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## **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra rings in holiday season with array of festive concerts through Dec. 22**

**Events for all ages range from traditional favorites like Holiday Pops and 'The Nutcracker' to a candlelight concert and acrobatic show**



*Photo by Brett Deneve*

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is delighted to share the joy of music and togetherness with Western New York audiences this holiday season in their upcoming concerts, spanning November 30 to December 22. Each performance presents something unique, from beloved holiday songs, ballet, and choral masterpieces to a film with live score, candlelit ambience, and acrobatic displays. These concerts aim to create special moments for all ages, offering opportunities for families and friends to enjoy timeless traditions and create memorable new experiences together.

There are many events to be immersed in the holiday spirit with the BPO this season. Here is the orchestra's full festive lineup:

- **Disney The Muppet Christmas Carol Film in Concert**  
*Saturday, November 30, 2:30 PM (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)*

Ron Spigelman, conductor

The holiday concerts kick off with a special screening of Disney's *The Muppet Christmas*

*Carol*, with the heartwarming tale of redemption accompanied by Paul Williams' cherished film score performed live by the BPO.

- **Handel's Messiah**

*Sunday, December 1, 7:30 PM – Our Lady of Victory Basilica*

*Sunday, December 8, 3:00 PM – St. Mary's Church, Swormville*

Adam Luebke, conductor  
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Handel's *Messiah* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and members of the BPO continues to be a cornerstone of the season, performed in two of Western New York's most stunning churches. Tickets are available for purchase at [bpchorus.org](http://bpchorus.org).

- **Exceptional Kids Holiday Concert**

*Wednesday, December 4, 10:15 AM (SOLD OUT)*

*Thursday, December 5, 10:15 AM*

Fernanda Lastra, conductor  
Kathleen Bassett, host

The Exceptional Holiday Concerts are developed specifically to enhance the concert experience for audience members with disabilities. These are performed in Kleinhans' Mary Seaton Room to accommodate the flexible seating needed for wheelchairs and floor seating for the youngest audience members. With a visual and interactive program, the BPO welcomes the audience to react to the music in any way they feel comfortable.

- **Candlelight Holiday Concert**

*Thursday, December 5, 6:00 PM – Clement House (786 Delaware Ave.)*

Natalie Debikey Scanio, flute  
Madeline Olson, harp

This intimate concert at the Clement Mansion features the BPO's own flutist Natalie Debikey Scanio and harpist Madeline Olson, performing holiday music by candlelight. A wine and cheese reception at 5:30 PM precedes the music, and all proceeds benefit the BPO's Education Programs.

- **Neglia Ballet's The Nutcracker**

*Friday, December 6, 7:00 PM – Shea's Performing Arts Center*

*Saturday, December 7, 2:00 PM – Shea's Performing Arts Center*

*Sunday, December 8, 1:00 PM – Shea's Performing Arts Center*

Daniel Black, conductor

*The Nutcracker* returns to Shea's Performing Arts Center for the Neglia Ballet and BPO's

15th annual collaborative performance. This holiday tradition showcases local talent, transporting audiences into a dreamlike adventure set to classic Tchaikovsky melodies.

- **Troupe Vertigo Holiday Show**

*Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 PM*

Fernanda Lastra, conductor

Troupe Vertigo's holiday concert combines the beauty of orchestral music with breathtaking cirque-style acrobatics. Led by BPO Assistant Conductor Fernanda Lastra, this performance features a medley of seasonal favorites paired with stunning visual feats.

- **JoAnn's Classical Christmas**

*Friday, December 13, 10:30 AM*

*Saturday, December 14, 7:30 PM*

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Nikki Chooi, violin

Andrea Bickford, soprano

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Music Director JoAnn Falletta conducts this BPO Classics Series staple, this year featuring "Winter" from both *The Four Seasons* by 18th-century Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi and *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* by 20th-century Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla. Violinist and BPO Concertmaster Nikki Chooi elevates these works with his virtuosity.

- **Jingle Bell Jam**

*Sunday, December 15, 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM*

Fernanda Lastra, conductor

Kathleen Bassett, soprano

Royal Academy of Ballet & Dance

Jingle Bell Jam offers an afternoon of family fun with \$7 tickets for all ages. Conducted by Fernanda Lastra and featuring the Royal Academy of Ballet and Dance, this concert includes favorite holiday tunes, a sing-along, and a special visit from Santa.

- **Holiday Pops**

*Thursday, December 19, 10:30 AM*

*Friday, December 20, 10:30 AM*

*Saturday, December 21, 7:30 PM*

*Sunday, December 22, 2:30 PM*

Bradley Thachuk, conductor

Stephanie Jae Park & Chris Blem, vocalists

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Hamburg High School Concert Chorale

## Hamburg Middle School 6th Grade Select Chorus

Holiday Pops, Buffalo's longstanding holiday tradition, takes the Kleinhans stage under the direction of Bradley Thachuk. The BPO and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus present four performances of holiday favorites with singers Stephanie Jae Park and Chris Blem, plus choirs from Hamburg Middle School and High School.

*Concerts are located at Kleinhans Music Hall unless otherwise noted.*

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Visit [bpo.org/holidays](https://bpo.org/holidays) for concert details. Tickets can be purchased online, in-person at the Box Office in Kleinhans Music Hall, or by calling (716) 885-5000.

Find images [here](#). For additional information, contact Simone Viola at [sviola@bpo.org](mailto:sviola@bpo.org).

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*To learn more about the BPO's storied history, distinguished conductors and world-class musicians, and commitment to IDEA, visit the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#).*



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