



THE SYMPHONIA

South Florida's Premier Chamber Orchestra



2025/26

CONCERT SEASON

WITH ALASTAIR

From the Board President

Dear Friends of The Symphonia,

Each new season brings a sense of renewal and the joy of live music. As The Symphonia enters its 21st season, we are grateful for the community that shares this journey with us. Your enthusiasm, loyalty, and support make our work possible.

We are proud to announce Alastair Willis as The Symphonia's first Music Director, overseeing all aspects of concert programming and continuing as creator of his theatrical and immersive New Directions series. Having worked with The Symphonia since its earliest seasons, Alastair has helped shape the ensemble's artistic vision and expanded its creative reach.



Our 2025-26 season features masterworks by Mozart, Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto (March 8, 2026), and Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (March 8, 2026), alongside a chamber version of Dvořák's *New World Symphony* (January 24 & 25, 2026) and Poulenc's *Organ Concerto* (November 23, 2025). This January, we are especially proud to present the world premiere of *Ebenus*, a concerto for clarinet co-composed by Kinan Azmeh and Christophe Chagnard and commissioned by Virginia & Harvey Kimmel. Developing a tradition, *Holiday Pops* returns to Mizner Amphitheater (presented by the City of Boca Raton) and a theatrical New Directions concert, *Vienna's Riches*, completes the season.

Beyond the stage, The Symphonia inspires through education and outreach. *Strings & Self-Esteem* empowers children through music, while our complimentary ticket program welcomes audiences from Lighthouse for the Blind, Boca Helping Hands, the Levis JCC, and Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors. Our partnership with the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County provides young musicians the opportunity to perform alongside Symphonia professionals.


Through collaborations with the City of Boca Raton, The Boca Raton, and the Boca Raton Museum of Art, we continue to connect art, education, and live performance in meaningful ways.

Thank you for joining us for another remarkable season. Your support ensures that The Symphonia's artistry will continue to inspire and uplift our community for years to come.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon Kwait".

Sheldon Kwait
President, Board of Directors
The Symphonia



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THE SYMPHONIA

South Florida's Premier Chamber Orchestra
ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director



Music in Motion

2026/27 CONCERT SEASON

2026/2027 CONCERT DATES



MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO NOVEMBER 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

St. Gregory's Episcopal
ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director
LEONID SIGAL, Violin Soloist
ROSSINI *Overture to The Barber of Seville*
RESPIGHI *The Birds*
MENDELSSOHN *Violin Concerto*



HOLIDAY POPS with THE SYMPHONIA Presented by the City of Boca Raton DECEMBER 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Mizner Park Amphitheater
JACOMO BAIROS, Conductor
FAU Chamber Singers &
Schola Cantorum of Florida
Chorus Master, Patricia Fleitas



NO STRINGS ATTACHED JANUARY 23, 2027, 7:00 p.m. JANUARY 24, 2027, 3:00 p.m.

The Studio at Mizner Park
ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director
STRAUSS *Serenade for Winds*
MOZART *Serenade No.12, K.388,
C minor (Nachtmusik)*
STRAVINSKY *Octet*
WEILL *Threepenny Opera Suite*



COPLAND AND SILK ROAD March 21, 2027, 3:00 p.m.

St. Gregory's Episcopal
ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director
KOJIRO UMEZAKI, Shakuhachi Soloist
UMEZAKI *(Cycles) what falls must rise*
LAM *Empty Mountain, Spirit Rain*
ITOH *Faded Aura*
COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*



WALTZING WITH STRAUSS

A New Directions Concert
April 24, 2027, 7:00 p.m.
April 25, 2027, 3:00 p.m.
The Studio at Mizner Park
ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director

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* *In Memory*

** *Ex Officio*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



VIENNA'S RICHES

A NEW DIRECTIONS CONCERT

The Studio at Mizner Park

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.

ALASTAIR WILLIS, Music Director

The Music Director's Chair is sponsored by The Kimmel Family.

In the spirit of *Seeking Haydn* and *Neighboring Bach*, this installment of *New Directions* explores the cultural world surrounding the composers who shaped musical Vienna. Among the influential figures of the era was Sigmund Haffner of Salzburg, whose family maintained close ties with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Mozart honored that connection with his brilliant Symphony No. 35, the celebrated "Haffner" Symphony, which anchors this program.

Repertoire includes:*

Gluck	Dance of the Blessed Spirits from Orfeo ed Euridice
Mozart	Symphony No.35 in D major, K.385 "Haffner"
Beethoven	Coriolan Overture, Op.62
Brahms	Hungarian Dance No.3
J Strauss II	The Blue Danube Waltz, Op.314

**Additional works will be announced from the stage during the performance.*

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

THE SYMPHONIA MUSICIANS

Violin 1

Leonid Sigal
Dina Kostic
Gus Correa
Claudia Cagnassone
Victoria Stepanenko
Ericmar Perez

Violin 2

Sha Zhang
Antonio Rincon
Dale Sandvold
Eddie Martinez
Orlando Forte
Tony Huang

Viola

David Pedraza
Valerie Judd
Ian Jesse
Modesto Marcano

Cello

Chris Glansdorp
Barbara Corcillo
Ashley Garritson
Angela Maleh

Bass

Hideki Sunaga
Juan Carlos-Pena

Flute

Karen Fuller
Elissa Lakofsky

Oboe

Erika Yamada
Jeff Apana

Clarinet

Rich Hancock
Michael Forte

Bassoon

Mike DiGregorio
Matt Corey

French Horn

Greg Miller
Megan Riccio

Trumpet

Jeff Kaye
Michael Hankins

Trombone

Aden Brooks

Timpani

Andrew Proctor

Percussion

Doug Friend

Harp

Laura Sherman





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Photo by Denise Thompson

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Season of
Dance 2025-26



Photo by David Seabrooke

BOCA BALLET THEATRE

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November 28, 29 & 30, 2025

Holiday Classic

Spring Voyage

April 18 & 19, 2026

Repertory concert

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- Florida Atlantic University College of Arts & Letters
- Florida Intergenerational Orchestra of America
- The HARID Conservatory
- Lynn University Mizner Park Amphitheater
- Sugar Sand Park
- The Studio at Mizner Park
- The SYMPHONIA
- The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum
- Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County

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MUSIC DIRECTOR, ALASTAIR WILLIS

Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis is in his ninth season as Music Director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, and is now The Symphonia's first Music Director, having served as its Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor for five years. In past seasons, Willis has guest conducted orchestras around the world including the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, Orquestra Sinfonica de Rio de Janeiro, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchestra Berlin, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, China National Orchestra (Beijing), Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma) among others.



His recording of Ravel's "L'Enfant et les Sortilèges" with Nashville Symphony and Opera for Naxos was Grammy nominated for Best Classical Album in 2009.



Last season, Willis was re-engaged by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Qatar Philharmonic, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Salute to Vienna, and Seattle's Music of Remembrance. This season he returns to the Qatar Philharmonic, Music of Remembrance, and Gyor Philharmonic in Hungary.

Previous positions include Music Director of the Illinois Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor with the Florida Orchestra's Coffee Concert series, Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony, Assistant Conductor with the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras, and Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra.



Born in Acton, Massachusetts, Willis lived with his family in Moscow for five years before settling in Surrey, England. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from England's Bristol University, an Education degree from Kingston University, and a Masters of Music degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. Willis currently resides in South Bend, Indiana, with his wife and daughter.



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**listings as of 4/8/2026*



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of our annual contributors. You do make a difference!***

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Support The Symphonia

The costs of sustaining an orchestra and keeping music in your life are always on the rise and we cannot do it without your help. Your donation of any amount does make a difference. There are numerous ways to support The SYMPHONIA.

Here are some of the possibilities:

BECOME A SUSTAINER:

Our new Sustainer Program provides an avenue for you to support The SYMPHONIA at a level that is comfortable for you. Become a monthly SYMPHONIA Sustainer and you can **GIVE MORE by GIVING LESS!** You will provide The SYMPHONIA with a known revenue stream enabling us to better budget for the programming that we want to play and that you want to hear! It's win-win for everyone.

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