

The 2006/2007 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance

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I put together this little pocket guide to the 2006/2007 Seattle Symphony subscription season for my symphony friends to help them decide which ticket package they wanted. Maybe it'll help you, too. Maybe not. But since I already put it together, I may as well post it. Explanatory notes follow the table.

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Weekend	Program	Comments	Masterpiece	Listener's Choice	Encore	Overall
09/28/2006	Rachmaninov: Third Piano Concerto Beethoven: Symphony #3 (Eroica)	Excellent Awesome				
10/05/2006	Copland: Music for the Theatre Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto Brahms: Symphony #1	Okay? Awesome Excellent				
11/02/2006	Berlioz: Royal Hunt and Storm Harrison: Double Bass Concerto† Tchaikovsky: Symphony #5	Okay? Nervous? Excellent				

11/09/2006	Brahms: Hungarian Dances Bartók: Violin Concerto #2 Stravinsky: Petrouchka	Excellent Okay? Polarizing				
11/16/2006	Grieg: Peer Gynt Williams: Bassoon Concerto Schumann: Symphony #1 (Spring)	Excellent Wildcard? Excellent				
12/01/2006	Weber: Invitation to the Dance Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake (excerpts) Prokofiev: Cinderella (excerpts) Ravel: La Valse	Excellent Excellent Excellent Awesome				
12/28/2006	Beethoven: Symphony #9	Awesome				
01/04/2007	Dvořák: Serenade for Strings Barber: Cello Concerto Elgar: Enigma Variations	Excellent Okay? Good				
02/01/2007	Kernis: Newly Drawn Sky Kodály: Hary Janos Suite Brahms: Piano Concerto #2	Nervous? Good Awesome				
02/08/2007	Grieg: Piano Concerto Bruckner: Symphony #9	Awesome Polarizing				

02/15/2007	Rimsky-Korsakov: Russian Easter Overture Pärt: Tabula Rasa Sibelius: The Swan of Tuonela Sibelius: Symphony #7	Excellent Polarizing? Okay? Good				
03/03/2007	Beethoven: Piano Concerto #2 Beethoven: Piano Concerto #1 Beethoven: Piano Concerto #3	Excellent Awesome Awesome				
03/15/2007	Beethoven: Egmont Overture Beethoven: Triple Concerto McKinley: Sympho ny #7† Stravinsky: Symphony in Three Movements	Good Good Nervous? Polarizing				
03/22/2007	Weber: Ruler of the Spirits Mozart: Violin Concerto #4 Shostakovich: Symphony #10	Good? Good? Polarizing				
04/05/2007	Beethoven: Missa Solemnis	Good				
04/12/2007	Stravinsky: Feu D'artifice Prokofiev: Piano Concerto #3 Messiaen: L'Ascension Debussy: La Mer	Good? Good Polarizing? Excellent				

04/19/2007	Ravel: Ma Mère L'oye (Mother Goose) Szymanowsky: Symphony #4 Mussorgsky/Ravel: Pictures at an Exhibition	Excellent Nervous? Awesome				
04/29/2007	Prokofiev: Symphony #1 (Classical) Bobby McFerrin Improvisation Bizet: Symphony in C	Excellent Excellent? Good				
05/31/2007	Martinů: Double Concerto Kurtág: ... quasi una fantasia ... Bartók: Bluebeard's Castle	Nervous Nervous? Wildcard				
06/07/2007	Janáček: Glagolitic Mass	Nervous?				
06/14/2007	Mendelssohn: The Hebrides Bruch: Scottish Fantasy Stock: Symphony #5† Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier	Good Excellent Nervous? Polarizing				
06/21/2007	Schoenfield: Klezmer Rondo Poulenc: Gloria Dvořák: Symphony #8	Wildcard? Nervous? Excellent				
06/27/2007	Mahler: Symphony #3	Polarizing				

† Premiere

M Masterpiece

L Listener's Choice

E	Encore
O	Ovation
B	Bravo
C	Crescendo
A	Applause
S	Musically Speaking
P	Popular Classics
G	Allegro
F	Afternoons with the Symphony

Notes: This chart doesn't include "one-off" concert series such as the Visiting Orchestras or Distinguished Artists series. Two boxes in the Bravo series are marked ½. The Thursday Bravo series includes the Ravel concert, whereas the Saturday Bravo series includes the Beethoven concert. The comments column very crudely categorizes the works to assist my less-classically-aware friends. This is, of course, a highly subjective rating system, but I tried to view each piece from the ears of somebody new. Thus, I rated downward pieces that I personally like but which others might not. These predictions have, of course, proven wrong in the past. For example, this season, I was pleasantly surprised to find that one of my friends started getting into Kodály after hearing the *Dances of Galanta*. (I consider Kodály an acquired taste.)

Here's what the comments mean:

- Awesome: Guaranteed crowd-pleaser.
- Excellent: You will definitely like this piece.
- Good: You will probably like this piece.
- Okay: You may like this piece.
- Nervous: I have a bad feeling about this one.
- Polarizing: Some people will love it; others will hate it.
- Wildcard: I have no idea what will happen.

A question mark means that I am not familiar with the piece and am basing my evaluation on what I know about the composer (or am just guessing).

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