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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra names Ron Spigelman Principal Pops Conductor

Longtime BPO conductor to lead Pops Series beginning this Fall



The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is thrilled to announce the appointment of Ron Spigelman as Principal Pops Conductor, starting this Fall with the beginning of their 2025-26 concert season. Spigelman, a familiar face to BPO audiences, brings a wealth of experience and a decades-long connection with the orchestra and Western New York to the helm of the orchestra's annual Pops Series.

Spigelman's work with the BPO began in 2001 when he won the position of Assistant Conductor – a role that soon evolved into Associate Conductor. During his four-season tenure, he worked closely with the musicians and Music Director JoAnn Falletta, forming a lifelong friendship and mentorship. Among the many highlights of his early years with the BPO, Spigelman conducted alongside Falletta at Carnegie Hall in 2004, and led the orchestra in concerts with renowned guest artists Peter, Paul and Mary, Arturo Sandoval, Leslie Odom Jr., Gladys Knight, and many others. In recent years, Spigelman has conducted many BPO Pops and "Film with Live Orchestra" performances, including Disney's *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Frozen in Concert*, and he will be back on the Kleinhans Music Hall stage on May 2 to conduct *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* in Concert.

Reflecting on his return to Buffalo in this new position, Spigelman shared: "It means the world to me that the BPO has entrusted me with such an important role, to become the next Principal Pops Conductor. I have worked with them in their Pops Series for nearly 25 years, and the orchestra truly values the importance of Pops concerts offering something for everyone. I recognize the giant shoes

I am filling – when I was Associate Conductor I worked closely with Marvin Hamlisch, and I am a great admirer of John Morris Russell – so my goal is to continue their excellence and the dynamic performances they consistently brought."

Looking ahead, he added, "I most look forward to having a deeper connection with Buffalo, the superb BPO musicians, the audiences, and the orchestra's world-class creative team to grow audiences and discover opportunities to bring even more diverse concert offerings – with excitement, joy, and humor accompanying all of it! The next season is shaping up to be a blockbuster, and I am so excited to be a part of it."

On this appointment, BPO President & Executive Director Daniel Hart expressed his enthusiasm: "Ron's return to the BPO as Principal Pops Conductor is a homecoming in every sense of the word. His longstanding relationship with our orchestra, his incredible rapport with audiences, and his dedication to creating performances that are fun make him an ideal leader for our Pops Series. Ron's artistry, energy, and deep ties to Buffalo will undoubtedly take this series to new heights. Music Director JoAnn Falletta and I are thrilled to welcome him into this role."

Find images [here](#). For additional information and interviews, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org or (716) 242-7814.

About Ron Spigelman



Australian conductor Ron Spigelman is an honors graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, London. Earlier in his career he was the Associate Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Fort Worth Symphony, Music Director of the Fort Worth Dallas Ballet, San Angelo Symphony, Texas Chamber Orchestra, Springfield Symphony (MO), and the Lake Placid Sinfonietta where he is now Conductor Emeritus. He has also served as Principal Pops Conductor of the Fort Worth and Syracuse symphonies.

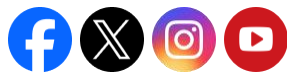
Recent guest conducting appearances include the Atlanta, St. Louis, Baltimore, Utah, Oregon, Kansas City, Vancouver, and Nashville symphonies, and the Minnesota Orchestra. He has conducted symphonic, ballet, opera, musical theater, and pops selections, plus over 30 live-to-film productions including all eight *Harry Potter* films. Guest artists he has accompanied include Horacio Gutiérrez, Rachel Barton Pine, Richard Stoltzman, Marvin Hamlisch, Peter, Paul and Mary, James Taylor, Leslie Odom Jr., and Gladys Knight.

Career highlights include the world premiere of *Pegasus* by Lowell Liebermann with the Dallas Symphony, his Carnegie Hall debut with the BPO in 2004, and the world premiere recording of *Sylvan* by Michael Torke with the Lake Placid Sinfonietta.

Ron lives in Tulsa, OK with his wife Laura, and they have a combined six children. He is Board President of Harmony Project Tulsa, bringing instrumental instruction to underserved youth in collaboration with Tulsa Public Schools. He also recently graduated *summa cum laude* with a

bachelor's degree in Family and Human Development at Arizona State University, receiving the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence.

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