

The 2023/2024 Seattle Symphony subscription season at a glance



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For many years, I've put together a little pocket guide to the Seattle Symphony subscription season for my symphony friends to help them decide which ticket package they want. We stopped going to the symphony as a group years ago, but I still create this pocket guide out of tradition.

Here's the at-a-glance season guide for the 2023/2024 season, still with no comments from me because it's not worth trying to rate every piece to help my friends pick one concert. If you're my friend and want recommendations, just call. Besides, you can probably preview nearly all of the pieces nowadays (minus the premieres) by searching on YouTube.

The 2023/2024 season marks the 25th anniversary of the symphony's first season in its current home, Benaroya Hall, and the opening concert on September 21 is a recreation of the opening concert from 25 years ago.

The position of music director remains vacant for a second full season, and a series of guest conductors will take the podium for this season's concerts, with the symphony's Conductor Emeritus Ludovic Morlot wielding the baton for the opening concert of the season as well as one additional concert.

Week	Program	21	13	8G	4A		
09/21 2023	Massenet: <i>Phèdre</i> Overture Honegger: <i>Pastorale d'Été</i> Schubert: Symphony #8 "Unfinished" Wagner: <i>Götterdämmerung</i> selections						
10/05 2023	Rimsky-Korsakov: "The Three Wonders" from <i>The Tale of the Tsar Sultan</i> Shostakovich: Cello Concerto #1 Stravinsky: <i>The Firebird</i> Complete (1910)						

10/19 2023	R. Strauss: <i>Don Juan</i> Reena Esmail/Kala Ramnath: Concerto for Hindustani Violin Gubaidulina: <i>Fairytale Poem</i> R. Strauss: <i>Death & Transfiguration</i>						
11/09 2023	Brahms: Piano Concerto #2 Elgar: Symphony #2						
11/16 2023	Anna Meredith: <i>Nautilus</i> Lauri Porra: <i>Entropia</i> Concerto for Electric Bass Sibelius: Symphony #5						
11/30 2023	David Robertson: <i>Light Forming, A Piano Concerto</i> Mahler: Symphony #5						
01/04 2024	Dvořák: Cello Concerto Rachmaninov: Symphony #2						
01/25	Lang/Huppertz: <i>Metropolis</i> soundtrack						
02/01 2024	Beethoven: Piano Concerto #5 "Emperor" R. Strauss: <i>Ein Heldenleben</i>						
02/08 2024	Perry: <i>A Short Piece for Orchestra</i> Mozart: Violin Concerto #3 Shostakovich: Symphony #9						
03/07	Bach: <i>St. John Passion</i>						
03/14 2024	Sebastian Fagerlund: <i>Stonework</i> Sibelius: Violin Concerto Nielsen: Symphony #4 "Inextinguishable"						
03/21 2024	Donghoon Shin: <i>Of Rats and Men</i> Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto #1 Prokofiev: Symphony #6						
04/04 2024	Dorothy Chang: <i>Northern Star</i> Korngold: Violin Concerto Copland: <i>Appalachian Spring</i>						
04/11	Mahler: Symphony #3						
04/18 2024	Weber: Overture to <i>Oberon</i> Lutosławski: Cello Concerto Dvořák: Symphony #6						
04/25 2024	Salina Fisher: <i>Rainphase</i> Britten: Four Sea Interludes from <i>Peter Grimes</i> Vaughan Williams: Symphony #7 "Antarctic"						

05/16 2024	Vivaldi: <i>The Four Seasons</i> Additional works announced from stage						
06/06 2024	Fazil Say: <i>Grand Bazaar</i> Prokofiev: Piano Concerto #3 Walton: Symphony #1						
06/13 2024	John Adams: <i>Tromba lontana</i> John Adams: <i>Harmonium</i> Beethoven: Symphony #5						
06/20 2024	Jake Heggie <i>et al</i> : <i>Elements Concerto</i> Brahms: Symphony #2						
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Insider tip: Click a column header to focus on a specific series. (This feature has been around for several years, actually.)

Legend:

21	Masterworks 21-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
13	Masterworks 13-concert series (Choice of Thursdays or Saturdays)
7A	Masterworks 7-concert series A (Thursdays)
7B	Masterworks 7-concert series B (Saturdays)
7C	Masterworks 7-concert series C (Thursdays)
7D	Masterworks 7-concert series D (Saturdays)
7E	Masterworks 7-concert series E (Thursdays)
7F	Masterworks 7-concert series F (Saturdays)
8G	Masterworks 8-concert series G (Sunday afternoons)
4A	Masterworks 4-concert series A (Friday afternoons)

For those not familiar with the Seattle Symphony ticket package line-ups: Most of the ticket packages are named *Masterworks nX* where *n* is the number of concerts in the package, and the letter indicates the variation. Ticket packages have been combined if they are identical save for the day of the week. For example, 7C and 7D are the same concerts; the only difference is that 7C is for Thursday nights, while 7D is for Saturday nights.

Notes and changes:

- The *Baroque and Wine* series has been dropped. No explanation was given, but the story I heard is that it was poorly attended.
- The *Watch and Listen* online streaming series has been rebranded as *Seattle Symphony+* and remains complimentary to donors at the Friends level or higher. Technically, you can also buy the series separately, but it costs more than the membership, so you may as well get the membership. However, unlike last year, the Seattle Symphony has not announced which concerts will be streamed, so it doesn't appear in the schedule above.
- A new three-concert *Playlist Series* consists of programs selected by the featured soloists.
- The 7[AB], 7[CD], and 7[EF] concert series do not overlap, so you can create your own pseudo-series by taking any two of them, or recreate the 21-concert series by taking all three.
- The 13-concert series is the same as the 7[CD] and 7[EF] series combined, minus the May 16 concert.
- The *Family Connections* program provides free symphony tickets for up to two children with the purchase of an adult ticket.
- This is the second year of a two-year Prokofiev piano concerto cycle.
- Composer Joe Hisaishi returns for a week of special events culminating in a concert of new music as well as music from his Studio Ghibli film scores.
- Over the years, the format of the Seattle Symphony official brochure has gradually gotten closer and closer to the format of this pocket guide. This makes my job both easier and arguably superfluous.