

# The 2025/2026 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance

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## Raymond Chen

For many years, I've 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. We stopped going to the symphony as a group years ago, but I still create this pocket guide out of tradition.



Here's the at-a-glance season guide for the 2025/2026 season still with no comments from me because it's not worth trying to rate every piece to help my friends pick one concert. If you're my friend and want recommendations, just call. Besides, you can probably preview nearly all of the pieces nowadays (minus the premieres) by searching on YouTube.

After a three-year vacancy, the position of music director has been filled by Xian Zhang, who will lead the orchestra on Opening Night as well as nine subscription concerts. She has been signed to a five-year contract and will continue to serve as the music director of the New Jersey Symphony, where she is contracted through the 2027-2028 season. Those who want a sneak peek can watch her conduct the Seattle Symphony this weekend in a concert featuring Holst's *The Planets*. (I enjoyed one of her guest conducting appearances with the Seattle Symphony a few years ago. I have tickets to this weekend's concert, but one of my children really wanted to go, so I gave her my ticket.)

Week	Program	21	13	7A 7B	7C 7D	7E 7F
09/13 2025	Jessie Montgomery: <i>Hymn for Everyone</i> Grieg: Piano Concerto Verdi: Overture to <i>La Forza del Destino</i> Smetana: <i>Šárka</i> from <i>Má vlast</i> Wagner: Prelude to <i>Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg</i>					

09/18 2025	Michael Abels: <i>Delights and Dances</i> Kodály: <i>Dances of Galánta</i> Mussorgsky: <i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i> (orch. Ravel)					
10/02 2025	Melissa Douglas: <i>Awaken</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Symphony #2</i>					
10/16 2025	Handel: <i>Organ Concerto, Op. 7, No. 4</i> Telemann: <i>Wassermusik</i> Hasse: <i>Sinfonia in G minor</i> Handel: <i>Music for the Royal Fireworks</i>					
10/23 2025	Gabriella Smith: <i>Lost Coast</i> Vaughan Williams: <i>A Sea Symphony</i>					
11/06 2025	Holmés: <i>La nuit et l'amour</i> Tchaikovsky: <i>Violin Concerto</i> Dvořák: <i>Symphony #8</i>					
11/13 2025	Beethoven: <i>Piano Concerto #3</i> Brucker: <i>Symphony #4</i>					
11/20 2025	Copland: <i>Quiet City</i> Steven Mackey: <i>Anemology: Concerto for Saxophone</i> <sup>1</sup> John Adams: <i>Harmonielehre</i>					
01/08 2026	Barber: <i>Intermezzo from Vanessa</i> Bernstein: <i>Serenade (after Plato's Symposium)</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Symphony #3</i>					
01/20	Seong-Jin Cho piano recital works by Bach, Schoenberg, Chopin, Schumann					
01/29 2026	Arnold: <i>Peterloo Overture</i> Beethoven: <i>Triple Concerto</i> Bartók: <i>Concerto for Orchestra</i>					
02/12 2026	Qigang Chen: <i>Iris Dévoilée (Iris Unveiled)</i> Shostakovich: <i>Symphony #5</i>					
02/19 2026	Nokuthula Ngwenyama: <i>Primal Message</i> Schumann: <i>Cello Concerto</i> Beethoven: <i>Symphony #4</i>					
03/05 2026	Bach: <i>Ricercare a 6</i> (orch. Webern) Busoni: <i>Violin Concerto</i> Brahms: <i>Piano Quartet #1</i> (orch. Schoenberg)					

03/12 2026	Liszt: <i>Les Préludes</i> Liszt: Piano Concerto #1 Strauss: <i>Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks</i> Kodály: <i>H'ry János Suite</i>					
03/19 2026	Ravel: <i>Le Tombeau de Couperin</i> Poulenc: <i>Stabat Mater</i> Stravinsky: <i>The Firebird Suite</i> (1945)					
03/20	Lang Lang piano recital works by Beethoven, Mozart, Albéniz					
04/09 2026	Joan Tower: Suite from Concerto for Orchestra Christopher Theofanidis: Double Concerto <sup>1</sup> Rachmaninov: <i>Symphonic Dances</i>					
04/16 2026	Mendelssohn: <i>The Fair Melusine</i> Mendelssohn: Three Motets, Op. 39 (arr. McGegan) Mendelssohn: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>					
04/23 2026	Fauré: Pavane Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto #2 Franck: Symphony in D minor					
04/30 2026	Rossini: Overture to <i>The Italian Girl in Algiers</i> Mozart: Clarinet Concerto Mozart: Symphony #35, "Haffner" Mozart: Symphony #39					
05/28 2026	Gershwin: Piano Concerto in F Gershwin: <i>Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture</i> Gershwin: <i>An American in Paris</i>					
06/11	Mahler: Symphony #7					
06/18 2026	Steven Mackey: <i>RIOT</i> Beethoven: Symphony #9					
<b>Week</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7A 7B</b>	<b>7C 7D</b>	<b>7E 7F</b>

<sup>1</sup> Seattle Symphony Co-commission

Insider tip: Click a column header to focus on a specific series. (This feature has been around for several years, actually.)

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)
8G	Masterworks 8-concert series G (Sunday afternoons)
4A	Masterworks 4-concert series A (Friday afternoons)
**	Various special concerts (individually priced)

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 of concerts in the package, and the letter indicates the 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 exception is the column I marked \*\*, which is just a grab bag of special concerts.

#### Notes and changes:

- The *Symphony Untuxed* series, which had been revived for the 2024/2025 season, has once again been dropped.
- The 7A/7B, 7C/7D, and 7E/7F concert series do not overlap, so you can create your own pseudo-series by taking any two of them, or recreate the 21-concert series by taking all three.
- The 13-concert series is the same as the 7C/7D and 7E/7F series combined, minus the April 16 concert.
- The *Family Connections* program provides free symphony tickets for up to two children with the purchase of an adult ticket.
- The Seattle Symphony is part of the TeenTix program which offers teenagers (ages 13 through 19) \$5 day-of-show tickets for selected concerts. TeenTix members can also buy up to two \$10 tickets for Sunday concerts for non-teenage friends and family.
- Cellist Gabriel Cabezas and composer Steven Mackey are this season's Artists in Focus.

- Notable other guests include recitals from András Schiff, Lang Lang, Seong-Jin Cho, and Conrad Tao, and regular season concerts with Hélène Grimaud (Gerschwin Piano Concerto in F) and Daniil Trifonov (Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto #2).
- Nicholas McGegan conducts an all-Mendelssohn program, including the incidental music to Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed with actors.
- Over the years, the format of the Seattle Symphony official brochure has gradually gotten closer and closer to the format of this pocket guide. This makes my job both easier and arguably superfluous.

## Author

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### Raymond Chen

Raymond has been involved in the evolution of Windows for more than 30 years. In 2003, he began a Web site known as The Old New Thing which has grown in popularity far beyond his wildest imagination, a development which still gives him the heebie-jeebies. The Web site spawned a book, coincidentally also titled The Old New Thing (Addison Wesley 2007). He occasionally appears on the Windows Dev Docs Twitter account to tell stories which convey no useful information.



## 1 comment

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Newest



Raymond.. Thanks.. I just came across this from a Google search. Very handy to have.. I'm generating just about the same thing in Excel every year just to figure out our concert season.. Using your table saves me a bunch of time.. thnx again.

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