

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

## 2025–26 Full Season Listing

### Moonrise: A Celestial Celebration

Presented by the Union County Performing Arts Center

Rahway → Saturday, Oct 4, 7:30 pm

**Gregory D. McDaniel** conductor

**Justin Jay Hines** host

**Eric Wyrick** violin

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Jessie Montgomery** *Starburst*

**Josef Strauss** *Music of the Spheres*, Waltzes, Op. 235

**Antonín Dvořák** “Song to the Moon” from *Rusalka*, Op. 114

**Claude Debussy / André Caplet** *Clair de Lune*

**Aaron Copland** “Prairie Night and Celebration Dance” from *Billy the Kid*

**Glenn Miller** *Moonlight Serenade*

**Henry Mancini** *Moon River*

**Gus Edwards / William Ryden** “By the Light of the Silvery Moon”

**Giacomo Puccini / Christopher Palmer** *La Bohème Fantasy*

**John Williams** “Adventures on Earth” from *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*

In honor of the *Museum of the Moon* landing at the Union County Performing Arts Center’s Main Stage, the New Jersey Symphony presents a captivating evening of orchestral music celebrating our celestial neighbor. From orchestral masterworks like Claude Debussy’s *Claire de Lune* and Jessie Montgomery’s *Starburst*, to popular favorites like Glenn Miller’s *Moonlight Serenade* and music from *Moonstruck* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, this program, conducted by New Jersey Symphony Colton Conducting Fellow Gregory D. McDaniel, has something for everyone!

For tickets, go to [ucpac.org](https://ucpac.org) or call the UCPAC Box Office at 732.499.8226.

*Presented by the Union County Performing Arts Center.*

*Gregory D. McDaniel is the 2025–26 Colton Conducting Fellow, made possible by the generous support of Judy and Stewart Colton.*

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## TwoSet Violin with the New Jersey Symphony

Part of the TwoSet Violin World Tour

**Newark** → Sunday, Oct 5, 2 pm

**TwoSet Violin**

**Maurice Cohn** conductor

**New Jersey Symphony**

World-famous YouTube classical music comedy duo TwoSet Violin take the stage with the New Jersey Symphony for a wide-ranging night of musical fun! Violinists Eddy Chen and Brett Yang will take their unique brand of earnest and silly musical comedy to a new level in this performance, with the backing of a full symphony orchestra.

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## Opening Weekend: Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1

**New Jersey Symphony Classical**

**Newark** → Friday, Oct 10, 7:30 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Oct 11, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, Oct 12, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Joyce Yang** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Jessie Montgomery** *Hymn for Everyone*

We launch the season with Montgomery's open-arms musical welcome. In her *Hymn for Everyone* you'll hear an echo of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," often called the Black National Anthem.

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** Piano Concerto No. 1

Slammed as a flop at its premiere, Tchaikovsky more than had the last laugh: here's jaw-dropping virtuosity for the soloist, sweeping melodies for the orchestra, and an audience favorite around the world.

**Antonín Dvořák** Symphony No. 8

Dvořák's pen might as well have been a paint brush. In his tuneful Eighth you can practically see autumn's most vivid colors and the heart-melting glow of an October sunset.

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## Disney's *Fantasia* in Concert

**New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Morristown** → Thursday, Oct 23, 7 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Oct 25, 2 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Oct 26, 2 pm

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor

**New Jersey Symphony**

Experience Disney's groundbreaking marriage of symphonic music and animation, *Fantasia*. Beloved repertoire from the original 1940 version and *Fantasia 2000*, including *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, and *The Nutcracker Suite*, will be performed by the New Jersey Symphony while Disney's stunning footage is shown on the big screen. Enjoy iconic moments and childhood favorites like never before!

Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts.

*The October 26 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*

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## Beethoven X Beyoncé

### Northeast Premiere | Fusion of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony & Beyoncé's Greatest Hits

Newark → Friday, Oct 24, 7:30 pm

**Steve Hackman** conductor & creator

**Malia Civetz** vocalist

**Brayla Cook** vocalist

**Brooke Simpson** vocalist

**TaRon Lockett** drums

**Justin Goldner** guitar & keyboard

**Dmitry Gorodetsky** bass

**New Jersey Symphony**

GIRLS. They run the world.... they turn up the night... and if you liked it, then you should have put a ring on it! The newest fusion production by Steve Hackman celebrates and elevates all things woman by combining pop's Queen with classical music's King: Beethoven and Beyoncé.

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, the symphonic repertoire's most joyful and exuberant celebration of dance, is the canvas onto which fifteen of Beyoncé's most popular songs across her entire catalog are interwoven, including "Girls," "Crazy in Love," "Sorry," "Cuff It," "Single Ladies," and of course, "Texas Hold 'Em." The production's emotional peak is when two of the most recognizable melodies from each composer are intertwined: "Halo" and the hauntingly beautiful second movement of the Beethoven.

Three powerhouse female soloists, as well as a guest drummer, guitarist/keyboardist, and bassist, join the New Jersey Symphony for a night of musical magic.

*Please note: This performance contains adult language and themes. Discretion is advised.*

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**Kansas & the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players**  
**bergenPAC Presents: The Encore Series**

**Englewood** → Sunday, Nov 2, 7 pm

**Encore No. 1 Overture Presents:** Kansas & the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

**Kansas**

**New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players**

An awe-inspiring concert that redefines what a live performance can be.

Step into a night of pure sonic magic as iconic classic rock group Kansas join forces with the world-class New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players for an electrifying symphonic experience—an exhilarating nod to the Boston Pops tradition blending classic rock and the symphony sounds on one stage.

Feel the power of timeless hit classics like:

1. *Carry On Wayward Son*
2. *Dust in the Wind*
3. *Point of Know Return*
4. *Hold On*
5. *Fight Fire With Fire*

For tickets, go to [bergenpac.org](https://bergenpac.org) or call the bergenPAC Box Office at 201.227.1030. A limited number of special soirée tickets that include premium orchestra seating and pre- and post-show cocktail receptions are [available for purchase here](#).

*Presented by the Bergen Performing Arts Center.*

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## ***Rhapsody in Blue***

**Plus Works by Florence Price & Carlos Simon**

**Newark** → Thursday, Nov 6, 1:30 pm

**Princeton** → Friday, Nov 7, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Friday, Nov 8, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Nov 9, 2 pm

**Tito Muñoz** conductor

**Michelle Cann** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Florence Price** Piano Concerto in One Movement

An American genius, Florence Price mixes luscious lyricism with ragtime stomp. This recently unearthed gem won Cann—the leading interpreter of Price’s piano music—a 2023 GRAMMY.

**George Gershwin** *Rhapsody in Blue*

United Airlines knows a good tune when it hears one, and that melody is the heartbeat of Gershwin’s classic. But

not before the famous swooping clarinet solo gets this piece of the Roaring Twenties underway.

**Carlos Simon** *Zodiac* (Northeast Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Co-Commission)

Carlos Simon is one of America's leading contemporary composers, and in his latest music, a proud co-commission of the New Jersey Symphony, Simon gives voice to all 12 zodiac signs—the music at turns fiery, ethereal, and soaring.

**Aaron Copland** Suite from *Billy the Kid*

Cowboy songs, folk tunes, and a visionary composer—all the ingredients that made Copland's wild-west ballet a hit in the '30s and a favorite still.

*The November 6 Relaxed Performance is promoted in partnership with Alzheimer's New Jersey.*

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## Discover *Rhapsody in Blue*

### New Jersey Symphony Family Concert

**Newark** → Saturday, Nov 8, 2 pm

**Tito Muñoz** conductor

**Bill Barclay** host

**Michelle Cann** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

**George Gershwin** *Rhapsody in Blue*

**Aaron Copland** Suite from *Billy the Kid*

Discover what makes a live orchestra concert so special. We'll take a deep dive into one of the greatest American piano concertos, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, followed by Copland's lively Suite from *Billy the Kid*.

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert will feature inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing!

This will be a Relaxed Performance, designed to accommodate the differing needs of our patrons of all abilities, including individuals with autism, sensory sensitivities, or cognitive and physical differences. This concert support the New Jersey Symphony's mission to make orchestral music accessible to all by removing barriers often found in traditional concert settings. Audience members are encouraged to enter and exit the concert hall as needed throughout the performance and bring comfort items like sensory tools or stuffed animals that will aid in enhancing your musical experience! Accommodations such as large-print programs, sensory guides, a relaxation room, and more are also available.

*Please note: If you are someone who prefers silence when you are enjoying a concert, this performance may not be the best fit for you. There may be movement, vocalizations, and other sounds throughout the hall. The shared expectation for all attendees is to help foster a warm, non-judgmental, and accepting atmosphere for everyone.*

This New Jersey Symphony Family Concert is presented in NJPAC's Prudential Hall.

*This concert is promoted in partnership with Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey and A. Harry Moore Laboratory School.*

*Projections and slides for this concert are produced by Concert Theatre Works.*

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## **Elf in Concert**

### **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Newark** → Saturday, Dec 6, 2 pm

**Red Bank** → Sunday, Dec 7, 2 pm

**Conner Gray Covington** conductor  
**New Jersey Symphony**

Buddy was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. This holiday season, relive this heartwarming holiday classic on a giant screen as every note of John Debney's wonderful score is played live to picture in: *Elf in Concert*!

Presentation licensed by CineConcerts.

Rated PG. ELF and all related characters and elements © & ™  
New Line Productions, Inc. (s25)

*The Yuletide Carolers pre-concert performances are sponsored by The GenWealth Group.*

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## **New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* with the New Jersey Symphony**

### **Presented by New Jersey Ballet**

**Morristown** → Friday, Dec 12–Saturday, Dec 27

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor  
**New Jersey Ballet**  
**New Jersey Symphony**

**Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky** *The Nutcracker*  
Based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E.T.A. Hoffman

New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is the longest running original professional production in the state. The production debuted in Millburn in 1971 with international star of New York City Ballet Edward Villella as the Cavalier. Since then, the company has given approximately 800 performances in theatres throughout New Jersey, with more than 5,000 dancers and children, and over a million viewers. Many in the audience who saw the production as children now bring their own children and grandchildren to see this cherished holiday tradition.

New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at MPAC will feature the New Jersey Symphony, under the baton of Constantine Kitsopoulos. When the curtain rises, audiences in Morristown can expect the eye-popping special effects, brilliant dancing, glorious costumes, and the magic and pantomime that has inspired critics to call it "A spectacle that never seems to age...magic that should go on and on," and "One of the best...as good as it gets."

For tickets, buy online at [mayoarts.org](http://mayoarts.org) or contact the Mayo Performing Arts Center box office at 973.539.8008.

*Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with the Mayo Performing Arts Center and the New Jersey Symphony.*

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## Handel's *Messiah*

### New Jersey Symphony Holiday Tradition

**Princeton** → Friday, Dec 19, 7:30 pm - Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

**Princeton** → Saturday, Dec 20, 7:30 pm - Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

**Newark** → Sunday, Dec 21, 7 pm - Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**Anthony Parnter** conductor

**Caitlin Gotimer** soprano

**Maria Dominique Lopez** mezzo-soprano

**Orson Van Gay II** tenor

**Shyheim Selvan Hinnant** bass-baritone

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

**New Jersey Symphony**

**George Frideric Handel** *Messiah*

Handel's *Messiah* embraces every emotion, from the first voice singing "Comfort ye," inviting you to step aside from the season's frenzy, to the riveting Amen Chorus at the end. In between are moments of transcendence, loss, and deeply-felt awe—what makes a classic a classic.

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## Hollywood in New Jersey

### Music from *How the West Was Won*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told* & More

**Newark** → Saturday, Jan 3, 8 pm

**David Newman** conductor

**Sebastian Knauer** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

Hooray for Hollywood! Hear some of the most iconic film music of all time performed by the New Jersey

Symphony. Guest conductor and Oscar-nominated film composer David Newman carries on the legacy of his father, Alfred Newman, the golden-age composer of legendary film scores (and creator of the famous 20th Century Fox fanfare). Award-winning German pianist Sebastian Knauer joins the orchestra for an evening of silver-screen favorites. You'll hear music from a variety of composers, including the Newman family, who have amassed 13 Academy Awards and an incredible 93 nominations. *A Beautiful Mind, Spartacus, The Robe, How the West Was Won, Basic Instinct* — and more!

For tickets, go to [njpac.org](http://njpac.org) or call the NJPAC Box Office at 1.888.696.5722.

*Presented by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*

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## Randall Goosby Returns

### New Jersey Symphony Classical

**New Brunswick** → Thursday, Jan 8, 7 pm

**Princeton** → Friday, Jan 9, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Saturday, Jan 10, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Jan 11, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Randall Goosby** violin

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Jean Sibelius** *Finlandia*

Eight minutes that saved a nation. When Finland wrestled itself free from the Russian bear, Sibelius' music was the Finns' call to courage.

**Samuel Barber** Violin Concerto

The most gorgeous violin concerto of the 20th century: the first two movements exquisitely touching, and the third a wild sprint for only the bravest of soloists.

**Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 2, "Ukrainian"

Three Ukrainian folksongs were all Tchaikovsky needed for inspiration. From them, he spun his most joyful symphony.

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## Elden Ring: Symphonic Adventure

### Based Off the Award-Winning Fantasy Video Game

**Newark** → Saturday, Jan 24, 2 pm & 7:30 pm

**Eric Roth** conductor

**Ember Choral Arts** | Deborah Simpkin King, artistic director



## New Jersey Symphony

The fantasy video game *Elden Ring* comes to life with the New Jersey Symphony performing its gorgeous score. Immerse yourself in the noble quest of the Tarnished as cinematic gameplay sequences play on the big screen, synced with dramatic lighting and sound effects. Whether you're a fan of the game, or simply love the epic beauty of orchestral music, this adventure is for you. Don your *Elden Ring* cosplay, and we'll meet you in the Lands Between.

For tickets, go to [njpac.org](https://njpac.org) or call the NJPAC Box Office at 1.888.696.5722.

Presented and produced by Bandai Namco, FromSoftware Inc. and Overlook Events.

*Presented by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*

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## Romeo & Juliet

### Featuring The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey

**Newark** → Thursday, Jan 29, 1:30 pm

**Newark** → Friday, Jan 30, 7:30 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Jan 31, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, Feb 1, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey**

**Jason Flamos** lighting designer

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky** *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Tchaikovsky gives you all the passion and drama of Shakespeare's two young lovers, as the New Jersey Symphony becomes a storyteller in real time.

**Sergei Prokofiev** Selections from *Romeo and Juliet*

Considered too difficult, even undanceable at its unveiling, Prokofiev's ballet with scene after scene of strikingly original music soon became the treasure of every ballet house the world over.

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## 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration

### Celebration of the Year of the Horse

**Newark** → Saturday, Feb 7, 7:30 pm

**Sunny Xia** conductor

Haochen Zhang piano  
Peking University Alumni Chorus  
Starry Arts Children's Chorus | Rebecca Shen, director  
Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team  
New Jersey Symphony

Li Huanzhi *Spring Festival Overture*  
Franz Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1  
Choi Sunghwan "Arirang Fantasy"  
Traditional / Anqi Wang *Hulunbuir Grassland*  
Li Shutong / Nicholas Hersh *Farewell at Long Pavilion*  
Johann Strauss Jr. *Voices of Spring*  
Georges Bizet "Farandole" from *L'Arlésienne*  
Georges Bizet "Choeur des gamins" from *Carmen*

Enjoy an evening of community and cultural exchange that is wonderful for families and children, as we celebrate the Year of the Horse. Seattle Symphony Associate Conductor Sunny Xia and Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Winner Haochen Zhang make their New Jersey Symphony debuts in this festive concert that celebrates music from East and West.

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## Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

### Time For Three Performs *Contact*

Morristown → Thursday, Feb 26, 7 pm  
Newark → Friday, Feb 27, 7:30 pm  
Newark → Sunday, Mar, 2 pm

Markus Stenz conductor  
Time For Three  
Ranaan Meyer double bass | Nick Kendall violin | Charles Yang violin  
New Jersey Symphony

Richard Wagner Prelude to Act I of *Lohengrin*

It begins with the strings alone playing a whisperquiet passage of holy serenity. Soon the whole orchestra joins and builds in a full-throated cry. Wagner's operatic stage is set for the arrival of the knight Lohengrin sent on a mission from God.

Kevin Puts *Contact*

Time for Three, a self-described "classically trained garage band," brings you the GRAMMY Award-winning concerto written for them by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Created during the isolation of the early pandemic, *Contact* is "an expression of yearning for the fundamental need" of human connection.

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 5

Four notes—dah, dah, dah, DAH—launched Beethoven's Fifth in 1808 and have stamped all of western classical music since.

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## ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone™ in Concert***

### **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Newark** → Saturday, Mar 7, 2 pm & pm

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor

**New Jersey Symphony**

Relive the film that started it all. Watch the wand choose the wizard, a troll run amok and magic mirrors in high-definition while a live orchestra performs John Williams' iconic score. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime event as Harry, Ron, Hermione and all your favorite characters return to the screen and enchant the world all over again.

Presentation licensed by CineConcerts.

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*Presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*

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## **Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra**

### **New Jersey Symphony Classical**

**Newark** → Thursday, Mar 12, 1:30 pm

**Princeton** → Friday, Mar 13, 7:30 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Mar 14, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Mar 15, 2 pm

**Ruth Reinhardt** conductor

**Eva Gevorgyan** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Béla Bartók** *Romanian Folk Dances*

Informed by his numerous research trips across Hungary, this short and spry set of folk dances bursts with Transylvanian flavor and energy.

**Frédéric Chopin** Piano Concerto No. 2

There are moments here that make time, and your breath, stand still. If ever you need evidence of the human spirit's capacity for beauty, look to this remarkable creation of 20-year-old Chopin.

**Béla Bartók** Concerto for Orchestra

Every section of the orchestra gets the spotlight to dazzling effect, and the Concerto's last moments are some of the most thrilling in all classical music.

*Eva Gevorgyan's appearance is dedicated to the memory of Stanlee and Florence Kissel.*

*The March 12 Relaxed Performance is promoted in partnership with Alzheimer's New Jersey.*

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## ***Icons of American Ballet with the New Jersey Symphony***

**Presented by New Jersey Ballet**

**Morristown** → Friday, Mar 20, 7:30 pm

**Morristown** → Saturday, Mar 21, 2 pm

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor

**New Jersey Ballet**

**New Jersey Symphony**

**George Balanchine** *Serenade*

**Jerome Robbins** *In the Night*

**Twyla Tharp** *Nine Sinatra Songs\**

*\*Nine Sinatra Songs will be performed to recordings of Frank Sinatra.*

**New Jersey Ballet presents *Icons of American Ballet***—a vibrant program celebrating groundbreaking choreographers who have shaped the landscape of American dance. The performance opens with George Balanchine's iconic *Serenade*, a poetic and sweeping work set to Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. Jerome Robbins' *In the Night* follows, a tender and emotionally rich ballet set to four nocturnes by Chopin, where three couples explore the many shades of romantic relationships beneath a starlit sky. The program concludes with Twyla Tharp's stylish and witty *Nine Sinatra Songs*, where couples dance through the complexities of love to the timeless voice of Frank Sinatra. Together, these three works offer an unforgettable afternoon of elegance, emotion, and innovation.

For tickets, buy online at [mayoarts.org](https://mayoarts.org) or contact the Mayo Performing Arts Center box office at 973.539.8008.

*Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with the Mayo Performing Arts Center and the New Jersey Symphony.*

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## ***Sleeping Beauty with the New Jersey Symphony***

**Presented by New Jersey Ballet**

**Morristown** → Friday, Mar 20, 7:30 pm

**Morristown** → Saturday, Mar 21, 2 pm

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor

**New Jersey Ballet**

**New Jersey Symphony**

## **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** *Sleeping Beauty*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* is one of the most famous ballets of all time, and is a longtime favorite of children and families alike. Watch as the New Jersey Ballet brings the timeless fairytale classic to life in this full-length production at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, featuring the live performance of the score from the New Jersey Symphony.

For tickets, buy online at [mayoarts.org](https://mayoarts.org) or contact the Mayo Performing Arts Center box office at 973.539.8008.

*Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with the Mayo Performing Arts Center and the New Jersey Symphony.*

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## **Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony**

### **New Jersey Symphony Classical**

**Newark** → Friday, Mar 27, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Saturday, Mar 28, 7:30 pm

**Morristown** → Sunday, Mar 29, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Juan Esteban Martinez** clarinet

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Divertimento in D Major, K. 136

The spotlight opens on the New Jersey Symphony's virtuoso strings playing the sunniest music Mozart ever created.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Clarinet Concerto

Principal Clarinet Juan Esteban Martinez will shine in this sunny crown jewel of the clarinet repertoire, which was written for an earlier iteration of the modern clarinet.

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"

His greatest inspiration came from long walks in nature, score paper, and pencil stuffed in his pocket. Beethoven takes us with him in his Sixth, his music full of open-air melodies, and the drama of a ferocious storm.

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## **Discover Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony**

### **New Jersey Symphony Family Concert**

**Newark** → Saturday, Mar 28, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Bill Barclay** host  
**New Jersey Symphony**

### **Ludwig van Beethoven** Symphony No. 6, “Pastoral”

Discover the storytelling power of classical music! Beethoven’s “Pastoral” Symphony was one of his only works that depicts very specific scenes and storylines, which we’ll dive into measure by measure in this concert.

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein’s masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert will feature inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing!

This will be a Relaxed Performance, designed to accommodate the differing needs of our patrons of all abilities, including individuals with autism, sensory sensitivities, or cognitive and physical differences. This concert supports the New Jersey Symphony’s mission to make orchestral music accessible to all by removing barriers often found in traditional concert settings. Audience members are encouraged to enter and exit the concert hall as needed throughout the performance and bring comfort items like sensory tools or stuffed animals that will aid in enhancing your musical experience! Accommodations such as large-print programs, sensory guides, a relaxation room, and more are also available.

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This New Jersey Symphony Family Concert is presented in NJPAC’s Prudential Hall.

*This concert is promoted in partnership with Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey.*

*Projections and slides for this concert are produced by Concert Theatre Works.*

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## **Xian Conducts Prokofiev & Strauss**

### **New Jersey Symphony Classical**

**Newark** → Friday, Apr 10, 7:30 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, Apr 11, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, Apr 12, 3 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor  
**Francesca Dego** violín  
**New Jersey Symphony**

### **Anton Webern** *Im Sommerwind*

A lovingly lush hymn to the charms of summer, written just before Webern helped stand traditional classical music on its head.

**Sergei Prokofiev** Violin Concerto No. 2

It opens with a wisp of melancholy Russian folksong and closes with castanets and Spanish flair, creating fireworks for a world-class violinist and orchestra.

**Richard Strauss** *Ein Heldenleben*

Orchestras love this ode to “A Hero’s Life” for its bold, voluptuous sweep, created by Strauss as a musical pat on his own back.

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## Mozart’s Requiem

### New Jersey Symphony Classical

**Newark** → Thursday, Apr 16, 1:30 pm

**Newark** → Saturday, Apr 18, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, Apr 19, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Mei Gui Zhang** soprano

**Taylor Raven** mezzo-soprano

**Eric Ferring** tenor

**Dashon Burton** baritone

**Montclair State University Chorale** | Heather J. Buchanan, Director

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Gabriel Fauré** Pavane

A slowly winding melody that started as a simple little five-minute piano solo. But when Fauré orchestrated his Pavane and added the rich sound of a chorus, he made magic and his greatest hit.

**Gustav Mahler** *Songs of a Wayfarer*

Come enjoy one of the finest voices in America: bass-baritone Dashon Burton sings the suite of beautiful songs Mahler wrote as he took solace in nature after being spurned in love.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Requiem

A swansong full of fire, grace, and a transcendent prayer that the human spirit will live on. Mozart’s Requiem was left maddeningly incomplete at his all-too-early death, but is nevertheless his final masterpiece.

*The April 18 performance is presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.*

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## Joshua Bell Leads Mendelssohn’s “Italian”

### New Jersey Symphony Classical

**Newark** → Thursday, May 14, 1:30 pm

**Princeton** → Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm  
**Newark** → Saturday, May 16, 7:30 pm  
**Morristown** → Sunday, May 17, 2 pm

**Joshua Bell** conductor & creator  
**New Jersey Symphony**

**Felix Mendelssohn** *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*

The music swells and surges just as the waves off Scotland's coast carried the young Mendelssohn past moody cliffs and caves and sent him reaching for his score paper.

**Camille Saint-Saëns** Violin Concerto No. 3

One of Saint-Saëns' most treasured concertos, this is where superstar Joshua Bell stands and lets his Stradivarius violin shine in dramatic melodies and virtuosic displays.

**Felix Mendelssohn** Symphony No. 4, "Italian"

"The jolliest piece I've ever done," wrote an ecstatic young Mendelssohn to his parents back in Berlin, after arriving in Italy and falling in love with its sunshine, sidewalk tunes, coast, and effervescent colors—all of which he poured into his Fourth Symphony.

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

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## **Star Wars: The Last Jedi in Concert**

### **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Red Bank** → Friday, May 29, 7:30 pm  
**Newark** → Saturday, May 30, 7:30 pm  
**New Brunswick** → Sunday, May 31, 2 pm

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor  
**New Jersey Symphony**

Don't miss this big-screen battle with the score performed live by the New Jersey Symphony. The Resistance is in desperate need of help when they find themselves impossibly pursued by the First Order. While Rey travels to a remote planet called Ahch-To to recruit Luke Skywalker to the Resistance, Finn and Rose, a mechanic, go on their own mission in the hopes of helping the Resistance finally escape the First Order. But everyone finds themselves on the salt-planet of Crait for a last stand.

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*The May 31 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*

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## Season Finale: *Symphonie fantastique*

### New Jersey Symphony Classical

**New Brunswick** → Thursday, June 4, 7 pm

**Princeton** → Friday, June 5, 7:30 pm

**Red Bank** → Saturday, June 6, 7:30 pm

**Newark** → Sunday, June 7, 2 pm

**Xian Zhang** conductor

**Emanuel Ax** piano

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Allison Loggins-Hull** New Work (World Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Commission)

You may have seen her performing with Lizzo at the GRAMMYS, or heard her on the soundtrack to *The Lion King*, or loved her *Can You See?* performed by the New Jersey Symphony last fall. Be the first to hear our Resident Artistic Partner's latest creation.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Piano Concerto No. 22

Mozart in his late 20s took a tune he wrote when he was eight and turned it into this half-hour masterpiece, the second of its three movements so moving that its first audience demanded a repeat.

**Hector Berlioz** *Symphonie fantastique*

Smitten with unrequited love, Berlioz funneled all his frustrations and utter mind-blowing genius into a whirlwind of orchestral color.

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## Ben Folds with the New Jersey Symphony

### Ben Folds Performs his Greatest Hits

**Newark** → Saturday, June 13, 7:30 pm

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, June 14, 2 pm

**Ben Folds** guest artist

**Edwin Outwater** conductor

**New Jersey Symphony**

Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter-composer Ben Folds joins the New Jersey Symphony for a unique and unforgettable performance of music from across his career. Widely regarded as one of the major musical influences of our generation, Folds' enormous body of genre-bending music includes pop albums with Ben Folds Five, multiple solo albums, and numerous collaborative records. His latest album, 2023's *What Matters Most*, is a blend of piano-driven pop rock songs, while his 2015 Concerto for Piano and Orchestra soared to #1 on both the Billboard classical and classical crossover charts. He released his first Christmas album in 2024 and last Fall recorded a live album slated for release in 2025 with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where he served for eight years as the first artistic advisor to the NSO.

*The June 14 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.*