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October 2, 2022, 4PM ≈ **Jay Friedman, conductor**

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 1

Winston Choi, *soloist*

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2

(This joyful symphony quotes folk melodies from Ukraine.)

December 11, 2022, 4PM ≈ **Jay Friedman, conductor**

SCHUMANN Piano Concerto

Mio Nakamura, *soloist*

GROESCH Symphony No. 3 (World Premiere)

February 19, 2023, 4PM ≈ **Maurice Boyer, conductor**

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra

Uli Widmaier, *soloist*

RAVEL *Shéhérazade* Song Cycle

Nathalie Colas, *soprano*

HINDEMITH *Trauermusik* for Viola and Small Orchestra

Uli Widmaier, *soloist*

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Symphony No. 8

≈ **Monday, April 3, 2023, 7:30PM** ≈

Jay Friedman, music director

MUSICAL REVOLUTIONARIES

our SIXTH Symphony Center Concert!

WAGNER Excerpts from *Lohengrin*

BERLIOZ *Te Deum*

May 21, 2023, 4PM ≈ **Jay Friedman, conductor**

WAGNER *Parsifal* Prelude

CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER TBA

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 1 (*Spring*)

On Monday, April 3, 2023, 7:30 PM, we return to Symphony Center.
Please turn to the center pages of this booklet for details.

MUSICAL REVOLUTIONARIES

WAGNER Excerpts from Lohengrin & BERLIOZ Te Deum.

This photograph by Mike Blaszak is from our April 2018 performance of Carmina Burana.

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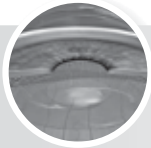
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Dr. Chris can also be found in playing principal trombone in the Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest!



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WILLIAM CHIN, Director of the Symphony Chorus, has been



preparing choruses for the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest since 2003. He is also founder and director of City Voices, a community chorus based in Oak Park. Mr. Chin is the founder and artistic director of The Oriana Singers, a six-voice ensemble that has presented concerts nationally and internationally since 1979. He is Director of Music Ministries at First United Church of Oak Park, where he directs the Sanctuary Choir and

started the *Music At First* concert series. Bill was Assistant Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and one of its singers for over twenty years, and Artistic Director of the Pro Musica Youth Chorus for 18 years.

Bill is active as a professional singer in the Chicago area and sings with Schola Antiqua of Chicago, and The Rookery men's chorus. He has been involved in numerous recording sessions both as a singer and conductor, and conducts choral recordings sessions for GIA Publications. He has been on the adjunct faculty for both DePaul and Roosevelt Universities and is a recipient of a Joseph Jefferson Award.

To learn about joining our Symphony Chorus, please contact David Leehey, S/OP&RF board president and member of the Symphony Chorus, DJLeehey@gmail.com.



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Bill Chin, Artistic Director



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Music Rich and Strange

Oct 22, 7:30pm & 23, 4pm

Three choirs join forces with the Sing We Joyous Orchestra once again in The 17th Annual Sing We Joyous! holiday concert



Dec 10, 7:30pm & Dec 11, 4pm
First United Church of Oak Park
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Sing We Joyous is back and it's live on stage with the usual mix of high-quality music of the season, outrageous (but family friendly) high jinks, and multiple ensembles crowding the First United stage. This year's concert features music from many countries and many musical worlds ... and what in the world might happen in the *Twelve Days of Christmas*? Come and find out!

The Oriana Singers will be presenting additional concerts in February and May, 2023

find out more: oriana.org

City Voices will be presenting a Spring Concert in May, 2023

find out more: cityvoiceschicago.org

David Leehey, Board President



David Leehey has been President of the Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest since 2003. He is also President of MacDowell Artists Association in the Oak Park area and was a founding board member of Pianoforte Foundation in Chicago. David has helped us receive many awards, and was Illinois Council of Orchestras' Board President of the Year in 2013.

David is our orchestral pianist, also playing harpsichord, celesta, and helping out in the percussion section when required. He has played piano solos with the Symphony on several occasions. He performed the Brahms D minor Concerto in October 2001, the Beethoven Choral Fantasy in April 2011, and the Dvořák Concerto in May 2015. He also serves as our rehearsal accompanist for choral performances in Symphony Center and sings in the chorus. David has participated in many amateur piano competitions, and was a semifinalist in the 2001 and 2003 Boston competitions and the 2009 and 2011 Washington competitions. He was chair of the competition committee for the first Chicago competition held in 2010.

When not engaged in musical pursuits, David makes a living as a physician at Loyola University Medical Center and Hines VA Hospital. He is engaged in clinical research and is running a 10-year clinical trial in diabetic kidney disease, so there is no retirement planned in at least the near future! David and his wife Roslyn live in Oak Park and have three children, Rebecca, Edward, and Anna, two dogs (Gracie and Bailey) and a cat (Leah).

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Ticket sales only cover a small portion of our expenses. Your generous support allows us to reach out to our neighbors in the Austin community, the families of the music students in PING!, provide stipends to string interns, and to allow all students through college free admission. We can only do this due to the generosity of our broad base of donors. No donation is too small! Please go to our website (SymphonyOPRF.com) to donate online or mail us a check using the envelope provided in your program to The S/OP&RF, P. O. Box 3564, Oak Park, IL 60303-3564.

Thank you for your past, present, and future support, David J. Leehey.

JAY FRIEDMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jay Friedman has been a member of the Chicago Symphony since 1962 and principal trombone since 1965. Active as a conductor, he has been music director of the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest since 1995.



In 1996, at the invitation of Daniel Barenboim, Friedman conducted the Civic Orchestra in Act 1 of WAGNER *Die Walküre*, in a performance the Chicago Sun-Times called “the best Civic concert in the past 30 years.” In 2002, 2011, and 2017, he was chosen *Conductor of the Year* by the Illinois Council of Orchestras and also guided the orchestra to be chosen *Community Orchestra of the Year* in 2004, 2011, and 2018. Also in 2018, Jay was presented with the ICO’s *Cultural Leadership Award!*

Friedman’s conducting career has included guest appearances with orchestras around the world, including the Hawaii Symphony in a national tour of the Hawaiian Islands. In April 2005, he conducted three concerts with the Santa Cecilia Orchestra of Rome. In March 2006, he conducted the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in a public master class of MAHLER Symphony No. 5 at Symphony Center, and in May 2007, he conducted the RAI orchestra in Italy with Daniel Barenboim as piano soloist. In 2012-13, Mr. Friedman guest conducted the Louisiana Philharmonic, Berlin Staatskapelle, and Zurich Opera. In June 2016, Mr. Friedman conducted the National Symphony of Mexico in BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4. In February 2017, at the invitation of Riccardo Muti, he conducted the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in Glière’s monumental Symphony No. 3, *Ilya Mourometz*.

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Maestro Friedman has led the Symphony and Chorus of Oak Park & River Forest in five stellar performances at Chicago's Symphony Center:

- 2010 – MAHLER Symphony No. 8 (*Symphony of a Thousand*)
- 2012 – BEETHOVEN Missa Solemnis
- 2014 – *Dona Nobis Pacem*, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*, and MOZART Requiem
- 2016 – MAHLER Symphony No. 2 (*Resurrection*)
- 2018 – BEETHOVEN Choral Fantasy and ORFF *Carmina Burana*

Mr. Friedman conducted the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in SIBELIUS *Lemminkainen Suite* and WAGNER *Lohengrin*, *Tristan*, and *Parsifal Suites* in March of 2019. Two months later, Mr. Friedman was chosen by the members of the Chicago Symphony to conduct them in five concerts culminating in a performance of MAHLER Symphony No. 1 at the Auditorium Theatre, Chicago.

This upcoming April, we look forward to The S/OP&RF's sixth performance at Symphony Center led by Music Director, Jay Friedman - WAGNER Excerpts from *Lohengrin* and BERLIOZ *Te Deum*.



Jay & his wife Gail have two Parson Russell Terriers, Ms. Roxie & Mr. Friedman, both of which can be seen in TV ads for Purina, AARP, LiftMaster, Value City Furniture, CDW, and upcoming holiday commercials for Starbucks and Toyota.



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Each year, the music department presents approximately 40 concerts and recitals to the public, including the popular Patriotic Pops Concert and Christmas Lessons and Carols services. The Center for Church Music provides comprehensive sacred music resources to students, parish musicians and the community.

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Associate conductor **Maurice Boyer** is professor of music at Concordia University Chicago, where he conducts the chamber orchestra, the chapel choir (Schola Cantorum) and women's choir (Laudate), and teaches aural skills. He is music director of the American Kantorei (Saint Louis, MO), and was artistic director of Aestas Consort and Heritage Chorale. Most recently, he was guest conductor of the Peoria Bach Festival. In 2018, he served as assistant chorus master and subsequently guest chorus master with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.



Although born in the United States, he began his musical training (piano, voice, and solfège) in Aix-en-Provence, France, where he lived until the age of eighteen. Boyer holds a doctor of musical arts degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a dissertation on the Seventh Symphony of Jean Sibelius. His master of music is in choral conducting and his bachelor of music in sacred music (with piano as his principal instrument). Both were earned at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. His principal conducting teachers have been Joseph Flummerfelt, Kenneth Kiesler, and James Ross. He also studied theology at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Among his areas of sustained interest and research are the sacred choral works of J. S. Bach—historical performance practice and theology—and the symphonic music of Mozart, Mahler and Sibelius.

Maurice Boyer has always been very generous with his time and every summer he has led S/OP&RF in outdoor summer concerts. In the summer of 2020, during the pandemic, the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) reached out and asked if we would like to run a virtual concert series with them! **MUSIC BY THE NUMB3RS**, a nine mini-concert series, was recorded in Cheney Mansion. We were also able to perform a POP-UP Concert outdoors in the Fall of 2020 at Cheney Mansion. Soon, the PDOP reached out again and asked if we would hold a winter virtual series! **WINTER WARMTH**, a six mini-concert series, was recorded in Pleasant Home. In June of 2021, Maurice conducted a program at Oak Park's Nineteenth Century Club, **AUSTRIAN SERENADE**, and another outdoor concert at Cheney Mansion. These performances utilized small groups and the utmost safety procedures. Associate Conductor Maurice Boyer programmed, coached, and directed all the concerts for our COVID-affected 89th Season and we are extremely grateful to him!

Photo credit, Karsten Boyer



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Concerts

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- 2018 Cultural Leadership Award (Jay Friedman)
- 2018 Community Orchestra of the Year
- 2018 General Manager of the Year (Beth Hoover)
- 2017 Conductor of the Year (Jay Friedman)
- 2013 Board President of the Year (David Leehey)
- 2011 Community Orchestra of the Year
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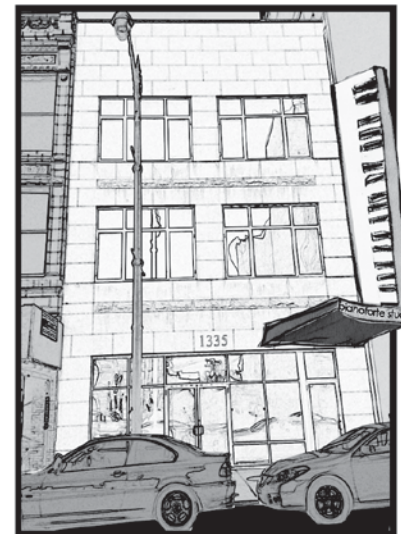
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A BRIEF HISTORY The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest, one of the oldest community orchestras in the country, was founded 91 years ago in October of 1931, by Oak Parker Gladys Welge. Ms.



Welge (1902 - 1976) was the assistant conductor of the Women's Symphony Orchestra of Chicago at a time when women were not even allowed to play in symphony orchestras. She conducted six concerts of that orchestra in Grant Park and received excellent reviews. The S/OP&RF orchestra has given concerts surviving upheavals such as the Great Depression, World War II, the rock and roll revolution, and changing tastes, mores, and the current pandemic. Our conductors through history: Gladys Welge, 1931-1954; Milton Preves, 1954-1966; Perry Crafton, 1966-1994; Jay Friedman, 1995-present.



During our 2021-2022 season we celebrated our 90th Anniversary! We held a logo contest and debuted the new logo, designed by Daniel Brandys. We also applauded Maestro Friedman's 25th Anniversary, a year late due to C-19.



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MEET OUR CONCERTMASTER




JOHN GERSON (Concertmaster) is beginning his twelfth season with the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest. After growing up in Naperville IL, he attended the Indiana University School of Music, graduating with his Bachelor of Music and a Performer Diploma in Violin Performance. He performed for seven seasons with the Fort Wayne (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra serving as Assistant Principal Second Violinist and Section Violinist. He has also performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Eastern Music Festival Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Chicago Chamber Orchestra. Along with his performing, John works at Bein & Fushi where he sells fine string instruments and bows. His violin instructors include Henryk Kowalski, David Taylor, and Drew Lecher. John is also an experienced private instructor and taught at Olivet Nazarene University as an Adjunct Professor of Violin. *Matthew Tolzmann*

Photography

John Gerson has been a soloist with The S/OP&RF many times:

BEETHOVEN *Missa Solemnis* (3/5/2012)
MOZART *Violin Concerto No. 5* (9/30/2012)
VIVALDI *Autumn* from the *Four Seasons* (10/18/2015)
BEETHOVEN *Violin Concerto* (11/22/2015)
BACH *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* (12/10/2017)
BRUCH *Violin Concerto No. 1* (2/11/2018)
MOZART *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola* (3/1/2020)
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade* (6/5/2022)



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CSO, the orchestra has benefited greatly. On September 25, 2022, he worked with us for the 9th time! Maestro Muti also attended our 2015 performance of BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 9* and was favorably impressed. Maestro Friedman has led the Symphony and Chorus of Oak Park & River Forest in five stellar performances at Chicago's Symphony Center. Read about our upcoming performance there on the center pages.

The Symphony believes in providing young people the opportunity to participate in the performance of live music. We continue to award young string interns a cash stipend.

We hold an annual Youth Concerto Competition (see page 23 for more details) and we work with PING! (Providing Instruments for the Next Generation!) to provide private lessons, instruments, and tickets for their families to attend our concerts. As always, we serve all youth by offering free admission to all students, elementary through college, to our River Forest concerts.



Following our mission statement, the orchestra reaches out to the larger community by inviting the public to attend our open rehearsals, some led by Maestro Riccardo Muti; concerts in Austin, Elmwood Park, and Norridge, free alfresco concerts at Thursday Night Out in Downtown Oak Park; collaborations with the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP), 'Music on the Patio' and a 'Pop-Up Concert', both at Cheney Mansion. During the C-19 shut down, also with the help of the PDOP, we produced two on-line concert series, using Cheney Mansion (MUSIC BY THE NUMB3RS) and Pleasant Home (WINTER WARMTH) as our backdrops. S/OP&RF also supports the community it loves by supporting local charities.

The orchestra and the board of directors look forward with optimism to the challenges of the future, to continued music-making, artistic success, commitment to the community, providing an opportunity for cultural enrichment, and a chance for everyone in our local communities to share in the joy of music. Please continue to support us through your donations and your attendance at our concerts!

Former first violinist Elizabeth Rexford wrote A History of The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest for the celebration of our 75th anniversary. You can find it on our website, <http://symphonyopr.org/files/SOPRFHistory.pdf> or we can mail you a copy while supplies last.

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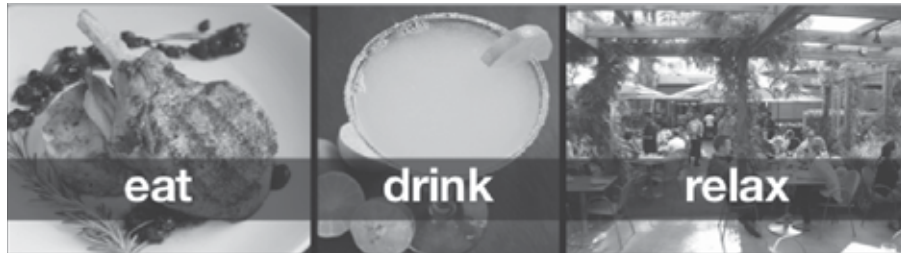
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Kristina Lee, Tooth Fairy

The mission of The SYMPHONY of Oak Park & River Forest is three-fold:

- To provide the opportunity for orchestral and vocal musicians to perform symphonic works together at the highest possible level of artistry;
- To provide the opportunity for all of the members of our diverse local community to experience symphonic music in live performances of high quality; and
- To foster the appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of symphonic music by present and future generations.

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For more information, contact the orchestra's treasurer, Cheryl Flinn, at 708/383-7819 or CFlinn234@hotmail.com.

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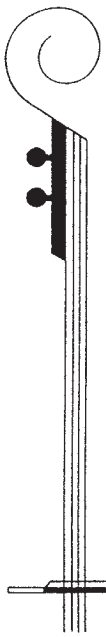
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The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
announces its
Annual Concerto Competition
Applications & video performances
due March 1, 2023.

- This competition is open to all instrumental musicians who have yet to complete their senior year of high school and whose primary residence is within 10 miles of Oak Park/River Forest.
- Details and applications are available by contacting TheSymphonyOPRF@gmail.com.
- The winner receives \$500 and performs with us at our Sunday, May 21, 2023, 4PM concert.

'Barton featured in Youth Concert'

This article from the January 29, 1986, WEDNESDAY JOURNAL featured an 11-year-old Rachel Barton (Pine) when she played the last movement of the MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto with us at our 1986 Family Concert. Our Concerto Competition was originally organized and run by St. Paul Federal Bank.



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Rachel Barton

Those who heard the WTTW/Illinois Bell Young Performers Competition broadcast over Channel 11 last May and repeated Dec. 30 had a preview of what to expect from 11-year-old violinist Rachel Barton, who won first place in the Junior Division.

She also placed first in her division in the St. Paul Federal Bank competition and as part of her prize won an appearance as soloist with the Oak Park-River Forest Symphony. She will perform the third movement of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto at the orchestra's annual free youth concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the auditorium of Oak Park-River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Av., Oak Park.

Theme for the rest of this concert especially geared to young audiences is "Westward Ho," music with western subjects.



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WAGNER Excerpts from Lohengrin

Wilhelm Richard Wagner (1813–1883) was a German Romantic composer, theatre director, and conductor who is chiefly known for his operas (or, as some of his mature works were later known, "music dramas"). His Ring Cycle of four operas (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*) took 26 years to complete. Unlike most opera composers, Wagner wrote both the libretto and the music for each of his stage works. This opera of Wagner's is like a fairy tale and it immediately became very popular. As a young boy, Wagner attended school in Dresden, Germany. He did not show aptitude in music and, in fact, his teacher said he would "torture the piano in a most abominable fashion."



The action in *Lohengrin* takes place in the 10th century on the banks of the Scheldt River, near the town of Antwerp, in present-day Belgium. A knight in shining armor (the Grail Knight Lohengrin, son of the Grail King Parsifal) arrives on a swan-driven boat to rescue a damsel-in-distress (Elsa, the duchess of Brabant). His protection comes under the condition that she must never ask his name. If she violates this requirement, he will be forced to leave her. On the night of their wedding, Elsa is tricked into asking Lohengrin about the one thing he has forbidden: his identity. This leads to the knight returning to the land from where he came, but only after his swan has been transformed into Gottfried, Elsa's long-lost brother. Elsa dies from the grief of losing Lohengrin.



BERLIOZ *Te Deum*

French composer, critic, and conductor of the Romantic period, Louis-Hector Berlioz (1803-1869), known largely for his *Symphonie Fantastique*, the choral symphony *Roméo et Juliette*, and the dramatic piece *La Damnation de Faust*. He took music lessons at home from a visiting teacher and played flute and guitar. By age 16, he wrote a song for voice and guitar that was later reused for his *Symphonie Fantastique*. In 1821, Berlioz went to Paris to study medicine (like his father) but soon abandoned medicine for music.

Berlioz wrote his *Te Deum* in 1849 and most writers on the composer consider it the best of his "monumental" works. *Te Deum* (from its incipit, *Te deum laudamus* "Thee, O God, we praise") is a Latin Christian hymn composed in the 4th century. Like the earlier and more famous *Grande Messe des Morts*, it is one of the works referred to by Berlioz in his *Memoirs* as "the enormous compositions which some critics have called architectural or monumental music." While the orchestral forces required for the *Te Deum* are not as titanic as those of the *Requiem*, the work calls for an organ that can compete on equal terms with the rest of the orchestra. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Jay Friedman, music director

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