



**NEWS RELEASE**

**Wichita Symphony Orchestra**

March 5, 2026

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MEDIA INQUIRES**

Contact: Alex Freund

Phone: (316) 267-5259, ext. 104

Email: [afreund@wso.org](mailto:afreund@wso.org)

**WICHITA SYMPHONY 2026-2027 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Wichita, KS** – The Wichita Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Daniel Hege are thrilled to announce a 2026-2027 season defined by powerful narratives and breathtaking performances. From the hidden defiance of Shostakovich to the cosmic fanfare of Star Wars, the upcoming season at Century II Concert Hall invites the community to experience world-class artistry right here in Wichita.

“We’ve curated a roster of soloists who are true musical explorers,” says Music Director and Conductor Daniel Hege. “To have a ‘genius’ like Chris Thile sharing his wit, Clayton Stephenson bringing his extraordinary narrative gift to Tchaikovsky, and our own Rachelle Goter stepping into the spotlight—it creates an electric atmosphere on stage.”

“The moments that stay with you aren’t always the loudest ones,” adds Executive Director Tim Storhoff. “They happen when a performance pulls you in—from quiet focus to a standing ovation. This season, music reflects the human experience, bringing stories of drama, grit, and joy to life on our stage.”

Season highlights include:

- **Human drama** emerges from the stories behind the notes with Shostakovich’s subtle defiance and the complex relationships of Robert and Clara Schumann and Johannes Brahms.
- **Epic narratives** unfold in Handel’s *Messiah* and in a journey to a galaxy far, far away with the iconic music of *Star Wars*.
- **Modern storytellers** take the stage with a contemporary song cycle from the brilliant Chris Thile and a symphonic tribute to the legendary life and music of Tina Turner.
- **Powerful collaborations** bring the Symphony back together with Music Theatre Wichita to present Irving Berlin’s *Annie Get Your Gun in Concert*.

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 20, 2026.

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

## **Wichita Symphony 2026-2027 Season**

### ***Fate, Fury & Beethoven's Fifth***

Sun., October 4, 2026 | 3:00 PM

*Emily Bruskin, violin & Julia Bruskin, cello*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**POLINA NAZAYKINSKAYA** Fractures

**JOHANNES BRAHMS** Double Concerto for Violin and Cello

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 5

### ***Defiance***

Sat., October 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM

*Clayton Stephenson, piano*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**JESSIE MONTGOMERY** Overture

**PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY** Piano Concerto No. 1

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH** Symphony No. 5

### ***Simply the Best: The Music of Tina Turner***

Sat., November 7, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Tina Turner's record-breaking career is one of music's greatest stories of resilience and triumph. A true icon and survivor, her legacy is brought to life by two-time Grammy winner Tamika Lawrence and Broadway's Shaleah Adkisson. Join us to celebrate the journey of Anna Mae Bullock through the powerhouse hits that defined a generation. Rock out to "Proud Mary," "River Deep, Mountain High," "Private Dancer," and the global smash "What's Love Got to Do With It."

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

Sun., December 6, 2026 | 3:00 PM

*Wichita Symphony Chorus*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL** *Messiah*

### ***A Breath of Fresh Air***

Sat., January 23, 2027 | 7:30 PM

*Julie Coucheron, piano*

*Vinay Parameswaran, conductor*

**VIVIAN FUNG** Parade

**FELIX MENDELSSOHN** Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral"

### ***Irving Berlin's***

#### ***Annie Get Your Gun In Concert***

Sat., Feb 6, 2027 | 7:30 PM and Sun., Feb 7, 2027 | 3:00 PM

*In Collaboration with Music Theatre Wichita*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

When Buffalo Bill's Wild West show rolls into town, star marksman Frank Butler meets his match in the spirited, sharp-shooting country girl Annie Oakley. This beloved Broadway classic comes to life in a spectacular concert adaptation that proves there really is "No

Business Like Show Business.” Experience the wit, heart, and timeless score of Irving Berlin as two of Wichita’s premier arts organizations join forces for an unforgettable musical event.

***Intertwined Destinies***

Sun., February 21, 2027 | 3:00 PM

*Gabriela Martinez, piano*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**JOHANNES BRAHMS** Tragic Overture

**CLARA SCHUMANN** Piano Concerto

**ROBERT SCHUMANN** Symphony No. 2

***An Evening with Chris Thile***

Sat., March 20, 2027 | 7:30 PM

*Chris Thile, mandolin*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**QUINN MASON** *Toast of the Town*

**AARON COPLAND** *Appalachian Spring*

**CHRIS THILE ATTENTION!** *(a narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra)*

***Wind, Waves & Skyfire***

Sun., April 18, 2027 | 3:00 PM

*Rachelle Goter, clarinet*

*Daniel Hege, conductor*

**SAMUEL BARBER** *School for Scandal Overture*

**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART** Clarinet Concerto

**STACY GARROP** *Spectacle of Light*

**CLAUDE DEBUSSY** *La Mer*

***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

***Star Wars at 50: A Galactic Jubilee***

Sat., May 8, 2027 | 7:30 PM & Sun., May 9, 2027 | 3:00 PM

*Daniel Hege, Conductor*

In 1977, a single brass fanfare by John Williams changed the sound of cinema forever. Join us for a monumental 50th-anniversary symphonic odyssey that spans the entire Skywalker Saga and hit series like *The Mandalorian*, bringing every iconic theme, from the binary sunsets of the original trilogy to the new classics of today, to life in spectacular detail. Whether you’re a Jedi Master or a young Padawan, experience the power of the Force through the most beloved music in film history.

###