes on a hushed C major chord that is, perhaps, the most powerful chord of all.

The *Requiem* premiered in Milan in May 1874, one year following Manzoni’s death. While audiences were enthusiastic, critic Hans von Bülow famously called it an “opera in ecclesiastical vestments.” Johannes Brahms disagreed, stating, “Only a genius could write such a work.” The heart of the *Messa da Requiem* lies in the quiet moments born from Verdi’s deep grief. There lies the true genius of the *Requiem*.

.....
Please read the full text of Ms. McDowell’s comprehensive Program Notes. Simply scan the QR code to visit our website.



Thank you, Ava, for writing about our programs for over 20 years! Your craft, dedication, and passion has been greatly appreciated.



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Myth, Motion, and Majesty

October 3, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

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Rick Steves' Symphonic Europe

November 7, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

Travel across the continent with music and stunning video from Rick Steves' PBS series. Enjoy iconic works like Smetana's *The Moldau*, Verdi's overture to *Nabucco*, Strauss' *Emperor Waltz*, and Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. Rick Steves appears in pre-recorded segments that bring each cultural destination to life.



Shall We Dance?

February 6, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

From Bernstein, Broadway, and ballet to the vibrant rhythms of Márquez's *Danzón No. 2*, this program celebrates the thrill of dance. Enjoy a variety of dance styles including elegant waltzes, bold tangos, and Spanish flair in de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat Suite*. Featuring a collaboration with dancers from Downriver Dance Academy and our annual side-by-side concert with the Dearborn Youth Symphony.



Mad About Marches

March 27, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

This concert bursts with energy—crowd favorites like Sousa's *Washington Post March*, John Williams' *Imperial March*, Bizet's *March of the Toreadors*, and Verdi's *Triumphal March*. University fight songs and Olympic fanfares make it a night of pure momentum. From patriotic classics to cinematic blockbusters, this rhythmic night will have you tapping your toes all the way home.



Verdi's Requiem

May 8, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

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Sunday, October 26, 2025

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Sunday, December 21, 2025

Welcome the holiday season with an afternoon of brass band music. MCBB is happy to have the award-winning Motor City Academy Brass Band join us for an energetic holiday program.



An American Salute • 250 Years

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Join Motor City Brass Band and special guests Vanguard Voices for an afternoon of American and patriotic music to celebrate 250 years of independence. Enjoy music of many styles and eras as we take a journey through our nation's musical heritage.



All performances begin at 3:00 PM, and are held in the Michael A. Guido Theater at the

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave

Dearborn, MI

Tickets

dearborntheater.com

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