

A Celebration!

2024/25 CONCERT SEASON



From the Board President

Dear Friends of The Symphonia,

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to The Symphonia's 20th Anniversary Season. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering support of our audiences, the exceptional talents of our musicians, and the dedication of our artistic

leadership. We are incredibly proud to celebrate two decades of bringing outstanding musical performances to this vibrant community.

This 20th season is truly special, as we reflect on our past and look forward to an exciting future. Our programming showcases a rich blend of classical masterpieces and contemporary works, and we are honored to collaborate with some of today's most distinguished conductors and soloists. From the soaring melodies of Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 5 to Beethoven's exhilarating Symphony No. 7, and the timeless beauty of Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



In addition to our concert series, The Symphonia is proud to have been selected by the City of Boca Raton to perform twice in 2024. This past July, we partnered with Crazy Fingers for Symphonia JAMS, a unique collaboration that brought classical and jam band fans together at Mizner Amphitheater. We look forward to returning to the Amphitheater on December 7th for our muchanticipated Holiday Pops concert, a festive celebration to kick off the holiday season.

We are also excited to introduce Harmony & Vines, a delightful series of curated evenings of music, wine, and food. Held at Sixty Vines, and sponsored by Drowos Private Wealth, these dinners provide a unique opportunity to enjoy the symphony experience in a more intimate and relaxed setting.

Finally, our educational initiatives continue to grow. Through Strings & Self-Esteem, we are reaching underserved students, ages 5 to 18, at Paul's Place and the Fuller Center, fostering a love for music while building confidence and self-expression.

As we embark on this landmark season, we invite you to join us in celebrating the power of music to inspire, uplift, and unite. Thank you for being a part of The Symphonia family. Your continued support ensures that we can share the beauty and joy of music with future generations. Here's to an unforgettable 20th Anniversary Season!

With warmest regards,

Sheldon Kwiat

President, Board of Directors

Man Lasta

The Symphonia





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NEIGHBORING BACH

A New Directions Concert

The Studio at Mizner Park Saturday, March 29, 2025 – 7 pm

Presented by

Alastair Willis, Principal Conductor

Principal Conductor's Chair sponsored by The Kimmel Family

In the spirit of *Seeking Haydn* and *Vienna's Riches*, this installment of New Directions takes us back to Köthen, Germany, where the great Johann Sebastian Bach lived in 1723.

Repertoire includes*:

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Cello Suite No.1 in G major, Prelude Susan Moyer Bergeron, cello

Brandenburg Concerto No.3

Brandenburg Concerto No.5, mvt. 1

Karen Fuller, flute

Claudia Cagnassone, violin

Daniel Bayless, harpsichord

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor Leonid Sigal, violin Huifang Chen, violin

Please turn off your cell phones and electronic devices.

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

THE SYMPHONIA MUSICIANS

Alastair Willis, Conductor

Violin I

Leonid Sigal

Gus Correa

Claudia Cagnassone

Antonio Rincon

Orlando Forte

Violin II

Huifang Chen

Dale Sandvold

Tony Huang

Viola

David Pedraza

lan Jesse

Karen Hebermehl

Cello

Susan Moyer Bergeron

Barbara Corcillo

Angela Maleh

Bass

Hideki Sunaga

Harpsichord

Daniel Bayless

Flute

Karen Fuller

MOZART AND TIM

November 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m. St. Gregory's Episcopal

HOLIDAY POPS with THE SYMPHONIA

Presented by the City of Boca Raton **December 2025**

DVORAK'S NEW WORLD PREMIERE

January 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m. January 25, 2026, 3:00 p.m. The Studio at Mizner Park

BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR

March 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m. St. Gregory's Episcopal

VIENNA'S RICHES

A New Directions Concert April 11, 2026, 7:00 p.m. April 12, 2026, 3:00 p.m. The Studio at Mizner Park



PROGRAM NOTES

Johann Sebastian Bach

Born: March 21, 1685 in Eisenach, Germany

Died July 28, 1750, Leipzig, Germany Composed: 1,128 completed works

Born in 1685 in Eisenach, Germany, Johann Sebastian Bach is an unyielding beacon in the vast expanse of Western classical music. From the gentle hum of his cantatas to the resounding power of his choral compositions, Bach's work encapsulates the quintessence of the Baroque era, bridging the profound depths of human emotion with unparalleled grace.

Hailing from a lineage deeply ingrained in musical tradition, Bach's destiny seemed almost predetermined. Orphaned at the age of ten, it was under the protective wing of his elder brother, Johann Christoph, that young Johann Sebastian was introduced to the complexities of the organ and harpsichord. This foundational phase not only honed his musical skills but also instilled a passion that would drive his musical output.

Bach's illustrious career took root in various German cities, where he adopted multifaceted roles. Whether serving as a court musician in Weimar, navigating the rich tapestry of ecclesiastical duties in Leipzig, or crafting compositions as the Kapellmeister, Bach's commitment to his art was unwavering. His tenure in Leipzig, in particular, was prodigious, yielding some of his most acclaimed works that have resonated through the corridors of time.

As we delve into Bach's oeuvre, we encounter a vast landscape of musical forms. From sacred choral works like the monumental "Mass in B minor" to instrumental masterpieces such as the "Brandenburg Concertos," his versatility is palpable. His ability to communicate intricate theological narratives, as witnessed in his "St. Matthew Passion" and "St. John Passion," is a testament to his profound religious convictions and his adeptness in intertwining vocal and instrumental textures.

Not to be overshadowed are his monumental keyboard works. The "Well-Tempered Clavier," a groundbreaking collection of preludes and fugues, charts a journey through every major and minor key, showcasing Bach's ingenuity in counterpoint and harmony. Similarly, the "Goldberg Variations," with its spirals of keyboard virtuosity, presents a masterclass in thematic development and variation.

Yet, beyond the notes and rhythms, Bach's music speaks to the universality of human experience. His works are not just exercises in technical brilliance but are imbued with deep emotion, whether it's the joyful exuberance of a dance or the introspective depths of a lament.

Today, centuries after his passing in 1750, Bach's influence remains undiminished. Composers from Mozart to Mahler and beyond have drawn inspiration from his works, finding in them a wellspring of musical ideas and expressive possibilities.

As we reflect upon Bach's life and contributions, we are reminded of the timeless nature of art. In Bach's music, we find an eternal echo – a celebration of the human spirit, its joys, sorrows, faith, and aspirations. Through the intricate tapestry of his compositions, Johann Sebastian Bach continues to be a guiding star, illuminating the boundless universe of classical music.

Program notes provided courtesy of South Bend Symphony Orchestra.





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Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor

Grammy-nominated conductor **Alastair Willis** is currently the Music Director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra.

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, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonic, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, China National Orchestra (Beijing), and Silk Road Ensemble (with Yo-Yo Ma) among others. His recording of Ravel's "L'Enfant et les Sortileges"



Alastair Willis

with Nashville Symphony and Opera for Naxos was Grammy-nominated for Best Classical Album in 2009.

Last season Willis was re-engaged by the Seattle Symphony, Gyor Philharmonic, The Symphonia Boca Raton, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Orchestra Seattle/ Seattle Chamber Singers, and made his debut with the Philharmonie Südwestfalen. This season he returns to the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, Victoria Symphony B.C., Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Symphonia Boca Raton, and makes his debuts with Peninsula Music Festival, Fox Valley Symphony, La Porte Symphony, Salute to Vienna, and Seattle's Music of Remembrance.



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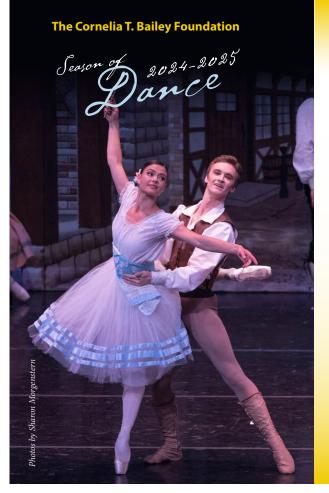
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