

The 2011/2012 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance



Raymond Chen

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 either way, you're going to have to suffer through it. Here's the at-a-glance season guide for the first season with newly-appointed music director Ludovic Morlot. (Full brochure [pdf].) function filter(c) { var rows = document.getElementById("schedule").getElementsByTagName("TR"); for (var i = 0; i != rows.length; i++) { var row = rows[i]; var className = row.className; if (className != "") { if (c == 'all' || className.indexOf(c) >= 0) { row.style.display = ""; } else { row.style.display = "none"; } } } }

Week	Program	Comments	21
09/22 2011	Zappa: <i>Dupree's Paradise</i> Dutilleux: <i>The Tree of Dreams</i> Beethoven: <i>Symphony #3</i>	Nervous Nervous Awesome	
09/29 2011	Stravinsky: <i>The Rite of Spring</i> Gershwin: <i>An American in Paris</i> Varèse: <i>Amériques</i>	Polarizing Awesome Nervous	
10/06 2011	Liszt: <i>Von der Wiege bis zum Grabe</i> Mahler: <i>Kindertotenlieder</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Symphonic Dances</i>	Nervous Okay Excellent	
10/20 2011	Mozart: <i>Symphony #25, K173dB</i> Haydn: <i>Cello Concerto in C</i> Schubert: <i>Symphony #5</i>	Awesome Excellent Excellent	
10/28 2011	Bach: <i>Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052</i> Webern: <i>Symphony Op. 21</i> Stravinsky: <i>Dumbarton Oaks</i> Bach: <i>Brandenburg Concerto #5</i>	Excellent Nervous Good Excellent	

11/03 2011	Schumann: Violin Concerto Bruckner: Symphony #7	Excellent Nervous	
11/10 2011	Poulenc: <i>Gloria</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini</i> Copland: Symphony #3	Okay Awesome Okay	
11/17 2011	Britten: <i>Canadian Carnival</i> Knussen: Violin Concerto Bedford: <i>Outblaze the Sky</i> Britten: <i>Four Sea Interludes and Passacaglia (Peter Grimes)</i>	Good Nervous Wildcard Good	
12/28 2011	Humperdinck: <i>Hansel und Gretel</i> excerpts Beethoven: Symphony #9	Wildcard Awesome	
01/05 2012	Weber: Overture <i>Der Freischütz</i> Stravinsky: Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra Mozart: Piano Concert #20, K466 Adams: <i>Doctor Atomic</i> Symphony	Excellent Okay Awesome Nervous	
01/13 2012	Bach: Orchestral Suite #2 CPE Bach: <i>Kiev</i> Concerto JC Bach: Keyboard Concerto Bach: Brandenburg Concerto #2	Excellent Excellent Excellent Awesome	
01/19 2012	Tchaikovsky: <i>Souvenir de Florence</i> Vasks: <i>Distant Light</i> Mendelssohn: Symphony #4 <i>Italian</i>	Excellent Nervous Awesome	
01/26 2012	Muhly: New Work (World Premiere) Chopin: Piano Concerto #2 Sibelius: Symphony #2	Wildcard Excellent Excellent	
02/09 2012	Stravinsky: <i>Scherzo fantastique</i> Jolivet: Concertino for Trumpet Haydn: Symphony #93 Mussorgsky: <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i>	Okay Nervous Excellent Awesome	
02/16 2012	Schubert/Berio: <i>Rendering</i> Beethoven: Piano Concerto #2 Schumann: Symphony #4	Wildcard Excellent Excellent	
02/22 2012	Vivaldi: <i>Winter and Summer (4 Seasons)</i> Mozart: Symphony #38 <i>Prague</i> Beethoven: Symphony #7	Awesome Awesome Awesome	
03/01 2012	Mozart: Piano Concerto #6, K238 Haydn: Symphony #6 <i>Le matin</i> Mozart: Piano Concerto #27, K595	Excellent Excellent Awesome	

03/09 2012	L. Mozart: Symphony in G, G. 16 Bach: Brandenburg Concerto #3 Bach: Sinfonia in G minor, Op. 6, No. 6 Mozart: Viola Concerto (orig. Clarinet concerto)	Good Awesome Good Excellent	
03/15 2012	Debussy: <i>Prelude to the Afternoon of a Fawn</i> Dutilleux: <i>Tout un monde lointain</i> Ravel: <i>La Valse</i>	Excellent Nervous Excellent	
03/22 2012	Schubert: <i>Rosamunda</i> excerpts Janáček: <i>Taras Bulba</i> Brahms: Violin Concerto	Good Okay Awesome	
04/05 2012	Mozart: Overture <i>Marriage of Figaro</i> Mozart: Piano Concerto #24, K491 Mahler: Symphony #1	Awesome Awesome Excellent	
04/12 2012	Rouse: <i>Infernal Machine</i> Dvořák: Violin Concerto Tchaikovsky: Symphony #4	Nervous Excellent Awesome	
04/19 2012	Dutilleux: Symphony #1 Imeri: <i>Za Simon</i> Ravel: Piano Concerto in G Dukas: <i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>	Nervous Wildcard Excellent Awesome	
04/26 2012	Prokofiev: Piano Concerto #3 Shostakovich: Symphony #8	Awesome Polarizing	
05/03 2012	Mozart: Divertimento in F, K138 Mozart: Violin Concerto #2, K211 Vieuxtemps: Violin Concerto #5 <i>Gretry</i> Schubert: Symphony #3	Awesome Excellent Okay Excellent	
05/15 2012	Hindemith: <i>Kammermusik #1</i> Bartók: <i>Bluebeard's Castle</i>	Okay Wildcard	&n bsp;
06/07 2012	R. Strauss: <i>Don Juan</i> Korngold: Violin Concerto Turina: <i>Danzas Fantásticas</i> Rimsky-Korsakov: <i>Capriccio espagnol</i>	Excellent Okay Good Excellent	
06/14 2012	Bernstein: <i>Candide</i> Overture Ives: Symphony #2 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto #3	Excellent Polarizing Excellent	
06/21	Berlioz: <i>The Damnation of Faust</i>	Excellent	
07/12 2012	R. Strauss: <i>Also Sprach Zarathustra</i> fanfare Ligeti: <i>Atmosphères</i> Matthews: <i>Pluto</i> Holst: <i>The Planets</i> (with video)	Excellent Polarizing Wildcard Awesome	

Week	Program	Comments	21
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Legend:

21	Masterworks 21-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
13	Masterworks 13-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
7A	Masterworks 7-concert series A (Thursdays)
7B	Masterworks 7-concert series B (Saturdays)
7C	Masterworks 7-concert series C (Thursdays)
7D	Masterworks 7-concert series D (Saturdays)
7E	Masterworks 7-concert series E (Thursdays)
7F	Masterworks 7-concert series F (Saturdays)
7G	Masterworks 7-concert series G (Sunday afternoons)
4A	Masterworks 4-concert series A (Friday afternoons)
BW	Baroque & Wine Series (Choice of Fridays or Saturdays)
MM	Mainly Mozart (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
RH	Rush Hour (Fridays)
BS	<u>Beyond the Score</u> multimedia lecture-concert (Sunday afternoons)
SS	Symphony Specials (Various evenings)

For those not familiar with the Seattle Symphony ticket package line-ups: Most of the ticket packages are named *Masterworks nX* where *n* is the number is the number of concerts in the package, and the letter indicates which variation. Ticket packages have been combined if they are identical save for the day of the week. For example, 7C and 7D are the same concerts; the only difference is that 7C is for Thursday nights, while 7D is for Saturday nights. The *Beyond the Score* concerts focus on only one of the pieces. Changes from last season:

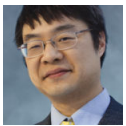
- The Masterworks 20 series has been expanded to 21 concerts.
- The Masterworks 10A and 10B series have been dropped.
- The Masterworks 4B series was renamed 4A. (There used to be 4A and 4B, then 4A was dropped last year leaving just 4B. Then I guess they figured having a 4B without a 4A was confusing, so they renamed 4B to 4A.)
- The Thursday Rush Hour series has been dropped.

This chart doesn't include "one-off" concert series such as the Visiting Orchestras or Distinguished Artists series. A "one-off" series is a concert series which shares no concerts with any other series. (*Baroque & Wine* and *Symphony Specials* are grandfathered in; I'll probably omit them in future years.) 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 my symphony friends. 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.

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. (For example, I know that my friends hate minimalism, so I rated the Adams down even though I myself might enjoy it. They also aren't big fans of Bruckner.)

- 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.

In many cases, 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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