



COLUMBUS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
EST. 1855
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

2025-2026 SEASON

TCHAIKOVSKY & DVORAK

Saturday, September 20 2025





AFLAC IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



For more information about Aflac, visit aflac.com.

Aflac herein means American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus and/or American Family Life Assurance Company of New York. Worldwide Headquarters | 1932 Wynnton Road | Columbus, Georgia 31999

TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 5 A Note from the Conductor
- 7 About the Concertmaster
- 9 Concert Tips
- 11 CSO Officers, Board, & Staff
- 13 Orchestra Personnel
- 16 Concert Pages
- 19 Program Notes
- 23 Glossary of Musical Terms
- 25 How to Support
- 27 Donors & Sponsors
- 34 Hotel Partners
- 36 Education Programs

Follow Us!



columbussyphonyorchestra



csoga



COLUMBUS SYMPHONY INFORMATION

Venue: RiverCenter for the Performing Arts | 900 Broadway, Columbus GA

Ticket Sales: RiverCenter Box Office, Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

RiverCenter Box Office: 706.256.3612 | **CSO Office:** 706.323.5059

Mailing Address: PO Box 1499, Columbus GA 31902-1499



RSVP to SPONTANEITY.

You're invited to live at Spring Harbor — the area's only community with a full continuum of care. Just bring yourself.



Call us today at **706-523-9169** to schedule your tour.

100 Spring Harbor Drive,
Columbus, GA 31904



SpringHarborSeniorLiving.org

The future is what we make it



Prepare today. Achieve tomorrow. With the right foundation, the future may be brighter than you think.

Look to your CPA for guidance — sound financial principles today will create a more secure tomorrow.

Our firm is built on lasting values . . .

Honesty. Independence. Trust.

RG ROBINSON, GRIMES & COMPANY, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

5637 Whitesville Rd./P.O. Box 4299

Columbus, Georgia 31914

(706) 324-5435 • Fax: (706) 324-1209

E-mail: info@robinsongrimes.com

www.robinsongrimes.com

Robinson, Grimes & Company, P.C., is a member of CPANet International — a national network of independent mid-sized firms dedicated to their local communities.

A NOTE FROM THE CONDUCTOR

Greetings, and welcome to this performance by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

Let me ask you a question: Why are you here?

There are many answers to this question, some better than others. (I love music. Good. I was trapped into it by my significant other. Not quite as good, but okay.)

Here are some reasons why we respond to music and, therefore, seek to hear it:

1. Listening to music releases “pleasure chemicals” like dopamine, among others, into a key part of our brain’s reward system. (Why go on? Okay, we will.)
2. Music transcends walls and boundaries with its universal language.
3. Music can help reduce anxiety and depression.
4. Music allows you to experience the full range of human emotions.
5. Music can lighten the mood.
6. Music can stave off fatigue and improve our response to pain.
7. Music can bring back memories.
8. All that and much, much more.

Whatever the reason for your presence at this concert, we are most happy to see you, to play for you, and to help make live orchestral music a meaningful part of your life. Come back soon.

George Del Gobbo,
Music Director & Conductor



Young George was always interested in music. From his earliest years he preferred musical toys. This proclivity remained undefined until the seventh grade when he decided he wanted to play the violin in the school orchestra. This turn down the dark path was sealed when he began studying the violin privately. It was a short step from there to the decision to make music his life, and his fate was sealed when he made the irrevocable choice to become an orchestra conductor. He was fortunate to attend the Eastman School of Music for five years on a four-year scholarship. (To date no statues of him have been erected outside that school.) From there it was on to a stint with the U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C and simultaneously the graduate school at Catholic University. After leaving the army , it was on to Rome, Italy and the tutelage of Maestro Franco Ferrara at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. After a dozen years working with the Fort Worth Symphony and Ballet, he came to Columbus and discovered the orchestra, the people, and the city that would enrich his life forever.



**YOUR TICKET
TO INSPIRATION**

RiverCenter FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

THE 2025 2026 SEASON

**THREE
DOG
NIGHT**



**PRAGUE
PHIL**

DRUMLINE LIVE



Riverdance
30
YEARS OF CELEBRATION



THE BOOK OF
MORMON



ABOUT THE CONCERTMASTER



Kerren Berz's talents span the musical spectrum. She has performed, recorded, and toured with the Atlanta Symphony, the Harlem Festival Orchestra, and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, whose "music without boundaries" mission produced critically acclaimed performances and recordings of music by Aaron Copland, Conni Ellisor, and John Jorgenson. She performs regularly with the Georgia Symphony, Atlanta Pops, the Pullman Pops, and orchestras in Chattanooga, LaGrange, and throughout the southeast.

Her ensemble Sonic Essence regularly performs multi genre music and interactive performances for concert series and corporate events. Other performances include a national tour with Amy Grant and Vince Gill, and shows with Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, The Eagles, Earth Wind and Fire, and many other iconic artists.

As a music arranger and performer, Kerren Berz has worked with Kristian Bush (Sugarland), and is featured on albums by Outkast, Goodie Mob, Pink, Sinéad O'Connor, and on the hit single "Survivor," by Destiny's Child. Ms. Berz is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and has served on nominating committees in the Classical categories for the annual Grammy Awards.

She has degrees from Florida State University, where she studied with Eliot Chapo, and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, with additional studies at Boston University and with Israeli violinist Yair Kless. She credits her public school music program with giving her the opportunity to play the violin.

As a music educator, Ms. Berz has worked with the Columbus Urban League, TORCH Academy, the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, and strings students throughout the Atlanta area. She is currently on faculty at Georgia Perimeter College, The Atlanta Music Project, and The Lovett School.

I WANT MY GPB CLASSICAL

Stream Now at gpb.org/classical
(click the Listen Live - GPB Classical link)

Also Available in these markets

WMUM	Macon	89.7 HD2	WSVH	Savannah	91.1 HD2
WACG	Augusta	90.7 HD2	WJSP	Columbus	88.1 HD2
	WUNV	Albany	91.7 HD2		



CONCERT TIPS

Accessible Seating: Seating for those in wheelchairs is available. Please state your specific need when arriving to the venue.

Ushers are available to take your tickets, provide you with a program, and direct you to and from your seat.

Restrooms are located in the RiverCenter lobby. Ushers can help direct you to the closest restroom.

Smoking and vaping are not allowed inside the building.

Lost and Found: If you lose an item in the theatre, please notify an usher. Items may be turned in to the RiverCenter Security.

Arrive Early: Although there are occasions when arriving later is considered stylish, a concert isn't one of them. Once the music has begun, latecomers will be asked to remain in the lobby until the first performance break.

Phones: Flash photography and noise disturbances are strictly prohibited. We love engaging with our audience on social media so feel free to check-in on Facebook and take selfies and photos PRIOR to the performance. Before the concert starts, be sure to silence your phone and turn down those brightness settings.

Quiet Company: Unless the concert is deemed a "sing-a-long", you will want to leave the music making to the ensemble... even if you really do know the whole first movement of Beethoven's Seventh. The people around you probably know it too and would rather hear the orchestra's rendition. Silence all cell phones, alarms, or other audible devices before the concert begins.

Applause: Don't know when to clap and cheer? We can make it easy! In classical music concerts, applause is usually held until the conductor faces the audience. Some pieces contain several movements and there will be a brief applause-less pause between them. If you ever feel the overwhelming need to clap and cheer between movements... the orchestra won't mind the appreciation!

Enjoy Each Note: You may simply want to avoid the crowd by leaving five minutes early, but the musicians may mistake that as a sign of disapproval. Sit back, relax, and enjoy every last note!



RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, a 501c3 not-for-profit entity, proudly supports the Columbus Symphony Orchestra as a resident company through generous in-kind donations which include rent-free office and meeting space, reduced fees for use of performance spaces and related services and amenities for the benefit of the Orchestra. For information on renting the facility and how to support the work of RiverCenter, please call 706-256-3607 or visit www.rivercenter.org



Walter Calhoun

Broker Associate

Licensed in Georgia & Alabama
Residential and Commercial Sales

**FLOURNOY
&
CALHOUN**
REALTORS

OFFICE:
706-327-1990
CELL:
706-888-2216
EMAIL:
waltcal@msn.com

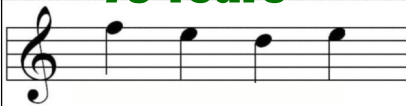


BRASFIELD & GORRIE

**We rise
together**

BRASFIELDGORRIE.COM

**Celebrating
70 Years**



**Fine Tuning
Kitchens!**

Your Hometown Advantage

Daniel

A P P L I A N C E

Since 1954



AUTOMATED
BUSINESS MACHINES, INC.

A proud sponsor of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

Mike Mayhew
(706) 561-0075



Lexmark™

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2024-2025 OFFICERS, BOARD, & STAFF

BOARD OFFICERS

Dr. Bonnie Ellis, President
Ron Seay, Vice President
Mary Jo Pugh, Secretary
Steve Sawyer, Treasurer
Mike Morrill, Assistant Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. Cynthia Wolfe - Development
Steve Sawyer - Finance
Virginia McCullough - Governance

Jodi Chokkar
Rick Hojan
Desonuia Johnson-Wise
Arreasha Z. Lawrence
Virginia McCullough
Jimmy Motos
Kathleen Mullins

Muffy Schladensky
Dr. Cynthia Wolfe
Pat Daniel*
Nina Elmore*
Hon. Seth Harp*
Linda Patton*

*Directors Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor
Kern Wadkins, Executive Director
Heather Grover, Finance Director
Thomas Trinh, Operations Director & Education Coordinator
Raquel Hernandez, Marketing Manager





CEDAR HILL
CPAS AND ADVISORS

**A MODERN APPROACH TO
TRADITIONAL VALUES**

3155 US Hwy 27, Suite B
Cataula, GA 31804

706.576.5729
cedarhillcpas.com



PLAN FOR...

Peace of Mind

Every financial plan starts with a goal, **what's yours?**

Our **independent, fee-only** firm's goal is to help you enjoy your retirement.

Our **fiduciary level of care** allows us to always act in your best interest.

Call us today for a free consultation with no obligation.



TOWNSEND
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

*Providing Comprehensive Financial Planning
and Investment Management Services*

6867 Mountainbrook Drive, Suite 102 Columbus, GA 31904
(706) 221-8200 www.townsendwm.com

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor

The Dr. & Mrs. Steven Leichter Chair

VIOLIN

Kerren Berz, Concertmaster

The Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ussery Chair

Sam Vaillancourt, Principal Second Violin

The Dr. & Mrs. Ken Goldman Chair

Patricia Anderson

The Mrs. Thomas B. Black Chair

Jace Elliott

The Dr. & Mrs. Brian McCluskey Chair

Holly Bryan

The Rebekah Crawford Chair

Barbara Careaga-Mitchell

The Dr. Cynthia Wolfe Chair

Ruth Conry

Caitlyn Dillard

Maria Chirinos

The Mr. John & Dr. Kayron Laska Chair

David Edwards

The Del Gobbo Family Chair

Elizabeth Ehrlich-White

Chen Wei Han

Lyu Lian

Brinson Moore

The Dr. & Mrs. Pravinchandra Patel Chair

Emma Markel

The Mr. & Mrs. John C. Martin II Chair

Sylvia Mwila

The Walter Alan Richards Foundation Chair

Gabriel Parker

Megan Lineberry Sahely

Sam Vaillancourt

The Mr. & Mrs. William G. Scrantom Jr. Chair

Marina Volynets

The Helen J. Hobbs Chair

Perry Westmoreland

Isaac Willocks

Elizabeth Hostetter

The Dr. Thornton F. Jordan Chair

Anton Jakovic

The Mrs. Gail B. Greenblatt Chair

Bryan Johnson

Katrin Meidell

The Ms. Rose Steiner Chair

Saskia Nag-Chowdhuri

The Dr. Mary W. Schley Endowed Chair

Lenin Peña

The Mr. & Mrs. B. Seth Harp Jr. Endowed Chair

CELLO

Moisés Molina, Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Kendall Handy Chair

Ismail Akbar

Sun Han*

The Mrs. Richard Hallock Chair

Natalia Isabel

Jihoon Kim

David Lescalleet

Aria Posner

Cynthia Sulko

The Mrs. Charles W. Burgin Chair

DOUBLE BASS

Jacqueline Pickett, Principal

Adam Bernstein

The Hardaway Foundation Chair

Emory Clements

Eion Lyons*

The Marjorie & Jerry Newman Chair

Vadim Volynets

Leonardo Lourenco Lopes

VIOLA

Josiah Coe, Associate Principal

Miriam Barfield Tellechea

The Mrs. Barbara C. Swift Chair



Musicians employed in this production are represented by the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

The CSO uses the revolving seating method for section string players who are listed alphabetically in the roster.

FLUTE

Jim Zellers, Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Edward B. Kinner Chair

Erica Bass Pirtle, Flute & Piccolo

The Dr. Catalina Aranas Chair

Jessica Petrasek, Flute & Piccolo

The Mr. & Mrs. John W. Walden, Jr. Chair

OBOE

Erica Howard, Principal

The Jack & JoRhee Pezold Chair

Barbara Cook

The Mrs. Pamela Harmann Page &

Dr. Edwin L. Page Chair

CLARINET

David Odom, Principal

The Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Ramsay, Jr. Chair

Sandra Wade

The Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander Chair

Staci Culbreth

BASSOON

Sara Fruehe, Principal

John Grove, Bassoon & Contrabassoon

The Cindy & Spencer Garrard Chair

Mark Lauer

The John & Sandra Thomas Chair

HORN

Adam Pandolfi, Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Patton Chair

Camron Bryant

Jason Eklund

The Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Chair

Julia Gerhardt

Ryan Dresen, Assistant

The Schiffman Family Foundation Chair

TRUMPET

Kevin Lyons, Principal

The Mr. Steve Sawyer Chair

Tao Ge

The Ms. Laura Grover Chair

Ryan Moser

TROMBONE

Ed Nicholson, Principal

The J.W. & Ethel I. Woodruff Foundation Chair

William Mann

Richard Brady

The Mrs. Babette Rothschild Chair

TUBA

Donald Strand, Principal

The Jimmy & Barbara Motos Chair

TIMPANI

John Lawless, Acting Principal

The Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Feighner Jr. Chair

PERCUSSION

Courtney Bottoms, Principal

The Dr. Eva Sperk Chair

Karen Hunt

The Eleanor T. and Otis Burnham

Endowed Chair

Lisa Morris

The Mrs. T. Sam Rawls, Jr. Chair

HARP

Susan Bennett Brady, Principal

The Foley Family Endowed Chair

KEYBOARD

Tatiana Muzanova, Principal

The Mr. & Mrs. Ray Crowley Endowed Chair

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Patricia Cobos, Concertmaster

Betty Anne Diaz, Principal Keyboard

Manuel Diaz, Principal Viola

Monique Gunnels, Flute

James Taylor, Principal Trumpet

Ronald Wirt, Principal Bassoon

*Temporary Leave of Absence

** First Baptist Church



THE LOCALS

REAL ESTATE GROUP

your home, right here.

www.thelocalpros.com



THE LOCALS
REAL ESTATE GROUP



COLDWELL BANKER
KENNON, PARKER,
DUNCAN & DAVIS

thelocals@kpdd.com • 5670 WHITESVILLE ROAD • COLUMBUS, GEORGIA • 706.256.4414

TCHAIKOVSKY & DVOŘÁK

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor
The Dr. & Mrs. Steven Leichter Chair

Saturday, September 20 2025 | 7:30PM

PROGRAM

Johannes Brahms

Tragic Overture, Op. 81

Antonín Dvořák

Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

I. Allegro ma non troppo

II. Adagio ma non troppo

III. Finale: Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo

Bella Hristova, violin

-Intermission-

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74

I. Adagio - Allegro non troppo

II. Allegro con grazia

III. Allegro molto vivace

IV. Adagio lamentoso

CONCERT SPONSORS:



Please silence all cellphones and noise making devices.
Unauthorized cameras and recording devices are not permitted.

In tune with your potential.

Synovus is proud to support the
Columbus Symphony Orchestra.



SYNOVUS[®]
get there

Start your journey at
synovus.com.

Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.



Bella Hristova, violin

Bulgarian-American violinist Bella Hristova has won international acclaim for her “expressive nuance and rich tone” (New York Times) and “impressive power and control” (Washington Post). She has distinguished herself on the world stage as a performing artist with a remarkably diverse repertoire and a bold approach to programming. A recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, she has won numerous awards, including First Prize in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition and is a Laureate of the International Violin Competition of

Indianapolis. Hristova has performed extensively as a soloist with orchestras around the US, including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, and the Hawaii, Kansas City, and Milwaukee Symphonies, as well as orchestras in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and New Zealand. Highlights of the 2025-26 season include a return to Carnegie Hall performing Dvorak’s Violin Concerto with the New York String Orchestra, conducted by Jaime Laredo; debuts with the Shenzhen and Wuxi Symphony Orchestras, and the completion of her Lineage commissioning project. In addition to her many appearances with orchestras, Hristova frequently performs with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and has held residencies at top conservatories and summer music festival programs as a recitalist. She has performed recitals at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and Boston’s Isabella Gardner Museum.

A champion of music by living composers, her commissioning project Lineage showcases six new solo violin works by Dai Wei, Gloria Kravchenko, Nokuthula Ngwenyama, Eunike Tanzil, Joan Tower, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. In 2015, Hristova was the featured soloist of a concerto commissioned by a consortium of eight orchestras, written by her husband, acclaimed composer David Serkin Ludwig.

As a recording artist, Hristova has released a variety of albums reflecting her broad musical interests. Bella Unaccompanied, an album released on Tonegold Records, features works by John Corigliano, Kevin Puts, Astor Piazzolla, Nathan Milstein, and J.S. Bach. Her Naxos debut album features the solo violin works of Belgian composer Charles de Bériot. Following multiple tours of New Zealand with renowned pianist Michael Hustoun, she and Hustoun have recorded the complete Beethoven Sonatas, the complete Brahms Sonatas, and an album of French sonatas by Ravel, Poulenc, and Fauré. Most recently, Hristova recorded Ludwig’s violin concerto with JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hristova began violin studies at the age of six in her native Bulgaria. After gaining accolades following master classes in Salzburg with Ruggiero Ricci, she studied with Ida Kavafian at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and received her Artist Diploma with Jaime Laredo at Indiana University. Hristova plays a 1655 Nicolò Amati violin, once owned by the violinist Louis Krasner and started her career with Young Concert Artists. She lives in New York City with her husband, David, and their four beloved (but poorly behaved) cats.

PROGRAM NOTES

Tragic Overture Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Premiered on December 26, 1880 by the Vienna Philharmonic with conductor Hans Richter

Johannes Brahms was one of the towering figures of nineteenth-century music and often regarded as the natural heir to Beethoven. Born in Hamburg and later based in Vienna, Brahms built his reputation as a master of both the intimate lyricism of lieder and chamber music as well as the grandeur of symphonic and choral works. His style combined a deep respect for Classical forms with a Romantic sensibility, balancing structural rigor with expressive intensity. Over the course of his career, he composed four symphonies, concertos for piano and violin, major choral works such as A German Requiem, and a wealth of chamber and solo piano music that remain central to the repertoire.

The Tragic Overture, Op. 81, was composed in the summer of 1880, during a period when Brahms was also working on the contrastingly buoyant Academic Festival Overture. Where the latter is celebratory and humorous, the Tragic Overture conveys seriousness and drama, its very title reflecting the darker side of Brahms' artistic temperament. Unlike some of his works, the piece was not written for a specific occasion but rather as an abstract exploration of mood and form. The overture was first performed in December 1880 in Vienna under the baton of Hans Richter.

The overture's stern opening, with its bold chords, sets a somber tone that continues through intense and stormy themes. The turbulence calms as the oboe offers a haunting solo and a ray of hope suddenly emerges in a stirring, rich melody in the violins. The mood, however, turns tragic once again as the piece gains rhythmic and dynamic motion. A contrasting middle section offers a new dotted sixteenth-note figure, followed by the return of earlier themes. The overture closes with a forceful conclusion that reinforces its serious character, showing Brahms's ability to shape a large orchestral canvas with clarity and power.

Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Premiered on October 14, 1883 in Prague with soloist František Ondříček

Antonín Dvořák was a Czech composer whose music combined Romantic lyricism with the folk traditions of his native Bohemia. Rising from humble beginnings as the son of a butcher, he supported himself early on by playing viola in the orchestra of the Provisional Theatre in Prague under Bedřich Smetana—also occasionally performing on organ and piano—before quickly establishing himself as a leading voice of the late 19th century. His career blossomed internationally, bringing him to London, where

his works enjoyed enormous popularity, and later to the United States, where he served as director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York. Dvořák's compositions range widely across genres—symphonies, concertos, chamber

music, operas, and sacred works—all characterized by memorable melodies, rhythmic vitality, and his distinctive national style.

The Violin Concerto in A minor was composed in 1879 and dedicated to the great Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim, a close friend and champion of Brahms. While Joachim admired the concerto's substance, he requested revisions to make the violin writing more idiomatic. Ultimately, Joachim never performed the concerto publicly, though Dvořák revised it several times to improve its playability. The premiere finally took place in Prague in 1883 with violinist František Ondříček as soloist, and since then the work has become a beloved staple of the violin repertoire, admired for its mixture of virtuosity and deeply lyrical Bohemian character.

The first movement begins with an orchestral introduction of striking urgency, immediately setting a dramatic tone. The violin joins in quickly with the same fiery energy continuing in a spirited dialogue with the orchestra. Passionate and energetic moments are interspersed with lyrical moments of beauty, often infused with Dvořák's folk-inspired rhythms and melodic contours. At the conclusion, the music undergoes a complete change of character, settling into a rich, low melodic passage that gently leads directly into the next movement.

The second movement offers a profound contrast, unfolding in a lyrical meditation as the violin sings long, arching lines over a gentle orchestral backdrop. Within this calm surface, there are moments of virtuosic embellishment or sudden, fiery interruptions, yet the music always returns to its lyrical flow. The wide register of the violin is put on full display from the richness of its lower strings to the delightful sweetness of the higher range.

The third movement is bursting with rhythmic vitality, unmistakably shaped by Dvořák's affinity for Bohemian and Slavic dance forms. Its buoyant spirit recalls the furiant and skočná, with playful syncopations and lively exchanges between the violin and orchestra. The soloist is kept in nearly constant motion, displaying dazzling virtuosity without losing the sense of rustic joy that animates the music. The concerto closes with exuberance, leaving audiences with an impression of both technical brilliance and Dvořák's gift for infusing classical forms with folk-inspired spirit.

Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, Op. 74 "Pathétique"

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Premiered on October 28, 1893 in St. Petersburg with conductor Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was one of the most celebrated composers of the

Romantic era, renowned for his gift for melody, emotional immediacy, and orchestral color. Born in Votkinsk, Russia, he studied at the newly founded St. Petersburg Conservatory before embarking on a career that would make him the most internationally recognized Russian composer of his generation. His works include operas, ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*, six symphonies, concertos, chamber music, and sacred works. While his music

is beloved for its passion and accessibility, Tchaikovsky often wrestled with personal doubts and inner turmoil, which infused his compositions with a unique blend of sensitivity and intensity.

The Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74—subtitled the “*Pathétique*”—was composed in 1893 and represents the culmination of Tchaikovsky’s symphonic output. Tchaikovsky wrote, “I have never felt such self-satisfaction, such pride, such happiness as in the consciousness that I am really the creator of this beautiful work.” The premiere took place in St. Petersburg on October 28, 1893, with the composer conducting. Tragically, Tchaikovsky died just nine days later, and

the symphony soon came to be seen as his musical farewell, a requiem-like testament that has remained one of the most moving works in the orchestral repertoire.

The first movement opens with a hushed, somber bassoon melody, setting a mood of melancholy and tension. From this subdued opening emerges a turbulent journey filled with surging passion and dramatic contrasts. The lyrical second theme, one of Tchaikovsky’s most heartfelt melodies, provides a fleeting sense of consolation before being overtaken by storms of orchestral intensity. In the closing bars, the energy dissipates into a hushed whisper, offering a moment of calm after the movement’s sweeping drama.

The second movement offers a striking contrast, unfolding with graceful, lilting charm. Its waltz-like quality is subtly unsettled by an unusual 5/4 time signature, which gives the music a gentle sway that feels both elegant and slightly off-balance. In the middle section, however, a darker, more brooding mood emerges, echoing the tragic and emotional turmoil of the previous movement before returning to the original graceful waltz.

The third movement bursts forth with energy and drive, beginning with rapid, scurrying figures that build toward a triumphant march. The obvious rhythmic vitality and orchestral brilliance create an exhilarating sense of momentum, leading many listeners to mistake this movement for a finale. Although the ending concludes with thunderous affirmation, this celebratory climax is intentionally deceptive, setting the stage for the emotional weight of the following movement.

The fourth movement returns to a somber realm, unfolding like a slow, mournful lament. The strings sing with poignant intensity, their descending

lines blending sadness with aching beauty. Unlike the grand conclusions of many Romantic symphonies, Tchaikovsky ends with a fading heartbeat, as the music sinks into silence rather than triumph. The effect is profoundly moving, leaving the audience with a sense of vulnerability and mortality that has made the “Pathétique” one of the most emotionally powerful symphonies ever written.

Program Notes Compiled and Written by Leah Eckstrom



GLOSSARY OF MUSICAL TERMS

Cadenza (It. Cadenza): an improvised or written-out decorative passage performed by a soloist, with accompaniment, usually near the end of a concerto movement.

Concerto (fr. Lat. Concertare, to contend): a composition for featured instrument(s) and orchestra often cast in three movements marked fast-slow-fast. The contrast in sound between the soloist(s) and the large ensemble is the principal characteristic of the genre.

Concerto grosso (It. large concerto): a type of concerto common to the Baroque era in which a small group of solo instruments (concertino) is contrasted to the large ensemble (ripieno)

Finale (Lat. Finalis, to end): the name sometimes given to the last movement of a longer composition.

Minuet: a stately court dance in three-four time which is often used as the third movement of the classical symphony. It was replaced in the nineteenth century by the scherzo and other dance-like movements.

Movement: an independent section of a larger work, usually separated by a brief pause.

Opus (Lat. Opus, work): a number assigned to a musical composition either by the composer or by the work's publisher (abbreviated as Op.)

Orchestra: the generic name for an ensemble of diverse instruments. The modern orchestra includes instruments from the four major groups: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Rondo: a musical form in which a theme recurs three or more times with each occurrence separated by a contrasting episode.

Scherzo (It. Scherzo, joke): a fast moving piece, usually in triple meter. Scherzos became common with the symphonies of Beethoven and eventually replaced the Minuet.

Suite: a succession of related movements, often dance inspired, sometimes extracted from larger works.

Symphony (Gr. Symphonia, sounding together): an elaborate musical composition for full orchestra, typically in four movements

Tempo: Many words are used to designate the speed and/or character of a piece of music. Here are some of the most commonly encountered terms for tempo and style modifiers:

Adagio: on the slow side

Allegretto: a fairly brisk tempo

Allegro: "lively," the most common indication for a fast tempo

Andante: "to walk or go," interpreted as moderately slow.

Andantino: a bit faster than Andante

Cantabile: in a singing fashion

con brio: with spirit and vivacity

con fuoco: with fire

con moto: with movement

Grave: more a style than speed, but often interpreted as slow and serious

Grazioso: graceful

Largo: broad or large, usually taken in a slow and dignified style

Lento: slow

Maestoso: majestically

meno: less

molto: much

mosso: moved

non troppo: not too much

piu: more

poco: little

Presto: very fast, sometimes modified as Prestissimo, meaning as fast as possible.

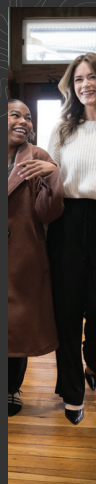
Scherzando: lightheartedly

Sostenuto: in a sustained manner

Vivace: "vivacious," a lively and brisk manner

MAKE YOUR CITY YOUR GETAWAY

A *staycation* not so far away from home, that helps you escape the routine and rewrite the rules of uninterrupted bliss.



COME FOR THE VIEWS
EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY



HOW TO SUPPORT THE CSO

Columbus Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)3 charitable organization supported by individual and community contributions. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Our tax ID number is 58-6046789.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Make a one-time donation in form of cash, check, or credit card
- Set up Recurring Monthly Contributions
- Honor and Memorial Gifts
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Pledge Gifts - Make a commitment now, pay later
- Program Advertising Opportunities
- Musician Chair Sponsorships
- Concert and Guest Artist Sponsorships
- Stock Gifts
- Donor Advised Funds
- Planned Giving and Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- IRAs and Qualified Retirement Plans
- Life Insurance Policies
- Appreciated Securities (bonds, stocks, or mutual funds)



[Click to Donate Now](#)

Call: 706-256-3640

MAIL: PO Box 1499, Columbus, GA 31902

GIVE USING YOUR IRA:

If you are taking required minimum distributions from an individual retirement account, you can disperse that withdrawal directly to a charity (up to a max of \$100,000 per individual a year). With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can't write off your gift but you also won't owe income taxes on the withdrawal. So in the 22 percent federal tax bracket, a \$10,000 QCD saves you \$2,200 in taxes.



FOR ALL YOUR EVENT RENTAL NEEDS

.....
We offer a complete line of event rental items and services, delivering nationwide. We have a complete suite of rental items including tables, chairs, linens, tabletop, utensils, glassware, tents, dance floors, staging and much more.

OUTDOOR
EVENTS



OutdoorEvents.com

706.221.1900

**Just like the
Symphony...**
**WE'VE GOT SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE!**



PMB
BROADCASTING, LLC
Real People. Real Radio.

Q107.3
TODAY'S BEST MUSIC

Kissin' 99.3
com

103.7/Litefm

98.3
BEAT

BOOMER 102.5

CLASSIC ROCK 105.5
fm

92.1
Smooth Rob

106.9 ROCKS
columbus' REAL rock station

HIP HOP 106.5

THE TRUTH 101.7

ANNUAL FUND DONORS & SPONSORS

Through April 2, 2025

PLATINUM BATON - \$10,000+

Aflac
Otis B. & Eleanor T. Burnham
Charitable Remainder Trust
Stephen T and Kent H Butler
Foundation
Columbus Consolidated
Government
Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance
Columbus Office of Crime
Prevention
Community Foundation of the
Chattahoochee Valley
The Crowley Family
Georgia Council for the Arts
Mildred Miller Fort Foundation
through The Fort Trustee Fund,
CFCV
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil M. Cheves
Mr. E. Warner Neal, Jr. through The
Fort Trustee Fund, CFCV
Mr. Stephen M. Sawyer
Steeplechase at Callaway
Synovus
J.W. and Ethel I. Woodruff
Foundation

GOLD BATON - \$5,000 - \$9,999

BMW of Columbus
Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. George Del Gobbo
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Leichter
The Locals - Coldwell Banker KPPD
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker, &
Ford, P.C.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Patton
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ramsay Jr.
Maxine R. and Jack S. Schiffman
Family Foundation
Dr. Eva Sperk
Triangle Wholesalers, LLC
WC Bradley Co.
Mr. William C. Woolfolk through The
Fort Trustee Fund, CFCV

SILVER BATON - \$2,500 - \$4,999

Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance
Ms. Betty L. Auten
Mrs. Rebekah Crawford

EMC Engineering Services
The Feighner Charitable Fund, CFCV
Georgia Power Company
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Kinner
Jimmy & Barbara Motos
Dr. & Mrs. Pravinchandra Patel
Schwab Charitable
Standard Concrete Products
Mrs. Barbara C Swift through the
CLIBOCA Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Feighner Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Robbins
Mr. Stephen M. Howard Walter Alan
Richards Foundation, Inc.

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander
Fred and Catalina Aranas Family
Foundation
Benchmark Mortgage
The Tom & Doris Black Family Fund,
CFCV
Brasfield & Gorie General
Contractors
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cheves
Mr. Timothy Crowley
Jodi Chhokar
Daniel Appliance Company
Mr. William and Dr. Bonnie Ellis
Four Seasons Lawn Care &
Landscape Management
Cindy and Spencer Garrard
Global Payments Direct, Inc.
Greystone Properties, LLC
Hardaway Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Ken Goldman
Mrs. Gail B. Greenblatt
Ms. Laura Grover
Mrs. Richard Hallock
Hardaway Foundation, Inc.
The Harmann Family - Pam and
Edwin Page Fund of the Greater
Cincinnati Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. B. Seth Harp Jr.
Mrs. Helen Jordan Hobbs through
The Jordan Foundation, Inc.
Hugheston Clinic
Nell Hudson
The Jackson-Burgin Foundation

Fund, CFCV
 Dr. Thornton Jordan
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Martin II
 Dr. & Mrs. Brian McCluskey
 Jimmy and Barbara Motos
 Pezold Family Foundation
 River City Door Company
 Robinson Grimes & Company, P.C.
 Mrs. Benno G. Rothschild
 Mr. & Mrs. John F. Schley
 Mr. & Mrs. William G. Scrantom Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Murray Solomon
 The Rose Hurt Steiner Fund, CFCV
 Mrs. Charles William Burgin
 Mrs. Nancy B. Stephens
 Mrs. T. Sam Rawls Jr.
 Stifel Nicolaus
 Savannah Distributing Co., Inc.
 John & Sandra Thomas
 Uptown Valet
 Mr. & Mrs. John W. Walden, Jr.
 Mr. L. Rexford Whiddon
 Dr. Cynthia Wolfe
 Yates LLC

BENEFACTOR \$500 - \$999

Automated Business Machines
 Cedar Hill CPA
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Adams
 Maria Luisa Aranas
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Converse
 Mrs. Nina Elmore
 Four Points Scholarship
 Ralph & Ann Howard
 Mrs. Stephen C. Hunter
 Insurance Office of America
 Dr. & Mrs. David Lewis
 Dr. Joseph H. Largeman, DDS
 RiverCenter for the Performing
 Arts -\$600
 Spring Harbor at Green Island
 Townsend Wealth Management
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Staples
 Mr. and Mrs. Travis Wade
 Ms. Marjorie A. Drury
 Mrs. Rebecca Crymes
 Mrs. Terry G. Whitaker
 Pavone Group, Inc.

PATRON \$250 - \$499

Walter Calhoun
 Columbus Botanical Gardens, Inc.
 Mrs. Robert T. Cavis, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Creek

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Cohn
 Richard Erickson & Brenda Pafford
 Suzanne Howard
 Barbara Korzan
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lane
 Dr. & Mrs. David Lewis
 Dr. David Odom
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Olson
 Mrs. Jerry M. Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. John Stafford
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stainsby
 Ms. Swift
 Dr. Thomas A. & Sherry F. Wade
 The Cecil & Terry Whitaker Family
 Fund, CFCV
 Ms. Katherine Woodruff Williams
 Overcomers Academy/Pleasant
 Valley Church
 Desonuia Wise

ORCHESTRA FRIEND

\$100 - \$249

Mr. and Mrs. Mote W. Andrews Jr
 Mrs. Sherida Brannan
 Dr. & Mrs. Frank D. Brown
 Jerry & Ruth Brown
 Scott & Alice Bryan
 Karen & Bainbridge Cowell
 Cyber Grants
 Aminta Flowers
 Mr. Robert L. Griffin
 Ms. Susan Gristina
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin M. Kelly
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hojan
 Charlyn Kerr
 Friends of CSO
 Almeda Medlin
 Kathleen Mullins
 Ms. Judith Nail
 Ms. Gwyn Newsom
 Richard & Teresa Philyaw
 Mrs. Robert Poydasheff
 Mr. Michael Morrill
 Rabbi Beth Schwartz
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Seay
 Mrs. & Mrs. Matthew Shreve
 Mr. & Mrs. James Sperry
 Ms. Linda Straub
 Mr. & Mrs. James Tjoflat
 Mr. Thomas Trinh
 Mrs. George C. Trussell
 Ms. Lois M. Tryon
 Barbara Waller
 Mr. William Woodruff

Youth Orchestra of Greater
Columbus

SUSTAINER UP TO \$99

Cheryl Buttler
Karen & Bainbridge Cowell
Tracy Harger
Mr. Tan Hoang
Sable McCaulley
Mrs. Lisa Morris
Music and Entertainment Council
Musicians of the CSO
Mr. and Mrs. Houser Pugh
Dr. Jacqueline Pickett
Dr. & Mrs. Hollis D. Sigman
Kathleen Smith
Ms. Susan Temple
Mary Jane Wadkins
PayPal Giving Fund

IN HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL

In Honor of Powell & Rita Brewton
Dr. & Mrs. Brian McCluskey

In Honor of Zada Feighner
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hadden
Pezold Family Foundation

In Honor of George Del Gobbo
Ms. Barbara Goorevitch Cook
Kathleen Mullins

In Honor of Lyman Grover
Ms. Laura Grover

In Honor of Heather Grover
Bradley Grover
Ms. Laura Grover
Page Grover
Katie Sarazine

In Honor of Jacquie Rawls
The Feighner Charitable Fund, CFCV

In Honor of Kern Wadkins
Mary Jane Wadkins

ANGEL MEMORIAL FUND

***In Memory of Barksdale Thomas
Boyd***
The Junto Reading Club

***In Memory of Ray & Evelyn
Crowley***
The Feighner Charitable Fund, CFCV

In Memory of Jack Dalton
Hugh Leal

***In Memory of Mrs. Tyla P. Dudley &
Dr. A. B. Dudley, Jr.***
Mr. Tan Hoang

In Memory of Nancy Hood
Almeda Medlin

***In Memory of Frederick Richard
Korzan, Frederick Richard Korzan,
Jr., and Thomas Olaf Korzan***
Barbara Korzan

In Memory of Mr. Dick McMichael
Jimmy & Barbara Motos

In Memory of Lousie Fuller Pinter
Andy Waddell

***In Memory of Hon. Robert
Poydasheff***
Mrs. Robert Poydasheff

In Memory of Sam Rawls
The Feighner Charitable Fund, CFCV

In Memory of Hugh Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Houser Pugh

In Memory of Bob Wadkins
Dr. Cynthia Wolfe
Outdoor Events
Mr. Thomas Orr

***In Memory of Genie Scott
Watson***
Mrs. Lisa Morris

In Memory of Lynn K. Whiddon
Mr. L. Rexford Whiddon



**RIVER CITY
DOOR COMPANY**

(706) 565-5305

www.rivercitydoors.com



YATES

Commercial & Personal Insurance, Benefits, & Bonds

**We've been confidently
protecting what you've built
since 1949.**



www.yatesins.com



We are proud to support anyone in our community that builds a better Columbus. After all, building is what we do.



QUALITY SERVICES:
On Time and On Budget



emc-eng.com

Environmental | Marine | Civil | Surveying | Material Testing | Landscape Architecture

YOUTH ORCHESTRA
YOGC
 OF GREATER COLUMBUS

2024-25
Season

Fall Concert
 Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

Side By Side w/ Schwob Phil
 Saturday, February 15th, 2025

Spring Concert
 Tuesday, April 29th, 2025

For more information, please visit
 our website at www.yogc.org.



The Columbus Symphony Orchestra graciously recognizes those who have remembered the CSO in their estate plans, bequests, or other planned gifts as members of the
Robert M. Barr Legacy Circle.

Anonymous (4)
 Mr. Cameron P. Bean
 Otis B. & Eleanor T. Burnham Charitable Remainder Trust
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmett B. Cartledge
 The Crowley Family
 Mrs. Ethel W. Foley
 Mr. B. Seth Jr. & Mrs. Linda Harp
 Mrs. Helena M. Pease
 Dr. Mary W. Schley
 Dr. Christine Senn
 Dr. Franklin J. Star
 Mr. Bruce & Mrs. Jane Steurer

Planned gifts can achieve personal goals, enhance financial security, and help to sustain the CSO for generations to come. For more information on remembering the CSO in your estate plans, please contact us at (706) 256-3645.



Georgia Power



HUGHSTON
CLINIC

Research • Education • Treatment

**LEADERS IN
BONE & JOINT
CARE**



**CLICK HERE TO
LEARN MORE**

Since 2015

The Premier Valet & Shuttle Service of Columbus

At Uptown Valet Columbus, we know that a great experience starts the moment your guests arrive. Our courteous, professional attendants take care of parking with ease, so every arrival feels smooth and effortless. Whether it's a special event, an evening out, or a grand celebration, we're here to make sure your guests are greeted with a friendly smile and exceptional service from the very start.



**UPTOWN
VALET**

UPTOWNVALET.COLUMBUS.COM

THE GEORGE & SHARON DEL GOBBO
- MUSICIANS' ENDOWMENT -

ABOUT THE FUND

Contributions to the George and Sharon Del Gobbo Musicians' Fund will sustain and enhance the artistic quality of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra perpetuity. George Del Gobbo has served as Music Director and Conductor of the CSO since 1987. This fund, established by the Board of Directors, honors his many decades of service to the artistic development by increasing retention of the musicians of the CSO.

Ms. Kerren Berz
Ms. Lucy Bowers
Ms. Barbara Cook
Ms. Melinda Hunter

Dr. Mary W. Schley
Mr. & Mrs. John Stafford
Ms. Nancy Steurer
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford J. Swift

**Thanks to our
HOTEL PARTNERS!**



AN **IHG**® HOTEL

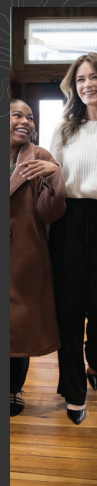
Holiday Inn Express
Columbus Northeast
2761 Warm Springs Rd
Columbus, GA 31904



Sonesta Essential Columbus
4027 Veterans Ct
Columbus, GA 31909

MAKE YOUR CITY YOUR GETAWAY

A *staycation* not so far away from home, that helps you escape the routine and rewrite the rules of uninterrupted bliss.



COME FOR THE VIEWS
EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Making Music Matters

The CSO provides free after-school group instrumental instruction to young children in the Chattahoochee community. Making Music Matters is designed to instill in them the skills of discipline, concentration and teamwork necessary to be successful, not only in music, but in life. We are currently providing programs at Girls Inc. of Columbus & Phenix-Russell.



Orchestra Up Close

Orchestra Up Close is designed to introduce young children to music through exposure to the instruments of the orchestra. Small ensembles of CSO musicians present to small groups of children allowing for an "up close" experience that is not possible at larger concerts. The musicians perform and talk about their instruments. The children have the opportunity to make observations, ask questions, and play the variety of instruments in our Instrument Petting Zoo.



For questions regarding our educational programming, please contact Thomas Trinh at (706) 256-3642 | operations@csoga.org

Thank You to Our Education Supporters:



Walter Alan Richards Foundation

Piano Perfect

Your source for the finest in tuning and rebuilding services.

Specializing in performance pianos

Piano Tuning

Moving

Rebuilding and Antique Restoration.



Piano Perfect LLC

www.pianoperfectllc.com
706.221.9960

real pianos, period.