



NEWS RELEASE

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Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Unveils 2022-2023 Season

Highlights: Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring,' Handel's 'Messiah' and Whitney Houston tribute.

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to announce its 2022-2023 season, featuring a variety of exciting programming and renowned guest artists.

Subscriptions are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting the KSO website or calling the KSO box office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at (865) 291-3310. Renewing subscribers can retain their seats by renewing their subscriptions by April 30, 2022. Individual tickets go on sale in August 2022.

"I am incredibly excited for our 22-23 season, which will be a feast for the ears," said KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian. "The season features an eclectic combination of familiar faces and names and introduces debuting artists and repertoire that Knoxville audiences will be hearing for the first time, in our effort to continue to broaden the expectations of what one might hear or experience at an orchestra concert. We're also proud to be continuing our commitment to bringing the spirit of our community into the concert hall with local artists and partners featured throughout the season."

Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series

The 22-23 Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series is the KSO's mainstage concert series led by Music Director Aram Demirjian on Thursday and Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Theatre. Series subscriptions start at \$109.

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 – September 15-16, 2022:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Joyce Yang, piano

KSO's dynamic Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series kicks off with the musical fireworks of Anna Clyne's *Masquerade* and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's "fate" symphony! Joyce Yang returns performing Jonathan Leshnoff's KSO co-commissioned Piano Concerto, hailed as "a soulful piano concerto [that] enralls" (*BBC Music Magazine*).

Michelle Cann Plays Rachmaninoff – October 13-14, 2022:

Francesco Lecce-Chong, guest conductor; Michelle Cann, piano

Michelle Cann, recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, makes her long-awaited return to the KSO performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's sentimental, romantic Second Piano Concerto. Guest conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong debuts in two heroic, opera-inspired works about overcoming oppression.

Service and Spirit: A Salute to Veterans – November 10-11, 2022:

Aram Demirjian, conductor

The KSO honors our community's veterans with a festive, reflective and poignant tribute to service. An all-American first half, headlined by "Lincoln Portrait" and the "Armed Forces Salute," is followed by Serge Prokofiev's World War II-era Fifth Symphony, which the composer described as "glorifying the grandeur of the human spirit."

Dvorak Cello Concerto – January 19-20, 2023:

Lidiya Yankovskaya, guest conductor; Oliver Herbert, cello

Rising stars Lidiya Yankovskaya and Oliver Herbert make their KSO debuts in a program of rich orchestral colors and memorable melodies.

Brahms Violin Concerto – February 23-24, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Philippe Quint, violin

World-class, GRAMMY-nominated violinist Philippe Quint returns to the KSO stage performing one of the pillars of the violin repertoire, Johannes Brahms' lyrical, robust Violin Concerto in D major. And for the first time, the KSO performs William Levi Dawson's powerful, stunning Negro Folk Symphony, inspired by melodies from traditional spirituals.

Appalachian Journeys – March 23-24, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Rachel Grimes and Ensemble; Knoxville Choral Society

The KSO ushers in spring with two musical portraits of Appalachia, conceived nearly 8 decades apart: Aaron Copland's sentimental *Appalachian Spring* Suite, best known for its iconic "Variations on Simple Gifts," and Louisville, KY native Rachel Grimes' *The Way Forth*, a poignant multimedia folk opera examining the history of Southern Appalachia, focusing on accounts of people whom the historical record has overlooked. Grimes and the KSO are joined by a cast of folk musicians, actors, singers and Knoxville community partners in a program that explores who we are, where we're going, and how we tell our stories.

Mozart's Requiem – April 20-21, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Knoxville Choral Society

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem* was the stuff of legend before it was even premiered. Left incomplete at the time of Mozart's death, its legacy has been one of mystery, (often-sensationalized) controversy, and drama, amplified by the film *Amadeus*. One thing is certain:

Mozart's musical "last words" were among his most enduring, still capturing the fascination of listeners centuries later. The Knoxville Choral Society makes a long-awaited return to the Moxley Carmichael Masterworks Series!

Beethoven and The Rite of Spring – May 18-19, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Zhenni Li, piano

A true *succès de scandale* at the time of its 1913 premiere, Igor Stravinsky's paradigm-smashing *Rite of Spring* still sounds unshakably fresh and new, even 110 years later. It also demands a spirit of inventiveness and innovation, which the KSO lives up to with Tan Dun's Passacaglia: *The Secret of Wind and Birds*, an interactive piece for orchestra and cell phones – with audience participation! Zhenni Li makes her KSO debut performing Ludwig van Beethoven's luminous Fourth Piano Concerto.

Chamber Classics Series

The 22-23 Chamber Classics Series showcases the musical bravado of the Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra in five concerts on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. at the Bijou Theatre. Series subscriptions start at \$110.

Mozart and Ginastera – September 25, 2022:

Aram Demirjian, conductor

The KSO Chamber Orchestra takes center-stage in Alberto Ginastera's high-voltage *Variaciones concertantes*, along with works by Caroline Shaw and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Classical Christmas: Messiah – November 27, 2022 (at Tennessee Theatre):

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Knoxville Choral Society

The KSO's annual holiday tradition continues for another festive winter, this year with the return of Handel's *Messiah*! Also included on the program is Victor Hely-Hutchinson's delightful *Carol Symphony*.

Jeff Midkiff's Mandolin – January 29, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Jeff Midkiff, mandolin

Jeff Midkiff, whose Mandolin Concerto thrilled Moxley Carmichael Masterworks audiences in 2016, returns to perform his Mandolin Quintet No. 2, alongside string orchestra works by Antonin Dvořák and Dame Ethel Smyth.

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 27 – March 5, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Emi Kagawa, piano

KSO pianist Emi Kagawa makes her solo debut with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's impeccable Piano Concerto No. 27 followed by Franz Schubert sparkling Fifth Symphony. The overture to *Signor Bruschino* showcases Gioachino Rossini's distinctive musical humor and wit!

Beethoven Symphony No. 8 – May 7, 2023:

Aram Demirjian, conductor; Claire Chenette and Ayca Yayman, oboe

The Chamber Classics season wraps up with a program featuring two composers you probably have heard of (Ludwig van Beethoven and Antonio Vivaldi) and two who might be new to you (Adolphus Hailstork and Viet Cuong). Old music meets new music in this progressively rambunctious program!

Thermal Label Warehouse/Shaw Family Pops Series

The Knoxville News Sentinel Pops Series features the popular music of today's beloved artists and movies performed by the KSO on Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. Series subscriptions start at \$115.

Fire and Rain – October 7, 2022 (at Tennessee Theatre):

With a soundtrack created by the likes of Jim Croce, Jackson Browne, Carole King, and Gordon Lightfoot, the 1970s was the pinnacle for singer-songwriters. Enjoy an evening of unforgettable 70s folk anthems including "Time in a Bottle," "Big Yellow Taxi," and "You've Got a Friend" as acclaimed Nashville duo AJ Swearingen and Jayne Kelli join the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

Jurassic Park – January 14, 2023:

In 1993, *Jurassic Park* transformed the movie-going experience, won three Academy Awards, and became the highest-grossing film of all time. Rekindle the big screen magic as Steven Spielberg's groundbreaking film is projected in High Definition while the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra performs John Williams' majestic score *live*.

Jurassic Park – Film with Orchestra produced by Film Concerts Live!, a joint venture of IMG Artists, LLC and The Gorfaine/Schwartz Agency, Inc.

Cirque Broadway – February 11, 2023:

Wildly popular Cirque de la Symphonie returns, this time to the memorable sounds of Broadway. Prepare to be dazzled as the KSO is joined on stage by aerialists and acrobats performing astonishing feats of grace, beauty, and power. Featuring showstoppers from *Wicked*, *Cats*, *Chicago*, *West Side Story*, and more!

The Music of Whitney Houston – March 11, 2023:

The creative team that brought you tributes to Queen, Journey, and Led Zeppelin, returns with a stunning salute to American icon, Whitney Houston. Broadway sensation Rashidra Scott takes center stage for an evening of Whitney's greatest hits including "I Will Always Love You," "Saving All My Love," "The Greatest Love of All," and "How Will I Know?"

ABBA: The Concert – April 15, 2023:

Calling all "Dancing Queens!" Come to the Civic Auditorium as Waterloo, the world's foremost ABBA tribute act, joins the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and for an evening of smash hits. "Mamma Mia," "Take a Chance," "The Name of the Game," and more!

The Doo Wop Project – May 13, 2023:

If you love the classic sounds of Frankie Valli, The Drifters, and the Del Vikings, but also wonder what Maroon 5 would sound like if they came up in the Doo Wop Era, then this concert is for you. Stars of Broadway smashes *Jersey Boys* and *Motown: The Musical* and the KSO bring you on an unforgettable journey from street corner harmonies to today's biggest radio hits.

36th Annual Clayton Holiday Concert – December 16-18, 2022:

East Tennessee's favorite holiday tradition continues as the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and special guests celebrate the sounds of the season.

Subscribers can add the Clayton Holiday concert to their package at a 20% discount.

Merchant & Gould Concertmaster & Friends Series

The Merchant & Gould Concertmaster & Friends Series features KSO Concertmaster William Shaub in three concerts on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Knoxville Museum of Art. Series subscriptions are \$56.

Carmen Fantasy – October 5-6, 2022:

Perhaps the most iconic Opera of all time, and the one with tunes found in everything from early films to modern rom-coms, Bizet's "Carmen" was as popular in the 19th century as it is today. Just five years after its scandalous premier, violinist Pablo de Sarasate was writing his very own "Fantasy" based on themes from Carmen. A legendary virtuoso from Spain, Pablo de Sarasate's rendition for violin is exactly the way Shaub loves to open the Concertmaster Series season: virtuosic, irresistibly catchy and a wild ride.

The Call of the Hunt: Brahms' Horn Trio – January 25-26, 2023:

In a program titled "The Call of the Hunt," Shaub and pianist Kevin Class explore nature and the romanticism of its sounds with KSO Principal Horn Jeffery Whaley to present Brahms' epic "Horn Trio," a piece with so much depth and power that at moments, it sounds like a full symphony orchestra is performing at the Museum.

The Late Genius: Beethoven's Final Days – April 5-6, 2023:

Beethoven's "Late Quartets" are legendary pieces that inspired countless composers and artists alike since their composition. They are also the most challenging string quartets ever written, performed almost exclusively by touring professional string quartets who may "live" with them side by side over time.

Q Series:

The Q Series features the KSO's Principal String Quartet and Woodwind Quintet in six lunchtime performances on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. Lunch will be provided. Series subscriptions are \$107.

Q Series Dates:

September 28, 2022

October 26, 2022

December 7, 2022

January 11, 2023

February 8, 2023

March 29, 2023

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About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Led by Music Director Aram Demirjian, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre and Civic Auditorium, as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit www.knoxvillesymphony.com or call 865-291-3310.