



2017-2018
CONCERT GUIDE

bringing music to life



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bringing
music to life

Music is a living thing, limitless in its evocative power. Attending a concert performed by the exceptional musicians of the HSO is a unique experience each and every time – one that invigorates, enchants, and inspires.

Carolyn Kuan,
Music Director



Masterworks Series Sponsor



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MASTERWORKS



BEETHOVEN'S EROICA October 6-8, 2017

Season
Opener!

Beethoven Overture to *Egmont*, Op. 84

Kanno *Revive*, Concerto for Koto and Shakuhachi

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55, "Eroica"

FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Masayo Ishigure koto

Kojiro Umezaki shakuhachi

The HSO kicks off the 2017-2018 season with a captivating program featuring one of Beethoven's most celebrated works! Beethoven's "Eroica" is a journey of emotional extremes. This heroic and mighty symphony was originally dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte, but when Napoleon declared himself an emperor, the composer was so enraged he changed the dedication. Beethoven's Overture to *Egmont* was written as a set of incidental music pieces for the 1787 play of the same name by Goethe, who declared that Beethoven had expressed his intentions with "a remarkable genius." And Yugo Kanno's *Revive* spotlights two Japanese instruments unique to an orchestral concert – the shakuhachi, an end-blown flute, and the koto, a traditional stringed instrument.

Masterworks concerts are presented on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and on Sundays at 3pm in Belding Theater at The Bushnell.



MOZART & LA MER

November 10-12, 2017

Berlioz *Le corsaire*, Op. 21

Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219, "Turkish"

Debussy *La Mer*

Surprise Encore Selection To Be Announced

FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Leonid Sigal HSO concertmaster

Claude Debussy's sparkling *La Mer* is a masterpiece of suggestion and subtlety in its rich depiction of the sea. This sensual three-movement impression of the ocean is one of Debussy's most revered works. Berlioz's *Le corsaire* was also inspired by the sea, written when the composer was on holiday in Nice, France in 1844. The result of this retreat is a piece of music that is dizzying and serene, playful and brassy. Mozart's enchanting Violin Concerto No. 5 was composed after several trips to Italy with his father, where he became enamored with the violin. This concerto, nicknamed "The Turkish," was one of five Mozart composed for violin and orchestra over the span of five months in 1775.

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DECEMBER DREAMS

December 8-10, 2017

Fry *Santa Claus* (Christmas Symphony)

Higdon Oboe Concerto

Tchaikovsky Selections from *The Nutcracker* Op. 71, TH 14

FEATURING

Adam Boyles conductor

Heather Taylor HSO principal oboe

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This December, the HSO presents a program of music sure to put you in a festive mood. Tchaikovsky's selections from *The Nutcracker* bring to musical life everyone's favorite holiday tale – young Clara's dreams of a Nutcracker Prince. William Henry Fry's *Santa Claus* (Christmas Symphony) is both a secular and religious celebration of the holiday, complete with a weary traveler, a holiday party and a visit by Father Christmas as the children sleep. Plus, American composer Jennifer Higdon's Oboe Concerto makes its HSO premiere, putting the spotlight on the beauty and grace of the instrument with a playful and shimmering piece. 'Tis the season!



A SCOTTISH FANTASY

January 19-21, 2018

Maxwell Davies *An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise*, Op. 120a

Bruch *Scottish Fantasy*, Op. 46

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56, "Scottish"

FEATURING

Stefan Sanderling conductor

Gareth Johnson violin

Mike MacNintch highland bagpipes

We are breaking out the bagpipes for 2018 with a concert of music inspired by the vibrant country of Scotland! Maxwell Davies' *An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise* is a vivid depiction of a joyous wedding celebration, gloriously concluding with a bagpiper performing in full Scottish regalia. Bruch's four-movement *Scottish Fantasy* pays homage to Scottish folk melodies including "Auld Rob Morris," "The Dusty Miller," "I'm a' Doon for Lack o' Johnnie," and the patriotic anthem "Scots Wha Hae." Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, "Scottish," is the result of the composer's preoccupation with Scottish history, and his visit to the ruins of Holyrood Chapel in Edinburgh while on Grand Tour in 1829, calling to mind the wild romantic landscapes of the north.

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THE KEYS TO ROMANCE

February 16-18, 2018

Mascagni "Intermezzo" from *Cavalleria rusticana*

Haydn Symphony No. 104 in D Major, "London"

Sarasate Fantasy on Bizet's *Carmen*, Op. 25

Poulenc "Allegro ma non troppo" from Concerto for Two Pianos in D minor

Anderson & Roe piano duets to be announced

FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Anderson & Roe Piano Duo

It's a night of epic love for our annual Valentine's weekend program, featuring the dynamic Anderson & Roe Piano Duo! Mascagni's one-act opera *Cavalleria rusticana* tells the doomed tale of a love affair that ends with a duel to the death. Its lush, dramatic "Intermezzo" is considered one of the single most attractive tunes in operatic history. Haydn's invigorating Symphony No. 104 in D Major, "London" was written in tribute to the city he had come to adore (and that adored him right back!). Sarasate's raw, virtuosic Fantasy on Bizet's *Carmen* pays tribute to Bizet's beloved opera, the tragic love story of soldier Don Jose and the fiery gypsy Carmen. Poulenc's "Allegro ma non troppo" from Concerto for Two Pianos in D minor is effervescent and sentimental. Plus, Anderson & Roe will delight with lush piano duos!

The Alexander Campbell McNally and Tina Mahar McNally Memorial Concert



STRAVINSKY & SWAN LAKE

March 9-11, 2018

Stravinsky *Game of Cards (Jeu de Cartes)*

Stravinsky Symphony in Three Movements

Tchaikovsky Suite from *Swan Lake*, Op. 20a, TH 12

FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Ballet dancers to be announced

Stravinsky's turbulent Symphony in Three Movements was written as a direct response to the events of WWII. He wrote the symphony in the final days of the war, influenced, as he wrote, by "our arduous time of sharp and shifting events, of despair and hope, of continual torments, of tension and, at last, cessation and relief..." Stravinsky's engaging *Game of Cards (Jeu de Cartes)* ballet is said to have been motivated by his fondness for poker, with the main character being the cunning Joker. Tchaikovsky revolutionized the art of composing for dance, and his *Swan Lake* is recognized as one of the most popular ballets in the world, inspired by Russian folk tales and one of the composer's most beautiful works.



COPLAND & GERSHWIN

April 6-8, 2018

Copland *An Outdoor Overture*

Gershwin Piano Concerto in F

Theofanidis *Rainbow Body*

Copland Suite from *Billy the Kid*

FEATURING

Laura Jackson conductor

Alessio Bax piano; *appears by arrangement with Arts Management Group*

It's a spring celebration of two favorite American composers! Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F solidified his reputation as a "serious" composer who straddled the line of popular and traditional music. He said that hearing an orchestra perform this concerto, which is flavored with blues, barrelhouse and ragtime, was his greatest musical thrill. Dramatically evocative of the American West and prairie life, Copland's *Billy the Kid* follows the life of the infamous outlaw, and presents Billy as a romanticized symbol of the passions and dangers of the Wild West. And Copland's spirited *An Outdoor Overture* is an optimistic, rousing tribute to Americana. Plus, Theofanidis' colorful *Rainbow Body* takes inspiration from 12th century composer Hildegard of Bingen, as well as the Tibetan Buddhist idea of "rainbow body" – where the body of an enlightened being is absorbed back into the universe after death.



SHOSTAKOVICH 5

May 4-6, 2018

Shostakovich *Tahiti Trot*, Op. 16, "Tea for Two"

Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

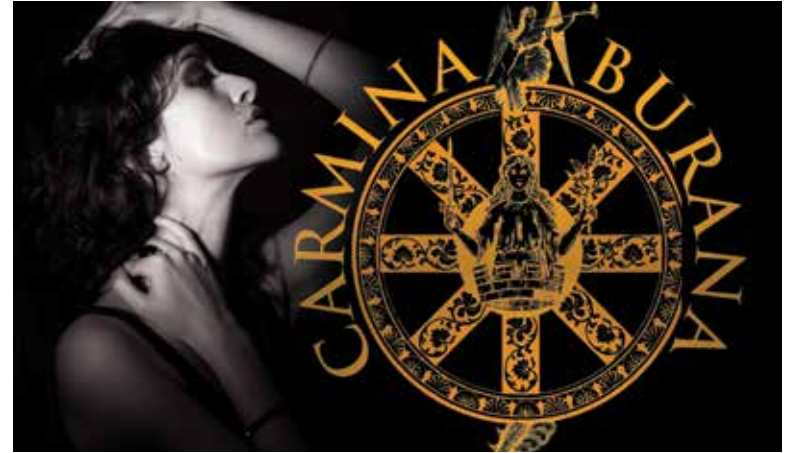
FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Jay Campbell cello; represented by Schmidt Artists International, Inc.

"If they cut off both hands, I will compose music anyway holding the pen in my teeth," said Shostakovich in 1936. When composing his Symphony No. 5 during the "Great Terror" in Russia, he was under great political pressure to simplify his music and adapt it to reflect socialist realism. While authorities heard everything they had demanded of Shostakovich in the gripping piece, the public heard it as a testament to its sorrow and suffering. His delightful *Tahiti Trot* was written in response to a challenge from fellow conductor Nikolai Malko, who bet Shostakovich he could not re-orchestrate the song from memory in under an hour (spoiler alert: he did). His popular Cello Concerto No. 1 is regarded as his finest concerto, and one of the most difficult of its kind to perform.

The Koski Memorial Concert
Sponsored by The Saunders Fund for Innovative Programming



CARMINA BURANA: FESTIVAL OF FATE

June 8-10, 2018

Barber *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

Orff *Carmina Burana*

FEATURING

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Hartford Chorale Richard Coffey, Music Director

Soprano to be announced

David Guzman tenor

Tyler Duncan baritone

Become part of the spectacle of excess when the HSO, with the Hartford Chorale, presents this dramatic interpretation of Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Experience the revelry and drama as we take over the theater with a celebration of the pleasures of drink, nature, love, lust, wealth, gluttony and gambling. But beware – the wheel of fortune deals out triumph and disaster at random, so heed its warning about the power of luck and fate! The concert opens with Barber's lush and textured *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, a tender depiction of Knoxville, Tennessee, set to excerpts from James Agee's 1938 nostalgic prose poem by the same name.

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- You'll receive advance notice when a concert goes on sale and have the opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public.
- We make ticket exchanges and subscription renewals easy for you.
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10 Tickets for \$309*

Flex 4

4 Tickets for \$146*

Flex 4 platinum

4 Tickets for \$254 with best available seating!

You can use your tickets in any combination for the 2017-18 Masterworks and POPS! concerts of your choice.

*Seating is limited to certain sections of the theater for the Flex 10 and traditional Flex 4 options.

860-987-5900

Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm

*Prices include The Bushnell's facility fees and HSO's handling fees. All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.



HOLIDAY CIRQUE SPECTACULAR

Saturday, December 16, 2017
2pm & 7pm

Carolyn Kuan conductor

There is no better way to celebrate the season than with the magical music of the holidays performed by the HSO, set to astonishing acrobatic feats by members of the renowned Cirque de la Symphonie! Watch these amazing aerialists, contortionists, and gymnasts tumble, soar and dance on and above the stage, all while the HSO plays your festive favorites. You will gasp with delight when Hartford's favorite family concert tradition returns!

Concert Sponsor



NEVER BREAK THE CHAIN – THE MUSIC OF FLEETWOOD MAC

Saturday, March 24, 2018
7:30pm

Adam Boyles conductor

We are celebrating one of the best-selling bands of all time with *Never Break the Chain – The Music of Fleetwood Mac!* With over 100 million albums sold and a dozen top 10 singles, Fleetwood Mac began as a British blues band and became one of the most successful pop/rock groups in rock history with hits like *Rhiannon*, *Landslide*, *Go Your Own Way*, and *The Chain*. Hear the band's chart-topping hits performed by three fantastic vocalists and your HSO!



THE CELTIC SPIRIT FEATURING EILEEN IVERS

Saturday, April 21, 2018
7:30pm

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Through music, song and dance, fiddle virtuoso Eileen Ivers and the HSO celebrate the journey of the Irish immigrant! This evening will showcase how Celtic sounds have integrated with various roots-music styles along the way, to become a fundamental part of today's American soundscape. Ivers brings amazing energy to the stage with her phenomenal fiddling, paying homage to the great Irish traditions with her creative edge, contemporary style and passion!



LOVE ON BROADWAY

Saturday, May 19, 2018
7:30pm

Adam Boyles conductor

Broadway stars. Triple threats. Real married couples. Come celebrate as these pairs – performing live with the HSO – sing and talk about the ups, downs and all arounds of love, life and marriage on the Great White Way, with songs from *West Side Story*, *Once*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Motown* and more. Real songs, real stories, real love: this is LOVE ON BROADWAY.

The Sunday Serenades Chamber Music Series is presented in collaboration with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art as a musical counterpart to special exhibitions and the permanent collections. Concerts take place in the museum galleries and feature Concertmaster and Sunday Serenades Artistic Director Leonid Sigal and Hartford Symphony Orchestra musicians.

The Sunday Serenades Chamber Music Series is made possible, in part, by the Helen M. Saunders Charitable Foundation Music Endowment at the Wadsworth Atheneum.



SUNDAY SERENADES



Johan Christian Clausen Dahl, *View of the Feigumfoss in Lysterfjord*, 1848, Oil on canvas, Private Collection, New York

STRAUSS & THE SUBLIME

Sunday, November 19, 2017

**1pm Gallery Talk with Oliver Tostmann, curator
2pm Concert, Avery Court**

Our Sunday Serenades season opener takes inspiration from the exhibition *Sublime North: Romantic Painters Discover Norway*, which showcases the awe-inspiring talents of 19th-century Scandinavian artists as landscape painters. Grieg's wistful Violin Sonata No. 1 in F Major, Op. 8 draws on Norwegian folk songs for inspiration, while Strauss' Piano Quartet in C minor is gentle and aggressive, reflective of the Norwegian landscape. Halvorsen's *Handel's Passacaglia* is romantic and virtuosic.



Edward Gorey, *Haunted America*, 1990. Watercolor, pen and ink, and pencil on paper, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

SHOSTAKOVICH & GOREY

Sunday, March 4, 2018

1pm Gallery Talk with Erin Monroe, curator
2pm Concert, Avery Court

We delve into *Gorey's Worlds* for our March Sunday Serenades concert, in celebration of the exhibition, *Gorey's Worlds*, exploring the artistic inspiration of the famed American artist and author, Edward Gorey. For more than fifty years, Gorey delighted and amused audiences with spare pen and ink drawings that illustrate tales of hapless children, kohl-eyed swooning maidens, and whimsical creatures. The program will include Mozart's elegant and playful *Sonata in E-flat Major*, K. 292/196c, Schnittke's humorous *Moz-Art*, Britten's eerie *Phantasy*, and Shostakovich's melancholic *Piano Quintet in G minor*, Op. 57.



Frederic Edwin Church, *Hooker and Company Journeying through the Wilderness from Plymouth to Hartford, in 1636, 1846*, Oil on canvas, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

BEAUTY & BEETHOVEN

Sunday, May 20, 2018

1pm Gallery Talk
2pm Concert, Avery Court

All ticket-holders are invited to join the HSO for an end-of-season post-concert reception, made possible by a generous gift from The Saunders Foundation.

Wadsworth Atheneum founder Daniel Wadsworth played a key role in developing American landscape painting when he introduced the Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole to his future student, Frederic Church. They produced images of the Hudson Valley that captured a spirituality intensified by chromatic drama and luminosity. The beauty of the collection is perfectly paired with Harbison's earnest *Twilight Music*, Glinka's graceful *Trio pathétique*, and Beethoven's regal and exquisite *Septet in E-flat Major*, Op. 20.



HSO:INTERMIX

**It's the HSO like you've never
seen or heard us before!**

Our new HSO: Intermix series is intimate, inviting, innovative, and interactive! Get up close with HSO ensembles as they perform contemporary compositions and intriguing, rare classical pieces. Enjoy cocktails, conversation, mingling and more. Intermix with the HSO!

Thursday, November 16, 2017

7pm

Hog River Brewing Co., Hartford

Thursday, February 22, 2018

7pm

Onyx Spirits Company, East Hartford

Thursday, March 29, 2018

7pm

Real Art Ways, Hartford

HSO family series

These immersive presentations for families bring music into the community's backyard. Enjoy performances by our HSO chamber music ensembles, and make some noise at our Instrument Petting Zoo!

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Auerfarm

1pm - 3:30pm

(Rain Date Sunday, October 15, 2017)

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Noah Webster House

1pm - 3:30pm

(Snow Date Sunday, February 4, 2018)

Sunday, May 13, 2018

**New Britain Museum of
American Art**

1pm - 4pm

(Mother's Day!)

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Hill-Stead Museum

1pm - 3:30pm



chamber music ensembles

Celebrate the beauty and joy of live music through interactive concerts in schools and out in the community.



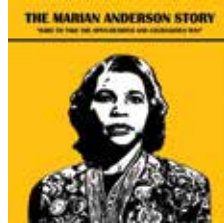
instrument petting zoo

This musical laboratory gives children the opportunity to see, hear, touch, and play in an exploration of the four families of the orchestra: strings, winds, brass, and percussion.



discovery concert series

Make the HSO your next field trip destination! Discovery Concerts illuminate great orchestral music alongside history, literature, math, science, and more in these unforgettable school-day concerts.



The Marian Anderson Story: Dare to Take the Open-Hearted and Courageous Way

**Tues., October 31, 2017
10:30 am**

From humble church choir to world stage, Marian Anderson's perseverance in the face of great adversity made her one of the greatest opera singers and most memorable civil rights activists of her time.



Carnival of the Animals

**Wed., March 14, 2018
10:30 am**

It's the grand opening of the Hartford Symphony Zoo! Join your friends the Elephant, the Swan, the Lion, and more for a musical celebration of the animal kingdom.



Link Up: The Orchestra Swings

**Wed., April 18, 2018
10:30 am**

It's that magical moment when the orchestra starts to swing: the concert culmination of the latest year-long music education curriculum from Carnegie Hall. For Hartford Public Schools.

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Time Capsule in the USA

**Tues., May 22, 2018
10:30 am**

We've unearthed the Hartford Symphony Time Capsule, and its contents – music, art, history and culture from throughout American history – are on display for one day only!

For more information on any of these programs, VISIT HARTFORDSYMPHONY.ORG/EDUCATION-COMMUNITY

Discovery Concerts take place at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.

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Contact Ruth Sovronsky at 860-760-7321 or rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org to learn how you can help strengthen your symphony.



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Save the date - April 28, 2018 - to attend our annual special event, raising funds for our education and community engagement programs. The HSO's creative and inspired performance makes this the party not to miss. Sponsorship opportunities are available now.

75 FOR 75 – JOIN HSO'S ENCORE SOCIETY

Our goal: 75 new Encore Society members to celebrate our 75th anniversary next season! Will you join us? Membership includes benefits!

SPONSOR A CONCERT OR CONCERT SERIES!

Business sponsorship is critically important to the HSO and the backbone of our region's cultural diversity. Partnering with the HSO is an excellent way to brand your business and link your community spirit to our wide variety of programs and services. Contact Joyce Hodgson at 860-760-7329 or jhodgson@hartfordsymphony.org



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Boost your support with a matching gift from your employer. Not sure if your company offers a match? Visit <http://bit.do/HSOMatching> to find out. Your support could be doubled or even tripled – many companies offer matching to retirees too!

BECOME AN ANNUAL FUND MEMBER

Membership includes year-long benefits, including single ticket discounts, on-site dining in the Bushnell Suite, attendance at our "First Rehearsal & Nosh" events and more – a way of bringing you into the family!

For more information, contact HSO Annual Fund Manager, Jillian Baker at 860-760-7302.

performances at a glance

OCTOBER 2017

M Beethoven's Eroica
October 6-8, 2017

NOVEMBER 2017

M Mozart & La Mer
November 10-12, 2017

I HSO: Intermix
Hog River Brewing Co.
November 16, 2017

S Strauss & the Sublime
November 19, 2017

DECEMBER 2017

M December Dreams
December 8-10, 2017

P Holiday Cirque Spectacular
December 16, 2017

JANUARY 2018

M A Scottish Fantasy
January 19-21, 2018

FEBRUARY 2018

M The Keys to Romance
February 16-18, 2018

I HSO: Intermix
Onyx Spirits Company
February 22, 2018

MARCH 2018

S Shostakovich & Gorey
March 4, 2018

M Stravinsky & Swan Lake
March 9-11, 2018

P Never Break the Chain –
The Music of Fleetwood Mac
March 24, 2018

I HSO: Intermix
Real Art Ways
March 29, 2018

APRIL 2018

M Copland & Gershwin
April 6-8, 2018

P The Celtic Spirit Featuring
Eileen Ivers
April 21, 2018

MAY 2018

M Shostakovich 5
May 4-6, 2018

P Love on Broadway
May 19, 2018

S Beauty & Beethoven
May 20, 2018

JUNE 2018

M Carmina Burana: Festival of Fate
June 8-10, 2018



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