

# The 2007/2008 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance

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Every year, I put together a little pocket guide to the Seattle Symphony subscription season for my symphony friends to help them decide which ticket package they want. As before, you might find it helpful, you might not, but here it is anyway.

Weekend	Program	Comments	18	12
09/27/2007	Bright Sheng: Tibetan Love Songs Shostakovich: Violin Concerto #1 Tchaikovsky: Symphony #4	Nervous? Good Excellent		
10/04/2007	Stravinsky: Pulcinella Bartók: Violin Concerto #1 Schumann: Symphony #2	Excellent Okay Excellent		
10/12/2007	Mozart: Requiem	Excellent		
10/25/2007	Beethoven: Creatures of Prometheus Overture Mozart: Piano Concerto #23 Beethoven: Coriolan Overture Schubert: Symphony #2	Good Awesome Excellent Awesome		
11/01/2007	Stravinsky: Jeu de cartes Ravel: Piano Concerto in G Fauré: Pelléas et Mélisande Debussy: Ibéria (Images)	Okay? Excellent Good Excellent		
11/08/2007	Brahms: Piano Concerto #1 Brahms: Symphony #2	Awesome Awesome		
11/10/2007	Brahms: Piano Concerto #2 Brahms: Symphony #4	Awesome Excellent		
11/15/2007	Britten: Russian Funeral Liszt: Piano Concerto #2 Shostakovich: Symphony #11 "The Year 1905"	Nervous? Excellent Polarizing?		

11/29/2007	Corelli: "Christmas" Concerto Vivaldi: Concerto for Two Cellos Granger: Molly on the Shore Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker (excerpts)	Good Good Excellent Awesome		
01/03/1008	Beethoven: Leonore Overture #2 Mozart: Piano Concerto #20 Beethoven: Symphony #5	Excellent Awesome Awesome		
01/17/2008	Mozart: Symphony #1 Mozart: Concertone for Two Violins Mozart: Violin Concerto #3 Haydn: Symphony #102	Excellent Good Excellent Awesome		
01/31/2008	Brahms: Tragic Overture Schönberg: Pelléas und Mélisande Brahms: Symphony #1	Excellent Nervous Awesome		
02/07/2008	Varèse: Intégrales Herbert: Cello Concerto #2 Rachmaninov: Symphony #3	Nervous Good Okay		
02/14/2008	Wagner: Die Meistersinger (Excerpts) Samuel Jones: Horn Concerto† Dvořák: Symphony #9 "New World"	Good Nervous? Awesome		
02/28/2008	Mozart: Symphony #38 J. C. Bach: Flute Concerto Beethoven: Symphony #4	Awesome Good? Excellent		
03/13/2008	Kernis: World Premiere Glazunov: Violin Concerto R. Strauss: Symphonia domestica	Wildcard? Excellent Polarizing		
03/20/2008	Bach: Mass in b minor	Good		
03/27/2008	Liszt: Prometheus Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto #1 Saint-Saëns: Symphony #3 "Organ"	Okay Awesome Excellent		
04/03/2008	Bruch: Violin Concerto #1 Bruckner: Symphony #5	Excellent Nervous		
04/17/2008	Mozart: Don Giovanni Overture Mozart: Piano Concerto #27 Schubert: Symphony #9 "The Great"	Excellent Awesome Excellent		
04/24/2008	Mendelssohn: Sinfonia #10 in b minor Dvořák: Cello Concerto Sibelius: Symphony #1	Excellent? Awesome Good		
05/04/2008	Vivaldi: The Four Seasons	Awesome		

05/29/2008	Martinú: Symphony #3 Korngold: Violin Concerto Various: Genesis Suite (Chihuly visuals)	Nervous? Okay Nervous?		
06/05/2008	Weill: The Little Mahagonny Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra	Good Excellent		
06/12/2008	Prokofiev: Alexander Nevsky	Polarizing?		
06/19/2008	Hindemith: Concert Music for Strings and Brass Bloch: Schelomo, Hebraic Rhapsody Franck: Symphony in d minor	Nervous Nervous? Excellent		
06/26/2008	Wagner: Prelude and Liebestod (Tristan and Isolde) Mahler: Symphony #6	Polarizing Polarizing		
			<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>

† Premiere

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MS Musically Speaking

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MM Mainly Mozart

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PC Popular Classics

Notes: This chart doesn't include "one-off" concert series such as the Visiting Orchestras or Distinguished Artists series. Explanations for the partial blocks: The 18A series gets the 11/8 program; 18B gets 11/10. The Musically Speaking concerts typically omit one of the pieces from the evening program, substituting on-stage commentary. The comments column very crudely categorizes the works to assist my less-classically-aware friends. This is, of course, a highly subjective rating system, but I tried to view each piece from the ears of somebody new. Thus, I rated downward pieces that I personally like but which others might not and rated up pieces that I may not find musically satisfying but which nevertheless tend to be crowd-pleasers. These predictions have, of course, proven wrong in the past. For example, this season, my rating of "Okay" for Copland's *Music for the Theatre* was too optimistic.

Here's what the comments mean. Note that they do not indicate whether the piece is significant in a musicological sense; they're just my guess as to whether my friends are going to like it.

- Awesome: Guaranteed crowd-pleaser.
- Excellent: You will definitely like this piece.
- Good: You will probably like this piece.
- Okay: You may like this piece.
- Nervous: I have a bad feeling about this one.

- Polarizing: Some people will love it; others will hate it.
- Wildcard: I have no idea what will happen.

A question mark means that I am not familiar with the piece and am basing my evaluation on what I know about the composer (or am just guessing).

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