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ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2025-26 DELTA CLASSICAL SEASON

The Beethoven Project concludes with his Ninth Symphony, featuring the ASO Chorus

Celebrating America @ 250

Lang Lang opens the season with Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto

ATLANTA— The GRAMMY® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra announces the 2025-26 Delta Classical Concert season—its 81st season and Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann's fourth season at its helm. The orchestra continues its exploration of great choral masterworks with Stutzmann, including the completion of the Beethoven Project with a performance of his Ninth Symphony. They also tackle works by American composers as part of the America @ 250 celebration.

"The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is making bold choices in the 2025-26 Season," said Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. "It is a season filled with great variety, from pillars including Beethoven, Mahler, and Tchaikovsky, to an in-depth exploration of America in all of its colorful diversity in celebration of our country's 250th birthday.

"This season exemplifies what art can do for our community—bringing people together to have transformative experiences that move the heart and challenge the mind. There are musical points of entry for the newcomer and points of departure for those who are steeped in the symphonic repertoire. We are excited to be able to offer these extraordinary experiences through the language of music, performed by two of the great ensembles in the world: both the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus make a statement with these programs that we are here for everyone. In addition to the exceptional performances by our own, we bring artists from all over the world to our stage for compelling collaborations. We are excited to share these experiences with Atlanta."

STUTZMANN IN THE 2025-26 SEASON

Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann focuses on several mammoth masterworks in the 2025-26 season.

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“In my programs, we have a large focus on major choral works. Conducting the large forces on stage when we have the chorus of over one hundred and fifty singers with the orchestra is something I always cherish,” said Stutzmann.

Choral masterworks include Schubert’s Mass No. 2 in G major, and Bach’s Mass in B minor, about which Stutzmann said, “Bach’s B minor Mass is an absolutely transcendental piece of music, and one of the most amazing choral writings of all times. I would say this is truly the consecration of a whole life in music dedicated to God.”

The 2025-26 Delta Classical series season begins (**Oct. 3/4/5**) with Stutzmann leading the orchestra in Strauss’s heroic *Ein Heldenleben*, paired with Elgar’s Cello Concerto featuring Alisa Weilerstein. Weilerstein has won *BBC Music’s* “Recording of the Year” award and been described by the *New York Times* as, “technically flawless and deeply expressive: her vibrato saturated with meaning, her lyricism slinking and menacingly enigmatic.”

The orchestra has been working on a year-long **Beethoven Project**, performing all of his symphonies. It reaches completion (**Nov. 13/15/16**) when Stutzmann leads Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, featuring the stellar Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Stutzmann said, “This extraordinary symphony is the culmination of our festival and the culmination of a life in music for Beethoven. It goes from darkness to light and conveys a universal message of hope and unity to all humanity. That is why Beethoven’s music and Schiller’s text will always remain essential and relevant.”

Other notable guest artists that Stutzmann performs with this season include pianist Pavel Kolesnikov (Grieg Piano Concerto), Francesco Piemontesi (Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1), Leif Ove Andsnes (Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3), Daniel Lozakovich (Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto) and Hélène Grimaud (Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1).

Stutzmann continues her work with the ASO in Bruckner’s symphonies, with a performance of his Symphony No. 6 (**Mar. 5/7**). The season-closing concerts feature major works of the late romantic era: Tchaikovsky’s Sixth Symphony “Pathétique” (**May 28/30**) and Mahler’s Second Symphony “Resurrection” with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and soprano Talise Trevigne (**June 4/6/7**).

About Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony, Stutzmann commented: “Why have you lived? Why have you suffered? These are the questions Mahler asks in the first movement of this symphony with the promise of an answer in the last movement. Starting with a funeral March and ending his symphony with the triumph of resurrection is a huge program! In this masterpiece Mahler sought to provide hope and meaning for humanity’s suffering and bring a sense of Enlightenment to all of us. It’s hard to imagine a better way to end our season.”

Stutzmann is praised around the world as a master of both orchestral and operatic repertoire. She was also named “Best Conductor of the Year” at the Oper Awards, in part for her outstanding debut at the Bayreuth Festival in June of 2023 with Wagner’s *Tannhäuser*, of which *BR Klassik* reported, “never having experienced such a standing ovation at a pit debut in Bayreuth.” Recent performances worldwide, from Frankfurt to Boston have garnered rave reviews.

LANG LANG RETURNS TO ATLANTA SYMPHONY HALL TO OPEN THE NEW SEASON

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Pianist Lang Lang last graced Symphony Hall in 2018. He now returns (**Sep. 19**) for a special program led by conductor Gemma New that includes Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto and music by Mozart. Lang Lang is a leading figure in classical music today—as a pianist, educator and philanthropist. Heralded by *The New York Times* as "the hottest artist on the classical music planet," Lang Lang plays sold-out concerts all over the world with all the world's top orchestras. Tickets are only available for subscribers right now and the concert is expected to sell-out quickly.

AMERICA @ 250

The Orchestra recognizes the American bisesquicentennial with a series of programs that feature some of the composers and compositions that are definitional for the United States. Works have been curated to reflect both historical and current American culture, including those crossing the line between classical and jazz; prominent works that were commissioned and premiered in America; works by expats living in America; and the multi-cultural tapestry of cultures that is America today.

In addition to works from the historic American repertoire by Bernstein, Barber and Copland, the orchestra explores music by Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington and Artie Shaw. There will also be a variety of contemporary works throughout the season by Valerie Coleman, Reena Esmail, Philip Glass, Angélica Negrón, Nina Shekhar, Roberto Sierra, Leonard Slatkin, and Christopher Theofanidis

One all-American program worth highlighting features Leonard Slatkin conducting the American Premiere of his own work *Schubertiade: An Orchestral Fantasy*. Also on the program (**Jan 29/31**) is young American violinist Randall Goosby performing Barber's Violin Concerto, followed by the orchestra performing Copland's Third Symphony.

The very next program (**Feb. 12/14**) features Grammy winning American conductor Teddy Abrams leading the orchestra in the Atlanta premiere of a new work that the ASO co-commissioned by Valerie Coleman, *Renaissance: Concerto for Orchestra*, with a nod to the Harlem Renaissance. The "expressive and free-spirited" (*Bachtrack*) Clarinetist Martin Fröst makes his Atlanta debut by performing two concertos: Artie Shaw's jazz-inspired Clarinet Concerto and Copland's Clarinet Concerto. Rounding out this Valentines' Day program is the romantic Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*.

Other new American works include the world premiere of an ASO commissioned work by jazz-inspired Nicky Sohn (title to be determined) led by conductor Jerry Hou, a rising star on the contemporary music scene (**April 9/10**). Hou also leads Rachmaninoff's galloping Symphony No. 1 and features Grammy award-winning violinist Jennifer Koh in what's been called the "best concerto of the last 50 years" (ClassicFM.com), Philip Glass's Violin Concerto No. 1.

MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE ROBERT SPANO RETURNS

Esteemed Music Director Laureate Robert Spano returns to conduct a pair of Bernstein symphonies over a two-week residency as part of the America@250 celebration.

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With the first Bernstein Symphony, he will be joined by the incomparable Stephen Hough to perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1, which combines ferocious pianism with Hollywood lyricism. The concert **(Apr. 30/May 2)** opens with a recent work from American composer Christopher Theofanidis, *On the Bridge of the Eternal*.

Spano presents the "fearless" piano virtuoso Conrad Tao in Bernstein's plaintive Second Symphony "The Age of Anxiety," inspired by W.H. Auden's Pulitzer Prize-winning poem. Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Principal Violist Zhenwei Shi steps into the spotlight for Berlioz's picturesque *Harold in Italy*. **(May 7/9)**

KANTOROW IN RECITAL

New this year, pianist Alexandre Kantorow will perform a recital **(Apr. 19)**. Kantorow was seen by millions worldwide in an emotional performance at the 2024 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Paris. This will be the Atlanta debut of this "Fire-breathing virtuoso with a poetic charm" (*Gramophone*). Winner of the 2024 Gilmore Artist Awards, Alexandre Kantorow stunned the Tchaikovsky Competition with his coveted Gold medal and Grand Prix wins. *Fanfare* magazine calls him "Liszt reincarnated." Experience the unrivaled artistry of this dazzling young player in a program of Bach, Liszt, Beethoven, and more.

THE FOUR SEASONS SPECIAL PERFORMANCE RETURNS

After two sell-out years, ASO Concertmaster David Coucheron will be back center stage to both play and lead Vivaldi's masterpiece, *The Four Seasons* **(Jan. 4/6)**. It's perfectly paired with the fierce and driving Symphony No. 25 by the 17-year-old Mozart.

WORLD-CLASS GUEST ARTISTS AND EXCITING DEBUTS

There are some particularly interesting and exciting programs coming to Symphony Hall this coming year that feature new artists and new works.

The first on the calendar **(Oct. 23/25)** features a Diwali program, which is the Indian Festival of Lights. Vinay Parameswaran conducts the ASO for the first time in *Lumina* by Nina Shekar followed by *The Voice of Nature* (Concerto for Hindustani violin) by Reena Esmail and Kala Ramnath. Celestial points of light then come into focus when the ASO takes off with Holst's planetary romp, *The Planets*.

British maestro Nicholas Collon, chief conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony, makes his Atlanta Symphony Orchestra debut, along with the young cello firebrand Kian Soltani **(Feb. 26/28)**. Soltani's superhuman artistry will be on display as he tackles Lutosławski's blisteringly virtuosic Cello Concerto. The concert opens with the ASO debut of Outi Tarkiainen's mystical symphonic poem *The Ring of Fire and Love* and closes with Jean Sibelius's alluring Symphony No. 5.

Guest conductor Kevin John Edusei leads the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the first time **(Mar. 19/21)** in the heel-kicking Hungarian folk suite *Dances of Galánta* and one of the best-loved works ever:

Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. In between, violin soloist Isabelle Faust takes the Atlanta Symphony Hall stage for the first time to perform the elegiac Violin Concerto No. 2 by Bela Bartók. "Always the sound of [Isabelle Faust's] violin floats with a smile through the music." (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*)

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Acclaimed Swiss conductor Philippe Jordan makes his ASO debut in Berlioz's breathless *Roman Carnival* Overture and the hyperreal *Symphonie fantastique* (**Apr. 16/18**). The "strikingly brilliant," award-winning piano ace Bertrand Chamayou adds panache with Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5.

Five-time GRAMMY Award-winning Nicaraguan conductor Giancarlo Guerrero makes his Atlanta Symphony Orchestra debut in a south-of-the-border program (**Apr. 23/25**), including the tango-infused *Sinfonía Buenos Aires*. The renowned Venezuelan soloist Pacho Flores debuts with Mexico's rich trumpet-playing tradition with a piece written by him and one written for him by Arturo Márquez.

TICKETS: Subscriptions go on sale March 26 at noon. Details are available at aso.org. A full chronological listing with programming and artists can be found below.

2025/2026 Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Season

*ASO debut

Friday, September 19, 2025, 8pm

Gemma New, conductor

Lang Lang, piano

MOZART: *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (Serenade No. 13 for Strings)

MOZART: Symphony No. 35, "Haffner"

BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"

Friday, October 3, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

COPLAND: *Fanfare for the Common Man*

ELGAR: Cello Concerto

STRAUSS: *Ein Heldenleben*

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Pavel Kolesnikov, piano*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus

BACH: Cantata BWV 150

GRIEG: Piano Concerto

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4

Thursday, October 23, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 8pm

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor*

Kala Ramnath, Hindustani violin*

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus Women

NINA SHEKHAR: *Lumina*

REENA ESMAIL/KALA RAMNATH: *The Voice of Nature* (Concerto for Hindustani violin)

HOLST: *The Planets*

FAMILY CONCERT: Halloween at Hogwarts + ASO

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 1:30 & 3pm

William R. Langley, conductor

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Francesco Piemontesi, piano*

BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 1

SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 8

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 8pm

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 3pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

David Coucheron, violin

Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, oboe

Christina Nilsson, soprano

Rhianna Cockrell, mezzo-soprano

Siyabonga Maqungo, tenor*

Leon Košavić, baritone

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus

BACH Concerto for Oboe and Violin BWV 1060

BACH Cantata BWV 56

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 9, "Choral"

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 8pm

Friday, November 21, 2025, 8pm

Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor

Hélène Grimaud, piano

BRAHMS: Piano Concerto No. 1

SCHUMANN: Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 8pm

Pietari Inkinen, conductor

Sergey Khachatryan, violin*

SIBELIUS: *Finlandia*

KHACHATURIAN: Violin Concerto

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 2

FAMILY CONCERT: Deck the Halls

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 1:30 & 3pm

William R. Langley, conductor

Christmas with the ASO

Thursday, December 11, 2025, 8pm

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 3pm
Saturday, December 13, 2025, 8pm
Sunday, December 14, 2025, 3pm
Norman Mackenzie, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Morehouse College Glee Club, David Morrow, conductor

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 8pm
Friday, December 19, 2025, 8pm
Norman Mackenzie, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus
HANDEL: *Messiah (part I)*

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 3pm
Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 8pm
David Coucheron, director and violin
MOZART: Symphony No. 25
VIVALDI: *The Four Seasons*

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 8pm
Friday, January 16, 2026, 8pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chamber Chorus
SCHUBERT: Ballet No. 2 from *Rosamunde*
SCHUBERT: Mass No. 2 in G major
SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 9, "The Great"

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, January 24, 2026, 8pm
David Danzmayr, conductor
Yeol Eum Son, piano
ELLINGTON: *The Three Black Kings*
SHOSTAKOVICH: Piano Concerto No. 2
ELGAR: *Enigma Variations*

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, January 31, 2026, 8pm
Leonard Slatkin, conductor
Randall Goosby, violin
LEONARD SLATKIN: *Schubertiade: An Orchestral Fantasy (American Premiere)*
BARBER: Violin Concerto
COPLAND: Symphony No. 3

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, February 14, 2026, 8pm
Teddy Abrams, conductor*
Martin Fröst, clarinet*
A. SHAW: Clarinet Concerto
VALERIE COLEMAN: *Renaissance: Concerto for Orchestra*

COPLAND: Clarinet Concerto
BERNSTEIN: Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, February 21, 2026, 8pm
Liubov Nosova, conductor*
Sergei Babayan, piano*
ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: *En otra noche, en otro mundo*
RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 4
ZEMLINSKY: *The Little Mermaid*

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, February 28, 2026, 8pm
Nicholas Collon, conductor*
Kian Soltani, cello*
OUTI TARKIAINEN: *The Ring of Fire and Love*
LUTOSŁAWSKI: Cello Concerto
SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 5

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, March 7, 2026, 8pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Leif Ove Andsnes, piano*
BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 3
BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 6

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, March 14, 2026, 8pm
Sunday, March 15, 2026, 3pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Camilla Tilling, soprano
Fleur Barron, mezzo-soprano
Lunga Eric Hallam, tenor
Krešimir Stražanac, baritone*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
BACH: Mass in B minor

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, March 21, 2026, 8pm
Kevin John Edusei, conductor*
Isabelle Faust, violin*
KODÁLY: *Dances of Galánta*
BARTÓK: Violin Concerto No. 2
MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

FAMILY CONCERT: Mo Willems' *Because*
Sunday, March 22, 2026, 1:30 & 3pm
William R. Langley, conductor

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 8pm
Friday, April 10, 2026, 8pm
Jerry Hou, conductor
Jennifer Koh, violin
NICKY SOHN: New work (world premiere)
PHILIP GLASS: Violin Concerto No. 1
RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 1

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, April 18, 2026, 8pm
Philippe Jordan, conductor*
Bertrand Chamayou, piano
BERLIOZ: *Roman Carnival Overture*
SAINT-SAËNS: Concerto No. 5, "Egyptian"
BERLIOZ: *Symphonie fantastique*

RECITAL

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 3pm
Alexandre Kantorow, piano
BACH/LISZT: *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen*
MEDTNER: Piano Sonata in F minor
BEETHOVEN/LISZT: Symphony No. 6, "Pastorale"

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, April 25, 2026, 8pm
Giancarlo Guerrero, conductor*
Pacho Flores, trumpet*
ROBERTO SIERRA: *Fandangos*
PACHO FLORES: *Morocota*
ARTURO MÁRQUEZ: *Concierto de Otoño*
REVUELTAS: *Sensemaya*
PIAZZOLA: *Sinfonía Buenos Aires*

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8pm
Robert Spano, conductor
Stephen Hough, piano
Kelley O'Connor, soprano
CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS: *On the Bridge of the Eternal*
BERNSTEIN: Symphony No. 1, "Jeremiah"
RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 1

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, May 9, 2026, 8pm
Robert Spano, conductor
Zhenwei Shi, viola
Conrad Tao, piano

BERLIOZ: *Harold in Italy*
BERNSTEIN: Symphony No. 2, "The Age of Anxiety"

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 8pm
Friday, May 15, 2026, 8pm
Jörg Widmann, conductor*
Alina Ibragimova, violin*
WIDMANN: *Con brio*
MOZART: Violin Concerto No. 5, "Turkish"
MOZART: Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, May 30, 2026, 8pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Daniel Lozakovich, violin
TCHAIKOVSKY: Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 8pm
Saturday, June 6, 2026, 8pm
Sunday, June 7, 2026, 3pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, conductor
Talise Trevigne, soprano
Rihab Chaieb, mezzo-soprano*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus
MAHLER: Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs just celebrated anniversaries: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrated 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turned 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Invesco QQQ Movies in Concert series, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday Series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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