

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2026

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Announces 2026–27 Concert Season

A Season of Legacy, Discovery, and Shared Experience



The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra today announced its 2026–27 season, a powerful and expansive year of music that balances timeless masterworks with bold new voices, world-class guest artists, and moments designed to bring audiences together in shared reflection and celebration.

Led by Music Director **JoAnn Falletta**, the season opens with a landmark event—**Opening Night with Lang Lang**, featuring Beethoven’s radiant “Emperor” Piano Concerto—and unfolds across the year with deeply human stories, historic premieres, and music that speaks across generations. From a once-in-a-lifetime world premiere oratorio to an immersive Beethoven festival marking a major anniversary, the 2026–27 season affirms the BPO’s role as both steward of tradition and champion of artistic evolution.

Among the season’s defining milestones is the **world premiere of *Francis*** by acclaimed composer **Richard Danielpour**, commemorating the 800th anniversary of St. Francis’ death. Blending orchestra, chorus, and narration, this sweeping new oratorio represents one of the most ambitious artistic undertakings in the orchestra’s history.

Throughout the Classics series, celebrated soloists take center stage, including **Yefim Bronfman, Bella Hristova, Natasha Paremski, Orion Weiss, William Wolfram**, and rising stars **Clayton Stephenson** and **Michael Davidman**. The season also proudly showcases Buffalo’s own musical leadership, with Associate Concertmaster **Amy Glidden** featured as soloist and University at Buffalo

professor **Melissa White** appearing in a Mozart program that bridges elegance and emotional depth.

Film music and the concert hall converge as Falletta leads a special celebration of **John Williams**—timed to honor the legendary composer’s 95th birthday—reminding audiences how orchestral music continues to shape modern storytelling. Williams’ trademark sound also fills Kleinhans Music Hall on Thanksgiving weekend for **Home Alone** in Concert. Other family-friendly Film in Concert offerings include Disney Pixar’s **Coco**, followed by the annual Festival Encanto Hispano, and DreamWorks’ **How to Train Your Dragon**.

The spring brings one of the season’s most immersive experiences: **Beethoven in Retrospect**, a four-concert, two-weekend festival tracing the composer’s evolution and commemorating the 200th anniversary of his death. Culled from across Beethoven’s extraordinary output—from the poetic Fourth Piano Concerto to the rhythmic beauty of the Seventh Symphony—the festival invites listeners to hear familiar works anew, in context and conversation with one another.

The Pops series complements the Classics with concerts designed as shared nights out—programs that blend sophistication, nostalgia, and joyful release. Highlights include a birthday celebration of **George Gershwin**, a breezy yacht-rock tribute, a glamorous Valentine’s weekend with **Tony DeSare**, and an elegant evening with trumpet icon **Chris Botti**. Seasonal traditions return as well, from Halloween’s macabre orchestral thrills to the region’s most beloved Holiday Pops performances.

Together, the 2026–27 season reflects what the BPO does best: pairing artistic excellence with a deep sense of welcome, creating experiences that resonate long after the final note fades.

Season subscriptions are on sale now online at bpo.org, at the Kleinhans Music Hall Box Office, and by calling (716) 885-5000. Subscribers also have the option to add on announced Special events, including A Gospel Symphony Tribute to Richard Smallwood, Ben Folds with the BPO, Cody Fry’s Christmas special, and all Films in Concert. Single tickets go on sale in July.

For interview requests, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org. Find images [here](#). For more information, visit bpo.org.

2026–27 Classics Series

OPENING NIGHT with Lang Lang

Saturday, September 19 · 7:00pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Lang Lang, piano

DUKAS *Fanfare from La Péri*

DEBUSSY *La Mer*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5, “Emperor”

Francis (2026) World Premiere – Richard Danielpour

An oratorio in nine scenes for soprano, baritone, narrator, chorus, and orchestra

Sister Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., librettist

Saturday, October 10 · 7:30pm

Sunday, October 11 · 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Claudia Christian, narrator

Anna Schubert, soprano

Edward Nelson, baritone

James Darrah, director

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Members of the UCLA Chorus

James Bass, director

RICHARD DANIELPOUR *Francis* (2026) World Premiere – Richard Danielpour

An oratorio in nine scenes for soprano, baritone, narrator, chorus, and orchestra

Glidden Plays Bruch

Friday, October 23 · 10:30am

Saturday, October 24 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Amy Glidden, violin

JONATHAN LESHNOFF *Symphony No. 5* (World Premiere)

BRUCH *Violin Concerto No. 1*

BRAHMS *Symphony No. 2*

Bronfman Plays Mozart

Friday, November 6 · 10:30am

Saturday, November 7 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Yefim Bronfman, piano

JOHN ADAMS *The Chairman Dances*

MOZART *Piano Concerto No. 24*

R. STRAUSS *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Vaughan Williams & Double Bass

Saturday, November 21 · 7:30pm

Sunday, November 22 · 2:30pm

Keith Lockhart, conductor

Xavier Foley, double bass

CHADWICK *Symphonic Sketches No. 1, "Jubilee"*

XAVIER FOLEY *Soul Bass Concerto*

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Symphony No. 2, A London Symphony*

JoAnn's Classical Christmas

Friday, December 11 · 10:30am

Saturday, December 12 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

John Riesen, tenor
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus
Seasonal selections and holiday classics

Dvořák Violin Concerto

Friday, January 15, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, January 16, 2027 · 7:30pm
Valentina Peleggi, conductor
Bella Hristova, violin
DVOŘÁK Violin Concerto
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 5

Mozart + Melissa White

Saturday, January 23, 2027 · 7:30pm
Sunday, January 24, 2027 · 2:30pm
Dane Lam, conductor
Melissa White, violin
J. STRAUSS II *On the Beautiful Blue Danube*
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4
MAHLER Symphony No. 10 (Adagio)
MOZART Symphony No. 25

Falletta Conducts John Williams

Friday, February 5, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, February 6, 2027 · 7:30pm
JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Paul Huang, violin
WILLIAMS *The Cowboys Overture*
WILLIAMS Violin Concerto No. 1
WILLIAMS *Harry Potter Suite*
WILLIAMS *Star Wars Suite*

Spanish Fire & Fantasy

Friday, February 19, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, February 20, 2027 · 7:30pm
JoAnn Falletta, conductor
Avery Gagliano, piano
FALLA *Ritual Fire Dance*
FALLA *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*
TURINA *Danzas fantásticas*
GRANADOS Intermezzo from *Goyescas*
FALLA *The Three-Cornered Hat*, Suites Nos. 1 & 2

Bartók & Chopin

Saturday, March 6, 2027 · 7:30pm
Sunday, March 7, 2027 · 2:30pm
Alain Trudel, conductor
Natasha Paremski, piano
CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2
BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra

Enigma Variations & Bach

Friday, March 19, 2027 · 10:30am

Saturday, March 20, 2027 · 7:30pm

Robert Moody, conductor

Orion Weiss, piano

BACH Keyboard Concerto No. 3

BACH Keyboard Concerto No. 1

BACH/STOKOWSKI *Komm, süsßer Tod*

ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

Liszt & Prokofiev

Friday, April 9, 2027 · 10:30am

Saturday, April 10, 2027 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

William Wolfram, piano

ROLAND MARTIN "On Air" WNED 50th Anniversary Work (World Premiere)

LISZT Piano Concerto No. 1

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

Sorcerer's Spell

Saturday, April 24, 2027 · 7:30pm

Sunday, April 25, 2027 · 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Nikki Chooi, violin

Hailey Clark, soprano

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

DUKAS *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

IMAN HABIBI Violin Concerto

RAVEL *Mother Goose Suite*

POULENC *Gloria*

Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 3

Friday, May 7, 2027 · 10:30am

Saturday, May 8, 2027 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Kara Dugan, soprano

Roger Honeywell, tenor

PAUL FRUCHT *Inextinguishable* (World Premiere)

RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 3

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

Friday, May 21, 2027 · 10:30am

Saturday, May 22, 2027 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Paul Neubauer, viola

TURINA *Sinfonía Sevillana*

ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH Viola Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Beethoven in Retrospect Festival

Piano Concerto No. 4

Friday, June 4, 2027 · 10:30am

Michael Stern, conductor

Clayton Stephenson, piano

BEETHOVEN Incidental Music from *Egmont*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

Beethoven in Retrospect Festival

Symphony No. 3 (Eroica)

Saturday, June 5, 2027 · 7:30pm

Michael Stern, conductor

Clayton Stephenson, piano

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

BEETHOVEN Overture to *Fidelio*

BEETHOVEN *Choral Fantasy*

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"

Beethoven in Retrospect Festival

Symphony No. 2

Saturday, June 12, 2027 · 7:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Michael Davidman, piano

BEETHOVEN Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2

Beethoven in Retrospect Festival

Symphony No. 7

Sunday, June 13, 2027 · 2:30pm

JoAnn Falletta, conductor

Nikki Chooi, violin

Roman Mekinulov, cello

Michael Davidman, piano

BEETHOVEN *Triple Concerto* in C major

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7

2026–27 Pops Series

S'Wonderful Gershwin

Friday, September 25 · 10:30am

Saturday, September 26 · 7:30pm

Ron Spigelman, conductor

Alex McArthur, vocals

Smooth Sailing: Yacht Rock of the '70s & '80s

Saturday, October 17 · 7:30pm

Jason Seber, conductor

Morgan James, vocals
Doug Wamble, guitar, vocals
John Scarpulla, saxophone, vocals

Hauntingly Halloween

Saturday, October 31 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor

Chris Botti

Saturday, November 14 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
Chris Botti, trumpet

Holiday Pops

Thursday, December 17 · 10:30am
Friday, December 18 · 10:30am
Saturday, December 19 · 7:30pm
Sunday, December 20 · 2:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony

Friday, January 29, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, January 30, 2027 · 7:30pm
George Daugherty, conductor

Let's Misbehave

Friday, February 12, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, February 13, 2027 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
Tony DeSare, piano, vocals
Aubrey Logan, trombone, vocals
John Manzari, tap dance, vocals

Music of the Knights: Elton John, Paul McCartney & Andrew Lloyd Webber

Saturday, February 27, 2027 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor

A Broadway Romance

Saturday, April 17, 2027 · 7:30pm
Rob Fisher, conductor
Mikaela Bennett, vocals
Ross Lekites, vocals

Patriotic Pops

Friday, May 28, 2027 · 10:30am
Saturday, May 29, 2027 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

2026–27 Special Events

Disney Pixar's Coco Film in Concert

Saturday, October 3 · 2:30pm
Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts

A Gospel Symphony Tribute to Richard Smallwood

Friday, October 16 · 7:30pm
Jonathan Taylor Rush, conductor
Buffalo United Community Choir

Home Alone Film in Concert

Saturday, November 28 · 7:30pm
Sunday, November 29 · 2:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
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Cody Fry Christmas

Wednesday, December 9 · 7:30pm
Cody Fry, piano, guitar, vocals

How to Train Your Dragon Film in Concert

Friday, April 30, 2027 · 7:30pm
Ron Spigelman, conductor
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Ben Folds with the BPO

Saturday, May 1, 2027 · 7:30pm

All concerts take place at Kleinhans Music Hall. Programs and performers are subject to change.

Major support provided by



To learn more about our *history, distinguished conductors and world-class musicians, and commitment to IDEA, visit the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.*

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