



# KEYNOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Symphonic Masterworks

Feel the passion of music during the 2023–2024 concert series with a collection of intriguing, moving, eclectic, and entrancing programs including symphonic masterworks, Russian/Armenian dances, movie music, a saxophone concerto, and more. You won't want to miss any of this season's wonderful concerts!

The October 22 concert starts with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's (1756–1791) Symphony No. 41, in C Major, his longest symphony and the last one he composed. It made a powerful, lasting impression and was nicknamed "Jupiter" because it conveys an allure, exuberance, and grand scale reminiscent of the most powerful Roman deity.

The last three of Mozart's symphonies were all composed in the summer of 1788, while he was living in the Viennese suburb of Alsergrund—No. 39 in June, No. 40 in July, and No. 41 in August. Some historians believe that the three symphonies were composed as a unified work. Not only were they composed close together, but the compositional structure gives evidence to this idea. Symphony 39 is the only one of the three that has an introduction, and the final "Jupiter" Symphony has a very long grand finale.

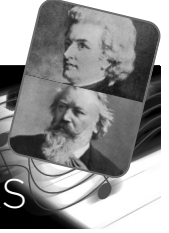
The Jupiter Symphony has inspired many composers. Perhaps the most succinct reflection on the work's importance is found in Robert Schumann's critiques. In 1835, he wrote, "About many things in this world there is simply nothing to be said—for example, about Mozart's C-Major symphony with the fugue, much of Shakespeare, and some of Beethoven."

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) was a German composer of the mid-Romantic era. He was born in Hamburg, but spent much of his life in Vienna. At age 7, he studied piano with Otto Friedrich Willibald Cossel, who said

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

— 2:30 PM

SYMPHONIC  
MASTERWORKS



Brahms "could be such a good player, but he will not stop his never-ending composing." Brahms did in fact become a virtuoso pianist, but his compositions are what people know him best for today.

Though it took him more than 10 years to write his melancholy Symphony No. 1, he completed his second in just four months. In 1876, Brahms left Vienna and began spending time in the countryside in Pörschach, a lakeside town in southern Austria. It would be the first of three summers that he'd spent there. Inspiration for Symphony No. 2 came from mountain views and daily swims at dawn. The symphony was premiered to wide acclaim by the Vienna Philharmonic in December 1876.

Feel the passion with these two symphonic masterpieces at the start of the ESO's 77th season! 📶

—Jennifer McGeary



MUSICAL INSIGHTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

1:30 PM

FREE

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PUBLIC

1611 CHICAGO AVE., EVANSTON  
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THE EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA USES THE POWER OF MUSIC TO LIFT THE HUMAN SPIRIT. WE ENGAGE AND ENRICH THE COMMUNITY BY COMING TOGETHER TO PERFORM, INSPIRE AND EDUCATE. For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact Michelle Pranger, General Manager, at (847) 864-8804. Write us at [Evanston Symphony Orchestra, 1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318, Evanston, IL 60201](mailto:evanstonsymphonyorchestra@evanstonsymphony.org). Email us at [esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org](mailto:esomusic@evanstonsymphony.org). Visit our website [evanstonsymphony.org](http://evanstonsymphony.org).

# BEHIND THE SCENES



## Dear Subscribers,

No sooner did we play our third annual Outdoor Summer Concert than rehearsals for our first concert of the ESO's 2023–24 season started just a few weeks later! I'm honored and humbled to be performing


two monumental pieces in our October 22nd Symphonic Masterworks Concert. First is Mozart's 41st Symphony, nicknamed "Jupiter" (for the chief god of the ancient Roman pantheon, not the planet), which is his final symphony. It is full of jollity, exuberance, elegance, and harmonic adventure, and it ends with the most complex endings ever composed to date, managing to combine five different themes at the same time. To me, it is without question among his most mature works, and certainly his most mature symphony. And, as if that weren't enough, Brahms Symphony No. 2 is also on the program! Each of Brahms four symphonies is a masterpiece in its own right. The Second seems to tap into every emotion possible, and, just like Mozart's "Jupiter" finale, Brahms' finale is also jovial, full of spirit; it even contains a hidden nod to Beethoven's 5th Symphony (which ALSO happens to end in a bright, spirited fashion)! We are all privileged to work on and perform these amazing pieces.

The rest of our subscription season I expect you will find equally engaging. In February, local pianist Rick Ferguson will play Shostakovich's 2nd Piano Concerto. That program begins with Khachaturian's selected dances from his ballet *Gayane*, and concludes with Rachmaninoff's amazing *Symphonic Dances*.

In April, we celebrate "Moving Movie Music"—music that was either composed for movies, inspired by movies, or used in a movie to important effect. Violinist Holly Mulcahy performs *The Rose of Sonora*, a *Concerto In Five Scenes*, a piece by film composer George. S. Clinton that was inspired by Hollywood westerns. Also included is music from Ennio and Andrea Morricone's *Cinema Paradiso*, John Williams' *Cowboys Overture*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, and Gershwin's *American in Paris*. Your host and narrator for this concert is WFMT's LaRob K. Rafael, who brings his expertise as anchor of WFMT's "Soundtrack" on Saturday mornings. WFMT describes this delightful program as "a classical music show highlighting selected film, television, and video game soundtracks and scores."

And finally, our June concert features saxophonist extraordinaire Steven Banks playing French composer Henri Tomasi's *Saxophone Concerto*. Another French piece on the program is family favorite *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas, and we finish with two wonderful pieces by Antonín Dvořák—his *Slavonic Dance No. 1*, and his beloved *Eighth Symphony*.

We are delighted to see you at all of our concerts this season. (And don't forget we have an amazing Holiday Concert, too, on December 3 at ETHS!).

See you very soon! 

—Lawrence Eckerling  
Music Director, Evanston Symphony Orchestra

## 2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

# Feel the Passion

**OCTOBER 22  
2023**

**SYMPHONIC  
MASTERWORKS**

MOZART  
*Symphony No. 41  
in C Major "Jupiter"*

BRAHMS  
*Symphony No. 2  
in D Major*



**FEBRUARY 11  
2024**

**RUSSIAN/  
ARMENIAN  
DANCES**

KHACHATURIAN  
*Four Dances  
from Gayane*

SHOSTAKOVICH  
*Piano Concerto No. 2  
in F Major*  
Rick Ferguson, *piano*

RACHMANINOFF  
*Symphonic Dances*

All performances  
take place at 2:30 p.m.at  
Pick Staiger Concert Hall.

**APRIL 7  
2024**

**MOVING  
MOVIE MUSIC**

LaRob K. Rafael,  
*Host and Narrator*

WILLIAMS  
*The Cowboys Overture*

MORRICONE  
*Cinema Paradiso*

CLINTON  
*The Rose of Sonora*  
Holly Mulcahy, *violin*  
Allegrezza Singers  
LaRob K. Rafael, *Narrator*

BARBER  
*Adagio for Strings*

GERSHWIN  
*An American In Paris*

**JUNE 2  
2024**

**SOARING  
SAX AND  
DVOŘÁK'S 8TH**

DVOŘÁK  
*Slavonic Dance No. 1*

DUKAS  
*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

TOMASI  
*Saxophone Concerto*  
Steven Banks, *saxophone*

DVOŘÁK  
*Symphony No. 8  
in G Major*



# Meet Ellen Frolichstein, ESO's New Principal Cellist



The Evanston Symphony extends heartfelt thanks to Rhea Davis and Mark Westbrook for their many years of excellent music-making as co-principals of the ESO cello section. This past season, Rhea and Mark decided that they wanted to move away from the first desk, so auditions were held for that role. The ESO is delighted to introduce Ellen Frolichstein as our new principal cellist.

Ellen grew up in Oak Park in a family of medical professionals and artists. When she was a little girl, her big sister played the violin and Ellen couldn't wait for the day when she could do the same. On instrument-choosing day, the third-graders got to run down to the front of the auditorium and pick up the instrument they wanted to learn. Ellen, who describes her younger self as a "shy child," was determined to get a violin so, out of character, she immediately raised her hand. However, by the time the teacher called on her and she ran down to the front, the only strings left were two cellos. Such a big disappointment! But then the teacher held her hand and helped her play one big, loud note, an open C, and Ellen was hooked!

Ellen continued studying cello in the Oak Park public schools and, like all talented young musicians, arrived at that point where it was time to make a choice of future studies. She was trying to decide between music and architecture when her older sister made a cogent observation. She told Ellen that if she went to architecture school and, after a couple of years, decided she would rather be in music, she would be at a disadvantage, because she had been away from the music scene, hadn't been practicing regularly and so forth, and it would be much more difficult to get into a conservatory. On the other hand, if she went to music school and decided after a few years that it wasn't for her, there was nothing to hinder her getting a place in an architecture program. That was Ellen's deciding moment: she enrolled in Roosevelt University's Chicago Musical College (now the College of the Performing Arts), where she received her BA in Performance. She also played with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Notable teachers have been:

Karl Fruh, Kim Scholes, Jon Pegis (CSO), Christopher Costanza (St. Lawrence String Quartet), Eugene Friesen (Jazz improv), and Orbert Davis (Jazz).

One of Ellen's dreams had been to become a recording session musician, but when she told her high school teacher this, he chuckled and said that, because of the rise of the synthesizer, such positions would be few and far between. Ellen realized that her choices would be narrower and, even though she still wanted to do session work, she focused on orchestra. Despite the limitations, however, she managed to record a few commercial jingles and the cello part in a studio album here in Chicago.

In 2003, Ellen and her husband, a filmmaker, went to California, where there was a wider variety of possibilities in music. She managed to secure a number of freelance recording gigs because she could sight-read easily and accurately and performed live with various recording artists including: Annie Lenox, Christina Aguilera, Smokey Robinson, Lionel Richie, Barry Manilow, Earth Wind and Fire, Chicago, Jeff Beck, Mary J. Blige, Kelly Clarkson, Michael Feinstein, and many more. She also played with the Santa Barbara Orchestra, with the *American Idol* orchestra for three seasons as one of the extra strings for the Final 12 Round, and played for the Grammy Awards and for the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno.

After several years in LA, Ellen and her husband decided to move back to the Chicago area and landed happily in Evanston. Ellen's musical activities are still quite varied. A longtime fan of music education in public schools, she is the cello teacher at Evanston Township High School and serves as president of the board of the Evanston In-School Music Association. She currently performs with many local chamber ensembles, including Lake Effect Ensemble, Chicago Folklore Ensemble, and The Steve Yezep Quartet and is also the principal cello of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, described as "America's definitive Third Stream orchestra." "Third Stream" is a term coined in 1957 by Gunter Schiller to describe a new musical genre merging jazz and classical traditions, which the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic presents as a way to "bridge communities, educate the next generation of musicians, encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and expand creative practice."

Welcome, Ellen, to the Evanston Symphony Orchestra! 🎻



## Musical Insights

A free pre-concert event at The Merion  
Friday, October 20, 1:30 PM

Enhance your concert experience with a sneak preview. Composers come alive and their passions take center stage when ESO Maestro Lawrence Eckerling takes you on an insider's tour of the history and highlights behind the music.

Maestro Lawrence Eckerling will explore the concert program in depth and perform a surprise piece! 🎻

## THE MERION

Merion's Crystal Ballroom at  
1611 Chicago Ave. at Davis St., Evanston.  
FREE and open to the public.  
Please RSVP to 847-570-7815.



PHOTO BY LAURA BENNETT

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra performs a free outdoor concert in Gillson Park

## ESO Summer Pops Concert

Thursday morning August 17th found everyone in the ESO keeping an anxious eye on the overcast skies. Would it rain? Would we have to move to our rain date? What happens if it rains on our rain date...? But it didn't rain. And 100 or so ESO musicians, board members and volunteers went to Gillson Park in Wilmette that evening and presented a fabulous outdoor concert for an appreciative audience of close to 1,000 people (and several dogs).

Maestro Lawrence Eckerling conducted a program of pops and light classical music in the ESO's third annual summer concert, this year sponsored by Optima Verdana. From Johan Strauss, Jr. and Jacques Offenbach to Morton Gould, The Beatles and John Williams, there was something to please everyone. Grandparents sang along to The Beatles tunes, children danced on the grass, and everyone clapped along to Offenbach's "can-can" music. It was a lovely evening! 🎵



PHOTO BY LAURA BENNETT

## The Evanston Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert Sunday December 3rd, 3:00 pm at Evanston Township High School

Put this date on your calendar today! This most wonderful afternoon of music brings you many of your holiday favorites in song, dance, and music. Our full orchestra will be joined by Evanston Dance Ensemble, Chicago Ballet Arts, Evanston Children's Choir, North Shore Choral Society, the Evanston Symphony Orchestra Gospel Choir, led by the Rev. Ken Cherry, and, of course, Santa with his reindeer and elves. ETHS students will serenade you in the lobby. Share this magical concert with friends and family. **All welcome. But reserve your tickets early. This concert sells out!** You can order your tickets by calling 847-864-8804, online at our website, or by filling out the form in this KeyNotes. 🎵



PHOTO BY LAURA BENNETT

The Evanston Symphony Gospel Choir



PHOTO BY LAURA BENNETT

Chicago Ballet Arts dancing Anderson's A Christmas Festival accompanied by the ESO

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YOUR SEATS:  
IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
TO SUBSCRIBE!



# EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

presents our

## 2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

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\_\_\_\_ Senior Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$110 each... = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For children's tickets or special seating call 847.864.8804

### INDIVIDUAL CONCERT TICKETS

Purchase tickets in advance and save.

Box office prices are \$40, seniors \$35. Full-time students with ID are \$5.

Concert	#1	#2	#3	#4		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Adults @ \$35 each...	= \$ _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Seniors @ \$30 each...	= \$ _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Children 12 & under-free...	= \$ No Charge

### EVANSTON SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT

#### PREFERRED SEATING AREA

\_\_\_\_ Adult \$60 \_\_\_\_ Child \$25\* \_\_\_\_ Family Pack \$150\*\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### GENERAL ADMISSION SEATS

\_\_\_\_ Adult \$30 \_\_\_\_ Child \$15\* \_\_\_\_ Family Pack \$85\*\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Under the age of 18 years old \*\*Family package special includes tickets for 2 adults and 3 children\*

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For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact us, at (847) 864-8804 or visit [evanstonsymphony.org](http://evanstonsymphony.org).