



Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318
Evanston, IL 60201

We are excited to announce our

2025–2026
CONCERT SERIES

THE
POWER
OF MUSIC



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Lawrence Eckerling, Music Director



EVANSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lawrence Eckerling, Music Director

2025–2026 CONCERT SERIES

THE
POWER
OF MUSIC



847.864.8804
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2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 19, 2025

TCHAIKOVSKY & MOZART

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

The ESO opens its 2025–2026 subscription concert series with a program that combines charm and passion. Local composer Stacy Garrop’s *Song of Orpheus*, commissioned by the Louisiana Philharmonic in 2023, evokes the god of Greek mythology charming all of nature. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto is one of the favorite—and most charming—wind concertos of all time. It will be performed by the renowned principal clarinetist of the Chicago Symphony, Stephen Williamson. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s 6th Symphony, the “Pathétique,” is his final masterpiece. The work is filled with passion, dreamlike ecstasy, triumph, and ultimately, despair.



Stephen Williamson,
clarinet



GARROP
Song of Orpheus



TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No. 6
“Pathétique”

MOZART
Clarinet Concerto

Stephen Williamson, clarinet

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2026

LIFE, LOVE & DEATH

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

A perfect, if dark, teaser for Valentine’s Day, Richard Wagner’s opera *Tristan und Isolde* is the ultimate love story. The Prelude und Liebestod combines the opening and closing segments of the opera, and portrays love, and every possible emotion of it. Ludwig van Beethoven’s grandiose and heroic Piano Concerto No. 5, “The Emperor” was his final piano concerto. A perfect contrast with the passionate *Tristan und Isolde*. It will be performed by rising star pianist Albert Cano Smit. Robert Schumann’s Symphony No. 4 epitomizes the German late Romantic era symphony with its highly integrated and sweepingly melodic themes.



Albert Cano Smit,
piano

WAGNER
Prelude und Liebestod, *Tristan und Isolde*

BEETHOVEN
Piano Concerto No. 5 “Emperor”
Albert Cano Smit, piano

SCHUMANN
Symphony No. 4



EVANSTON SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Don’t miss Evanston’s best holiday event. The ESO leads other local arts groups in a festive program of music, song and dance. It’s sure-fire holiday fun for all, including a special guest for children young and old, jolly old St. Nick.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 3:00 PM

Mark your calendar! Tickets for the Evanston Symphony Holiday Concert will be available beginning September 1. Preferred seating for holiday will now include blocked off center/front sections on both the main floor and in the “balcony” at ETHS.

Evanston Township High School Auditorium
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

Tickets: Adults \$30/\$45*
Children under 18 yrs. \$15/\$20*

*second price shown is Preferred Seating area ticket.

Family Package Special:
Save \$15/\$20*
2 adults and 3 children only
\$90/\$130*

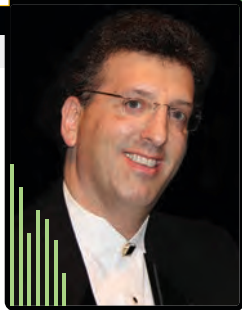
To order: Tickets will be available September 1
Order by phone: 847.864.8804,
Or order online: evanstonsymphony.org

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026

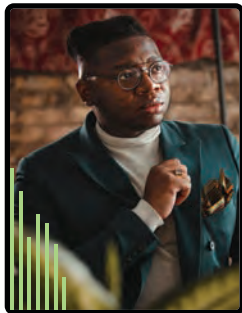
RHAPSODIES IN RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

Jeffrey Biegel returns to the ESO with a new piano concerto by Peter Boyer, *Rhapsody in Red, White and Blue*. Commissioned by the Rhapsody National Initiative, a consortium of orchestras, including the ESO, this will be the Illinois premiere. It is inspired by the anniversary of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Mr. Biegel and the ESO will perform both pieces. Rounding out this concert is Gershwin's short piece called "Promenade, (Walking the Dog)" written for the movie *Shall We Dance*, Leonard Bernstein's "Suite" from the film score for *On the Waterfront*, and Samuel-Coleridge Taylor's *Petite Suite de Concert*. The program will be hosted by WFMT's LaRob K. Rafael.



Jeffrey Biegel,
piano



LaRob K. Rafael,
Host

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR
Petite Suite de Concert

GERSHWIN
Promenade
(Walking The Dog)

BOYER
*Rhapsody in Red,
White and Blue*
Jeffrey Biegel, piano



BERNSTEIN
On The Waterfront Suite

GERSHWIN
Rhapsody in Blue
Jeffrey Biegel, piano



CONCERT SPONSORED BY: PAULA JACOBI AND TODD WIENER

PRE-CONCERT MUSICAL INSIGHTS

Everyone is invited to enjoy a sneak preview of each subscription concert. ESO Music Director Lawrence Eckerling and special guests will take you on an insider tour of the history and highlights behind the music. Join us for Musical Insights at 1:30 p.m. on the Friday preceding each series concert at The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston.



FREE
and open to the public

2:30 PM ON
SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2026

SCHEHERAZADE

LAWRENCE ECKERLING, CONDUCTOR

This concert program features three distinct evocations of love, laughter and passion. Manuel de Falla's *Three-Cornered Hat*, written as ballet music for Serge Diaghilev, follows a lecherous magistrate on his always thwarted quest of the beautiful miller's wife. Alexander Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A-Minor combines instrumental virtuosity with deep feelings and lyrical expressions. The violin soloist, Nathan Amaral, received the Sphinx Organization's 2024 Medal Of Excellence Award. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestral tour-de-force *Scheherazade*, based on tales from *The Thousand and One Nights*, is one of the most popular works on the orchestral repertoire for a reason. This performance, featuring Concertmaster Julie Fischer, commemorates her 10th season in the chair.



Nathan Amaral,
violin

FALLA
Three-Cornered Hat (Suite No. 2)

GLAZUNOV
Violin Concerto
Nathan Amaral, violin

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV
Scheherazade



OUR SPONSORS

A great thank you to our generous sponsors for the 2025-2026 ESO season!



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PAULA JACOBI AND
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Subscribers get the best prices and the best seats!

SAVE \$50 off box office prices (\$47 regular/\$41 senior at door) with a \$138 EARLY BIRD subscription purchased by July 11; seniors save \$44 with a \$120 EARLY BIRD subscription! Those purchasing regular subscriptions after July 11 save \$39 off box offices prices, seniors save \$32.

GUARANTEED SEATS: Renewing subscribers are guaranteed the same great reserved seats at every assigned seating performance this season and next season when you renew by August 1. Renewing subscribers are also prioritized for seat changes!

FREE EXCHANGES: Subscribers also qualify for free exchanges for a later concert in the 2025–26 series when you call 847.864.8804 at least 24 hours before the concert.

GROUP SAVINGS by calling 847.864.8804 to purchase 10 or more single tickets to a subscription concert!

THREE EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

- **Call** 847.864.8804
- **Mail** your order to: Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318
Evanston, IL 60201
- **Online** at evanstonsymphony.org

Please call 847.864.8804 for all orders with free children’s tickets and for special seating needs.

QUESTIONS? Email tickets@evanstonsymphony.org or call **847.864.8804**.

HEALTH & SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Masks, vaccinations and testing are no longer required to attend ESO concerts. As always, we ask that if you are sick, please stay home to prevent the spread of illness. The ESO may make changes to these policies depending on developments.

CONCERT VENUES

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES CONCERTS TAKE PLACE AT:
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall,
Northwestern University
50 Arts Circle Dr., Evanston
(just off of Sheridan Rd.).
Free, convenient parking.
Box office opens at 1:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY CONCERT TAKES PLACE AT:
Evanston Township High School Auditorium,
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston.
Free, convenient parking.
Box office opens at 2:00 p.m.

For further details and maps, please visit our website, evanstonsymphony.org.

2025–2026 ESO SEASON



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Assigned Seating. Tickets will be mailed in September.

- RENEWING ESO SUBSCRIBER NEW ESO SUBSCRIBER
- Same Seats
- Change my seats to: _____
- Main Floor
- Balcony

Indicate your seating *preference*:

Note: All credit/debit card ticket subscription purchases after August 1 incur a \$5 service fee.

Save with EARLY BIRD, purchase or postmark by July 11!

- _____ **Early Bird** Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$138 each... = \$ _____
- _____ **Early Bird** Senior Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$120 each... = \$ _____
- _____ Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$149 each (After 7/11)... = \$ _____
- _____ Senior Concert Series Subscriptions @ \$132 each (After 7/11)... = \$ _____

For children’s tickets or special seating call 847.864.8804

INDIVIDUAL CONCERT TICKETS

Will be available September 1.
Purchase tickets in advance and save.

- Prices:** \$42 in advance, \$47 at door.
- Seniors:** \$36 in advance, \$41 at door.
- Full-time students** with ID are \$5.

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Mail form to: Evanston Symphony Orchestra, 1555 Sherman Avenue, Suite 318, Evanston, IL 60201
The ESO thanks you for your support. All contributions are tax deductible and will be listed in the concert program. For more information on ESO concerts and events, please contact us at (847) 864-8804 or visit evanstonsymphony.org.