



NEWS RELEASE

Wichita Symphony Orchestra

March 16, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MEDIA INQUIRES

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WICHITA SYMPHONY 2025-2026 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Wichita, KS –The Wichita Symphony unveiled its highly anticipated 2025-2026 Season to donors and the press at a special “Season Reveal” gathering at Century II on Friday, March 14, 2025. The upcoming season invites audiences to **experience the joy of live orchestral music** with an exhilarating lineup of immersive musical experiences, world-class soloists, and groundbreaking collaborations. Under the leadership of Music Director **Daniel Hege**, who enters his 15th season this coming fall, this season offers timeless masterpieces and bold contemporary works to showcase the talent and versatility of the orchestra.

“This season is all about the joy of being in the concert hall, where music becomes an experience that you feel as much as you hear,” said Music Director Daniel Hege. “From grand, triumphant symphonies to intimate moments of breathtaking beauty, we invite audiences to experience the power and thrill of your Wichita Symphony Orchestra.”

Season highlights include:

- **World-Class Soloists & WSO Musicians in the Spotlight:** Rising star **Alexi Kenney** performs Korngold’s lush and cinematic violin concerto, Grammy-winning pianist **Michelle Cann** takes center stage with the Symphony Steinway for Beethoven’s “Emperor” Concerto, WSO Principal Cello **Leonid Shukaev** performs Haydn, and WSO Concertmaster **Holly Mulcahy** premieres a brand-new work by composer **Daniel Perttu**.
- **Celebrating America’s 250th:** Pianist **Jeffrey Biegel** honors the nation’s semiquincentennial with **Peter Boyer’s** *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*, while trumpeter and vocalist **Byron Stripling** returns to lead the orchestra in a celebration of the vibrant genres that define the American.
- **Interdisciplinary Experiences:** *What Music Is* fuses orchestral music, science, and stunning visuals to explore the connections between music, nature and human emotion. *Tango Caliente* ignites the stage with the sizzling rhythms of Argentina to the stage with dancers, vocals, and bandoneon. The season culminates with Verdi’s *Requiem*, as the orchestra and **Symphony Chorus** unite in a powerful performance to shake the rafters and stir the soul.

Season subscriptions are available now starting with as few as three concerts to bundle and save, plus special Early Bird pricing is available through April 25, 2025. Don’t miss this incredible season of **JOY**, featuring unforgettable performances that will move, inspire, and delight audiences of all ages.

For tickets and more information, visit WichitaSymphony.org or contact the Symphony box office at (316) 267-7658.

Wichita Symphony 2025-2026 Season

Symphonic Metamorphosis

Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

GIUSEPPE VERDI La Forza del Destino Overture

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35

Alexi Kenney, Violin

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS Rainbow Body

PAUL HINDEMITH Symphonic Metamorphosis

Beethoven's Emperor

Saturday, October 25, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

CARLOS SIMON Fate Now Conquers

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 72 (Emperor)

Michelle Cann, Piano

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 63

What Music Is

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Thomas Heuser, Guest Conductor

Bill Barclay, Narrator

Shawn Feeney, Animations

What Music Is reveals music's expansive role in our collective well-being. Every human culture ever studied makes music, but its role in human evolution remains a mystery, until now. In this show, we propose music's purpose in human life, the critical role live music plays in civic wellness, and how we can leverage music's powers for human flourishing.

Voyage to Vienna

Saturday, January 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

ANNA CLYNE Restless Oceans

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major

Leonid Shukaev, Cello

JOHANNES BRAHMS Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

Tango Caliente

Saturday, February 14, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Camille Zamora, Soprano

Hector Del Curto, Bandoneón

Be transported by the seductive sounds of the dance of romance... the Tango! Star soprano Camille Zamora joins the WSO, award-winning Argentinian dancers and internationally acclaimed bandoneón artist Hector Del Curto. Prepare for a night of fiery Tango classics including *La*

Cumparsita, Oblivi3n, El Choclo, Volver, Por Una Cabeza by stor Piazzolla, Carlos Gardel and others. Fall in love with the seductive heart of Tango. Caliente!

Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

CHARLES IVES The Unanswered Question

PETER BOYER Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue

Jeffrey Biegel, Piano

LEONARD BERNSTEIN "Symphonic Dances" from *West Side Story*

GEORGE GERSHWIN Rhapsody in Blue

Jeffrey Biegel, Piano

The Firebird

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

RICHARD WAGNER The Flying Dutchman Overture

DANIEL PERTTU Stealing From Birds (World Premiere)

Holly Mulcahy, Violin

IGOR STRAVINSKY The Firebird Suite [1945]

Verdi Requiem

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Daniel Hege, Conductor

Wichita Symphony Chorus

GIUSEPPE VERDI Messa da requiem

Byron Stripling's America the Beautiful

Saturday, May 9, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Byron Stripling, Guest Conductor, Trumpet & Vocals

Celebrate America's 250th birthday with a musical journey that captures the heart and soul of the nation through its rich tapestry of sound. This exhilarating concert experience showcases the evolution of American music, from spirituals and gospel tunes that lifted spirits to the rhythms of ragtime and the heartfelt passion of the blues. Stripling's charismatic trumpet and vocals lead the audience through the birth of jazz, the soulful grooves of R&B, and all the vibrant genres that define the American soundscape.

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