

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joshua Bell leads New Jersey Symphony in first season as Principal Guest Conductor

NEWARK, NJ—Acclaimed violinist and conductor Joshua Bell will take the podium May 14–17, 2026 in four performances as New Jersey Symphony’s principal guest conductor. New Jersey Symphony [announced](#) in October 2024 that Bell would be joining the orchestra to serve in this inaugural role for four years through the 2028–29 season.

The program begins with Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Egmont* Overture, nine minutes of dramatic incidental music written for a revival of Goethe’s play with the same name. Bell will then take the solo spotlight to play and conduct Camille Saint-Saëns’ Violin Concerto No. 3, a work he recorded early in his career with Charles Dutoit and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. After intermission, he’ll return to the podium to lead Felix Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 4, “Italian,” a remarkable score from the then 22-year-old composer, who described this work as “the liveliest thing I have yet done, especially the last movement.”

Performances take place on Thursday, May 14, at 1:30 pm and Saturday, May 16, at 7:30 pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark; Friday, May 15, at 7:30 pm at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton; and Sunday, May 17, at 2 pm at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown. The Thursday matinee will be a [Relaxed Performance](#), designed to accommodate the differing needs of patrons of all abilities, including individuals with autism, sensory sensitivities, or cognitive and physical differences. Tickets available at njsymphony.org.

Joshua Bell’s 2026–27 appearances are slated for March 11–14, 2027 in an all-Beethoven program featuring the composer’s *Coriolan* Overture, Violin Concerto, and Symphony No. 7. Season tickets are on sale now. View the full 2026–27 season and package options [here](#).

EVENT DETAILS AND ARTIST BIOS

Joshua Bell Leads Mendelssohn's "Italian"

Joshua Bell conductor & violin
New Jersey Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven *Egmont* Overture
Camille Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3
Felix Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

Newark → Thursday, May 14, 1:30 pm | [Relaxed Performance](#)

Princeton → Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm

Newark → Saturday, May 16, 7:30 pm

Morristown → Sunday, May 17, 2 pm

[Event page](#)

Joshua Bell

With a career spanning almost four decades, GRAMMY Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of our time. He has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, and regularly appears as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor, and as the music director of London's Academy of St Martin in the Fields (ASMF).

In the 2025–26 season, Bell continues to champion the rediscovered Violin Concerto by Thomas de Hartmann, following his recent Diapason D'Or-winning world premiere recording of the work. After giving its UK premiere at London's BBC Proms, he gives the concerto's North American premiere with the New York Philharmonic, performs it with the Boston Symphony and Oslo Philharmonic, and gives its Canadian premiere during his season-long tenure as a Toronto Symphony Spotlight Artist. With ASMF, he leads extensive tours on both sides of the Atlantic, including returns to the Vienna Konzerthaus and New York's Carnegie Hall. Other orchestral highlights include his first appearances as Principal Guest Conductor of New Jersey Symphony; concerto dates with the Houston Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, and Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra; and concerts and an Asian tour with Hamburg's NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra. As well as giving recitals in the US and Europe, Bell joins Steven Isserlis and Evgeny Kissin for trio programs in New York, Kansas City, Paris, Vienna, and Prague, and reunites with

Jeremy Denk for duo recitals at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Ravinia Festival. [Read full bio.](#)

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 or our [newsroom](#) for press releases and photos.

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NJ.com + JerseysBest.com: Proud 2025-26 season partner and media sponsor of the New Jersey Symphony.

The May 16 performance is presented in collaboration with New Jersey Performing Arts Center.