



HARTFORD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

January 2025 – June 2025

CONCERT GUIDE

SPRING 2025

MASTERWORKS

2025

Sirena Plays Sibelius

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

Mozart's Requiem

MARCH 14-16, 2025

Eroica & Four Seasons

APRIL 4-6, 2025

► *Concert Sponsor:*

CLY-DEL
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Fire Shut Up in My Bones

APRIL 24, 2025

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FAIR/VIEW

John Guy & Paula Silas Guy

**Katherine K. and Henry R. McLane
Charitable Trust**

Rachmaninoff & Rhapsody in Blue

JUNE 6-8, 2025

► *2024-2025 Masterworks Series Sponsors:*

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Foundation**

MASTERWORKS

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

Sirena Plays Sibelius

Carolyn Kuan, conductor

Sirena Huang, violin

Strauss *Don Juan*, op. 20

Dawson *Negro Folk Symphony*

Sibelius Concerto for Violin in D minor, op. 47

Join the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for an exhilarating concert filled with orchestral brilliance and captivating performances! Under the baton of Music Director Carolyn Kuan, the HSO opens with Strauss' *Don Juan*, a thrilling tone poem that vividly portrays the legendary lover's adventures. Next, experience the rich cultural tapestry of William Levi Dawson's "Negro Folk Symphony," a powerful and moving work inspired by African American spirituals. The program culminates with the dazzling virtuosity of Connecticut native and HSO favorite, Sirena Huang, performing Sibelius' Violin Concerto, a masterpiece of lyrical beauty and technical prowess. Whether you're celebrating love or simply a love for music, this enchanting concert is the perfect way to spend Valentine's weekend.



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MARCH 14-16, 2025

Mozart's Requiem

Jack Pott, conductor
Hartford Chorale

Martinez, Symphony in C major
Haydn Symphony No. 44 in E minor "Trauersinfonie"
Mozart Requiem, K. 626

Mozart's *Requiem* is a choral masterpiece veiled in mystery, making it one of the most fascinating and emotionally stirring works in classical music. Composed during the final months of Mozart's life, the piece was commissioned by an anonymous patron, which spooked the composer, who believed he was writing his own funeral song as his health rapidly deteriorated. Though Mozart passed away before completing *Requiem*, his student Franz Süssmayr finished the work based on Mozart's detailed instructions. The piece is filled with haunting beauty, showcasing Mozart's genius even in his final days. Under the direction of Jack Pott, music director of the Hartford Chorale, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, joined by the Hartford Chorale, will perform this iconic work alongside Haydn's emotionally charged *Symphony No. 44*, and Martinez's *Symphony in C Major*, highlighting innovative spirits and emotional depth of these great composers.



APRIL 4-6, 2025

Eroica & Four Seasons

Carolyn Kuan, conductor
Julien Labro, Bandoneon/Accordion

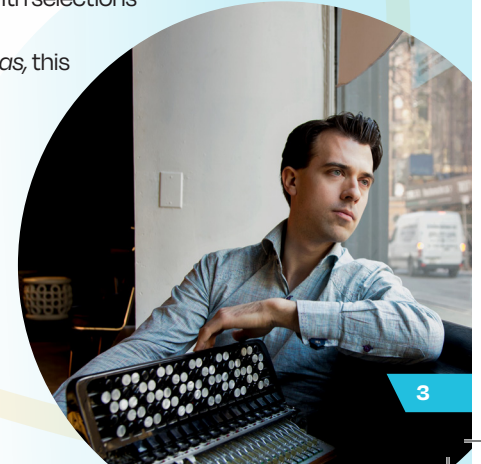
Selections from Vivaldi, The Four Seasons
Selections from Piazzolla, The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires
Beethoven Symphony No.3 in E-flat major, op. 55 ("Eroica")

Under the direction of music director Carolyn Kuan, the HSO performs Beethoven's groundbreaking third symphony (the "Eroica"), a piece that revolutionized symphonic music with its unprecedented scale and emotional depth. Written during a time of personal crisis for Beethoven, this symphony explored heroism, humanity, and struggle, making it as confessional as it is confrontational. "The ending chorale is so simply gorgeous... it feels like a glimpse of heaven, or hope... all that is good in the world. Sharing this music is what makes being a conductor so special," says Maestro Kuan. Paired with selections from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Piazzolla's *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas*, this concert is a vivid exploration of seasonal contrasts. Special guest Julien Labro joins the HSO on the bandoneon, showcasing his unique arrangements that alternate between Vivaldi and Piazzola's interpretations of the seasons, highlighting the beauty of both worlds in a fresh and exciting way.

CONCERT SPONSOR

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APRIL 24, 2025

Fire Shut Up in My Bones

Terence Blanchard, trumpet

The E- Collective

Andrew F. Scott & Matthew Ukenholz,
video production

Carolyn Kuan, conductor

Janinah Burnett, soprano

Will Liverman, baritone

Selections from Terence Blanchard's Film Scores
Arias from the opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

Terence Blanchard and his band **The E-Collective** have teamed up with visual artist **Andrew F. Scott** to create a new live concert experience with orchestra that features excerpts from Blanchard's groundbreaking Opera, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* performed by the composer's own incredible ensemble, **Janinah Burnett**, soprano and **Will Liverman**, baritone. The music and **Scott's** video projections give the audience a look inside the mind of Blanchard, and the gravitational pull of the moment that he has created. To round out this program, Blanchard, his band and Scott will perform excerpts from Blanchard's award-winning scores from various major motion pictures.

This production premiered at Dallas Symphony in February 2023.

► Concert Sponsors:

FAIR/IEW



John Guy & Paula Silas Guy
Katherine K. and Henry R. McLane
Charitable Trust



JUNE 6-8, 2025

Rachmaninoff & Rhapsody in Blue

Carolyn Kuan, conductor

Clayton Stephenson, piano

Joyce C. Willis Artist in Residence

Adams *Doctor Atomic Symphony*

Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*

Rachmaninoff *Symphonic Dances, op. 45*

Clayton Stephenson concludes his residency with the HSO in our final concert of the 2024/25 season, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, a masterpiece blending jazz and classical traditions that captures the spirit of early 20th-century New York City. The program continues with John Adams' *Doctor Atomic Symphony* (2007), which delves into the moral struggles of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," and features a haunting trumpet solo adapted from the opera's most beautiful aria. The concert closes with Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45, a rich and dynamic work that juxtaposes the composer's nostalgia for Russia with his fascination for ecclesiastical chants, creating a powerful and emotionally charged finale.

► *The Joyce C. Willis Artist in Residence is graciously funded by:*

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SNAIL MAIL:

Hartford Symphony Orchestra
166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106

**Concerts are Friday and Saturday @ 8PM
and Sunday @3PM**

*All ticket holders are invited to a pre-concert
talk one hour prior to the concert.*

POps!

MARCH 6, 2025

A New World: intimate music from FINAL FANTASY

Eric Roth, conductor

In March 2025, A New World: intimate music from FINAL FANTASY returns with NEW, EXCLUSIVE, and OFFICIAL arrangements of music from the biggest FINAL FANTASY games!

Beloved musical selections from composers Nobuo Uematsu, Masashi Hamauzu, Naoshi Mizuta, Hitoshi Sakimoto, Yoko Shimomura, and Masayoshi Soken are performed in a transparent and engaging format, achieving an astounding variety of musical textures and moods. Under the direction of Eric Roth, The Hartford Symphony Orchestra performs exclusive, and official arrangements from throughout the FINAL FANTASY series in the thrillingly personal style of this outstanding musical production.



6



MARCH 29, 2025 · 1PM & 7PM

Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows™ Part 1 in Concert

It's time to go hunting for Horcruxes once more: part one of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ in Concert" is nearly here! The Hartford Symphony Orchestra performs Alexandre Desplat's epic score as the franchise's seventh film is projected onto a giant screen. Join all your favorite characters—and not-so-favorite ones!—as they encounter familiar dangers, new threats and powerful friendships in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

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MAY 31, 2025

The Princess Bride in Concert

"As you wish..."

Fencing, fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles... Experience one of the most beloved films of all time as never before... with the power of a full symphony orchestra performing the entire musical score live-to-picture!

Directed by Rob Reiner, *The Princess Bride* features an all-star cast including Robin Wright, Cary Elwes, Wallace Shawn, Mandy Patinkin, Chris Sarandon, Billy Crystal, Carol Kane, Christopher Guest, Fred Savage and André the Giant.

The great Peter Falk narrates this romantic tale of the beautiful maiden, Buttercup, and her one true love, a young farm hand named Westley. After he's captured by a ruthless pirate and presumed dead, Buttercup's unhappy marriage to the horrible Prince Humperdinck seems inevitable. But before the wedding can take place, she's kidnapped by three outlaws and it's up to a mysterious Man in Black to come to her rescue...

Now for the first time, composer Mark Knopfler's unforgettable score has been specially arranged for symphony orchestra. Missing this cinematic concert experience would be *inconceivable!*

So, in the words of Miracle Max... "Have fun stormin' the castle!"

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HSO EXTENDED

Unique spaces, social experiences, a wide diversity of music and traditions- this is HSO Extended. From a gorgeous Gothic chapel to a Hartford brewery, to free concerts at Hartford's Public Library, and Bushnell Park, experience the magic of live music in unexpected spaces throughout our community.

JANUARY 23, 2025 · 7PM

The Fierce Urgency of Now: MLK Tribute Concert

**ASYLUM HILL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, 814 ASYLUM AVENUE,
HARTFORD, CT**

Celebrate the life and enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an unforgettable evening of music and inspiration. Featuring the soulful voice of soprano Schautice Shepard, this annual concert pays homage to Dr. King's legacy through music that uplifts and inspires.

► **Concert Sponsors:**

**Claire M. Pryor & the Pryor
Family and Trinity Health**



SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 · 3PM

SAVE THE DATE

HSO Symphony in the Park

BUSHNELL PARK

Meet us in the park! The Hartford Symphony Orchestra celebrates the power of community and music with Symphony in the Park- a FREE concert in Bushnell Park.



Thomas Hooker Live Series

Get ready for an evening of fun, music, and great vibes. An HSO string ensemble plays fresh, pop-style arrangements that bring new life to the songs you know and love. Enjoy craft beer, wine, and tasty bites as you take in a concert that features a unique theme that lets the ensemble put their spin on iconic tracks! Each concert starts at 7:30PM and takes place at Hooker Live, 1 Sequassen St. Hartford, CT.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Say it Loud - A Strings Celebration of Soul

Say it Loud: A Strings Celebrate of Soul" features the music of iconic black artists. From the powerful rhythms of James Brown to the smooth R&B vibes of Beyoncé and the unstoppable funk of Chaka Khan, this concert is a celebration of soul like you've never heard before. Let our illustrious string quartet take you on a journey through the heart and soul of music that has defined generations.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Thank You, Next: A Gentle Reader's Playlist

Calling all gentle readers and members of The Ton! Join us for "Thank You, Next: A Gentle Reader's Playlist" where our lavish string quartet will transport you to Regency- era London. This immersive concert experience features some of your favorite present-day hits, along with a few added selections from the historical romance television phenomenon, Bridgerton and Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story.

► **Series Sponsors:**





Sunday Serenades

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 HSO 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 Saunders Foundation Music Endowment at the Wadsworth Atheneum; Nancy D. Grover in honor of Leonid Sigal, concertmaster, Hartford Symphony Orchestra; and Suzanne Hopgood in memory of Frank Lord.



MARCH 2, 2025 · 2PM

A European Sketchbook

1 PM Gallery Talk- Reservations Required

Beethoven *Mit Zwei Obligaten Augengläsern (Eyeglasses Duo)*

Bartok *Contrasts*

Louise Farrenc Quintet for Piano and Strings No. 2 in E major

FEATURING:

Leonid Sigal, artistic director & violin

Nick Borghoff, viola

Peter Zay, cello

Mark Zechel, bass

Sangwon Lee, clarinet

Yujin Lee, piano

Edgar Degas, *Dancers with Fans*, c. 1898. Pastel on paper. The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1945.209. Courtesy of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

MAY 4, 2025 · 2PM

Vibrant Visions

1 PM Gallery Talk- Reservations Required

Ned Rorem *Bright Music*

Bright Sheng *Hot Pepper*

Dvorák Piano Quartet in E flat, Op. 87

FEATURING:

Leonid Sigal, artistic director & violin

Lisa Rautenberg, violin

Michael Wheeler, viola

Amy Ward Butler, cello

Barbara Hopkins, flute

Rob McEwan, marimba

Yujin Lee, piano

Frederic

Edwin Church, *Coast*

Scene, Mount Desert, 1863. Oil on canvas.

Bequest of Mrs. Clara Hinton Gould, 1948.178.

Courtesy of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.



TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Link Up: The Orchestra Rocks

The HSO is thrilled to continue Link Up, a dynamic music education program developed by Carnegie Hall. Thanks to generous support from our sponsors, third grade students in the East Hartford and Hartford Public Schools will participate in a live orchestra concert at The Bushnell. The program teaches music fundamentals and introduces students to the orchestral world. Students will play recorders and sing along at the live event conducted by HSO Music Director Carolyn Kuan.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 · 3PM

2025 Young Artists Competition Finals GREATER HARTFORD ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

Join us in celebrating the achievements of Connecticut's young artists at the final round of the HSO's Young Artists Competition. Listen to the finalists perform with the HSO and compete for a cash prize.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

Exploring Emotions

Students will experience an incredible soundtrack while listening to a story about Noah traveling to the other side of the galaxy to rescue the inhabitants of a distant planet from a fierce dragon using the combined powers of music, empathy, and compassion. The program will also feature a special appearance by pianist Clayton Stephenson, HSO's 24-25 Joyce C. Willis Artist in Residence, underwritten by the Roberts Foundation for the Arts.



Talcott Mountain Music Festival

Join us Friday nights starting June 27 through July 25 at Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center!



HARTFORD SYMPHONY'S
**TALCOTT MOUNTAIN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

JUNE 27

JULY 4

JULY 11

JULY 18

JULY 25

**Stay tuned for
our season
announcement!**



**Tickets go on sale
April 14, 2025!**

Feature your business at the Festival!

Display your logo on banners, received table or lawn seats, and be featured in print materials and other marketing collateral. Contact Eric R. Hutchinson at **860-760-7321** or **ehutchinson@hartfordsymphony.org**.





Support the Hartford Symphony Orchestra

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

2025 Bravo! Gala HOMECOMING

PARKVILLE MARKET, HARTFORD, CT

Join us for a spectacular evening in support of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra as we transform Parkville Market to honor the place the Symphony calls home and celebrate our Capital City: HARTFORD!



► Presenting Sponsor:



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Performances at a Glance

JANUARY

HSO EXTENDED

The Fierce Urgency of Now: MLK Tribute Concert

JANUARY 23, 2025

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P0ps!

A New World; intimate music from FINAL FANTASY

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MARCH (continued)

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P0ps!

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ Part 1

MARCH 29, 2025

APRIL

MASTERWORKS

Eroica & Four Seasons

APRIL 4-6, 2025

► *Concert Sponsor:*
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MASTERWORKS

Fire Shut Up in My Bones

APRIL 24, 2025

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FAIR/VIEW

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Charitable Trust

MAY

Sunday Serenades

MAY 4, 2025

Young Artist Competition Finals

MAY 17, 2025

Bravo Gala!

MAY 22, 2025

► *Presenting Sponsor:*



P0ps!

The Princess Bride in Concert

MAY 31, 2025

JUNE

MASTERWORKS

Rachmaninoff & Rhapsody in Blue

JUNE 6-8, 2025

HSO EXTENDED

Symphony in the Park

JUNE 14, 2025

Masterworks concerts are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 3pm in Belding Theater at The Bushnell. All ticket holders are invited to join us one hour prior to the performance for our free pre-concert talk.



**HARTFORD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

166 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106



HSO and Season Sponsors:
HSO Programs are funded in Part by:



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For tickets & Information
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