

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New Jersey Symphony announces tickets are available for purchase to 2026–27 special events

NEWARK, NJ—Individual tickets to select events for New Jersey Symphony’s 2026–27 season are available for purchase now. See below for a complete list of special events, holiday and family concerts, plus movie concerts which include a feature film with the score performed live by the orchestra. Tickets can be purchased for individual concerts or by selecting a series package, which offers 20% savings. Complete details about same-seat packages and create-your-own options can be found [here](#).

Tickets are available online at [njsymphony.org/specials2627](https://njsymphony.org/specials2627) or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) for events at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, and Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Hollywood Hits: From *West Side Story* to *Spirited Away***

**Keitaro Harada** conductor

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Oct 10, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, Oct 11, 2 pm

Lights, camera, action! Rising-star conductor Keitaro Harada leads a program of thrilling orchestral music from classic movies. Movie-musicals *West Side Story* and *An American in Paris*, with their timeless tunes, are heard alongside Joe Hisaishi’s score to the Studio Ghibli masterpiece, *Spirited Away*. Don't miss this festive performance with music that dazzles and delights—the perfect way to celebrate the start of the season.

[Event page](#)

## ***Rick Steves' Europe: A Symphonic Journey***

**Rick Steves** host

**Morristown** → Saturday, Nov 7, 2 pm & 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Nov 8, 2 pm

Usually you'll find Rick Steves touring the great destinations of Europe. Now you can join him on a different journey: *A Symphonic Journey*. In this unique concert, Rick Steves teams up with New Jersey Symphony for a performance that combines Europe's most stirring Romantic era anthems with beautiful high-definition cinematography and Rick's insights into European history.

[Event page](#)

## **HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

### ***Handel's Messiah***

**Kedrick Armstrong** conductor

**Jessica Rivera** soprano | **Kelley O'Connor** mezzo-soprano

**Martin Bakari** tenor | **Adam Lau** bass-baritone

**Montclair State University Singers** | Heather J. Buchanan, director

**Princeton** → Friday, Dec 18, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, Dec 20, 7 pm (Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart)

**George Frideric Handel** *Messiah*

“For unto us a Child is born.” Our glorious holiday tradition returns with this iconic masterpiece, a classical rendition of the greatest story ever told. The majestic music—including the triumphant “Hallelujah Chorus”—rekindles the spirit of the holidays for first-time listeners and those who return each season.

[Event page](#)

### **Lunar New Year Celebration Concert: Year of the Goat**

**Naomi Woo** conductor

**Sophia Liu** piano

**Newark** → Saturday, Jan 30, 7:30 pm

Naomi Woo, Assistant Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, leads a festive evening that unites symphonic works, choral music, and dance. Experience amazing talent, vibrant energy, and a grand spectacle designed to delight audiences of all ages—a joyous celebration of renewal and community.

[Event page](#)

## FAMILY CONCERTS

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, these interactive concerts are presented in a relaxed format and feature inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing.

### Discover Rachmaninoff

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Tony Siqi Yun** piano

**Newark** → Saturday, Jan 23, 2 pm

**Rachmaninoff** *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

What is a rhapsody, and who was Paganini? Unlock the mystery of the musical puzzle in this roller coaster ride for piano and orchestra, demonstrated by the extraordinary talent of Tony Siqi Yun.

[Event page](#)

### Discover Tchaikovsky

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Newark** → Saturday, May 15, 2 pm

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 4

Tchaikovsky was a great musical storyteller. Learn about the structure of this symphony and what to listen for: from string plucking to folk songs, and a wide range of emotions expressed by different instruments.

[Event page](#)

## NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY AT THE MOVIES

***Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* in Concert**

**Lawrence Loh** conductor

**Red Bank** → Friday, Feb 26, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Saturday, Feb 27, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Feb 28, 2 pm

This fantasy swashbuckler film follows pirate Jack Sparrow and the blacksmith Will Turner as they attempt to rescue the kidnapped Elizabeth Swann. The trio encounters Captain Barbossa and the Black Pearl crew who are afflicted by a

supernatural curse. Klaus Badelt's score—performed live to picture by New Jersey Symphony—thrums with excitement and adventure.

[Event page](#)

## ***Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert***

**Morristown** → Thursday, May 20, 7 pm

**Red Bank** → Friday, May 21, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Saturday, May 22, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, May 23, 2 pm

Luke Skywalker begins a journey that will change the galaxy in *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Nineteen years after the formation of the Empire, Luke is thrust into the struggle of the Rebel Alliance when he meets Obi-Wan Kenobi, who has lived for years in seclusion on the desert planet of Tatooine. Obi-Wan begins Luke's Jedi training as Luke joins him on a daring mission to rescue the beautiful Rebel leader Princess Leia from the clutches of Darth Vader and the evil Empire.

[Event page](#)

## **New Jersey Symphony**

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs. In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2027. For more information about New Jersey Symphony, visit our website at [njsymphony.org](https://njsymphony.org) or our [newsroom](#) for press releases and photos.

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*New Jersey Symphony's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations, and individual donors.*

*New Jersey Symphony Family Concerts: A Music Discovery Zone for performances of Discover Rachmaninoff and Discover Tchaikovsky are presented in NJPAC's Prudential Hall prior to each concert.*

*Presentation of Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl in Concert is licensed by Disney Concerts© All rights reserved. Rated PG-13. The February 28 concert is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*

*Presentation of Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert is licensed by Disney Concerts in association with Warner/Chappell Music. The May 23 concert is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*