# **ZOELLNER**ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2 0 2 5 **2 0 2 6** PLAYBILL



Photo By John Kish IV

# **DEAR FRIENDS,**

It's hard to **believe**, but I've now spent over five years as executive director of Zoellner Arts Center. As I write this, I'm filled with gratitude. What an honor it has been—and continues to be—to come to work each day with a mission to connect our urban, suburban, and rural communities through the arts. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Lehigh Valley and for continuing to walk alongside us on this journey.

This season opens on high notes — with The Bacon Brothers and Morgan Freeman's Symphonic Blues Experience. These

Hollywood heavyweights have also centered music in their award-winning careers. The world-renowned Philharmonia Orchestra, under the prestigious baton of Marin Alsop, will perform stirring works of Tchaikovsky, Bartók, and Prokofiev, filling our hall with beauty and power. Mark Morris Dance Group returns with their signature blend of live music, exquisite movement, and bold fashion—this time set to the music of Burt Bacharach.

We're thrilled to welcome back audience favorites like Postmodern Jukebox and the Vienna Boys Choir, and to continue our commitment to family-centered programming through the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital Family Series. Our pre-show conversations with Lehigh Valley Health Network health professionals have become a highlight, and we're excited to continue exploring the growing intersection of arts and wellness. Stay tuned for more news on this front.

In the winter and spring, we invite you to experience the electrifying energy of Drum Tao, the return of the moving virtual reality installation *Traveling While Black*, and a celebration of Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with a delightful project by The Jane Austen Playlist. The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain will leave you smiling, while The Tallis Scholars—the world's preeminent early music vocal ensemble—will offer a transcendent performance in the beautiful Packer Memorial Church. Finally, we close the season with **the** joyful rhythms of the NYC Ska Orchestra.

Zoellner Arts Center embraces its role as a university-based presenter. We are a space for a community of practice where educators and future makers converge. Student artists, along with the Departments of Music and Theatre and Lehigh University Art Galleries (LUAG), present concerts, plays, and exhibitions that reflect both their talent and the faculty who inspire them.

As always, we're proud to be a space where creativity, community, and connection come together. Thank you for being part of this journey and for making Zoellner Arts Center such a vibrant home for the **arts**.

With gratitude,

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

Executive Director

# THANK YOU

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# OCT 26 Sunday 4:00pm | Baker Hall

# PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

+ MARIN ALSOP



ZOELLNER
ARTS CENTER
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2025.2026 SEASON

Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



# Opus 3 Artists Presents

# Philharmonia Orchestra

# Marin Alsop, Conductor

Alexandre Kantorow, Piano

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

(1891-1953)

Sergei Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 Alexandre Kantorow. pianist

-INTERMISSION-

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Concerto for Orchestra

# PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA - US Tour 2025

# VIOLIN I

Zsolt-Tihamér Visontay Rebecca Chan Fabrizio Falasca Eleanor Wilkinson Karin Tilch Lulu Fuller Emma Lisney Adrián Varela Soong Choo Eunsley Park Coco Inman Peter Fisher Diana Galvydyte Alberto Vidal

# **VIOLIN II**

Annabelle Meare
David López Ibáñez
Fiona Cornall
Nuno Carapina
Julian Milone
Marina Gillam
Gideon Robinson
Susan Hedger
Emanuela Buta
Ilhem Ben Khalfa
Susan Bowran
Ikuko Sunamura

#### VIOLA

Scott Dickinson
Ben Norris
Sylvain Séailles
Linda Kidwell
Daichi Yoshimura
Carol Hultmark
Cheremie Hamilton-Miller
Cameron Campbell
Michelle Bruil
Rebecca Carrington

## **CELLO**

Tim Hugh Richard Birchall Yaroslava Trofymchuk Silvestrs Kalniņš Tamaki Sugimoto Nina Kiva Alba Merchant David Edmonds

### **BASS**

Tim Gibbs
Hugh Sparrow
Gareth Sheppard
Owen Nicolaou
Michael Fuller
Benjamin du Toit
Ryan Smith

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Samuel Coles June Scott Robert Looman

## **PICCOLO**

Robert Looman

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## COR ANGLAIS

Rebecca Kozam

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## **BASS CLARINET**

Laurent Ben Slimane

# ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Robert Kahn

#### **BASSOON**

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## **CONTRABASSOON**

Luke Whitehead

### HORN

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#### **TRUMPET**

Jason Lewis Robin Totterdell Adam Wood

# **TROMBONE**

Donal Bannister Philip White

# **BASS TROMBONE**

James Buckle

#### **TUBA**

Peter Smith

#### **TIMPANI**

Håkon Kartveit

### PERCUSSION

Paul Stoneman Tom Edwards

### **HARPS**

Heidi Krutzen Anneke Hodnett

# **ABOUT**

# Philharmonia Orchestra

Founded in 1945, the Philharmonia Orchestra is one of the world's great orchestras.

Finnish conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali took up the baton as Principal Conductor in 2021, and Marin Alsop joined him as Principal Guest Conductor in 2023. They follow in illustrious footsteps: Herbert von Karajan, Otto Klemperer, Riccardo Muti, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Christoph von Dohnányi, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Esa-Pekka Salonen are some of the key figures who have honed the renowned Philharmonia sound over eight decades.

The Orchestra has premiered works by Richard Strauss, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Kaija Saariaho, Errollyn Wallen, Laufey and many others, and performs with many of the world's most admired soloists.

The Philharmonia thrives on creative collaborations: in the 2025/26 season, pianist Víkingur Ólafsson is Featured Artist, Gabriela Ortiz is Featured Composer, and dance, mime, theatre and drag artists Thick & Tight are Artists in Residence.

The Philharmonia is resident at the Southbank Centre in the heart of London, and also holds residencies in Basingstoke, Bedford, Canterbury and Leicester, at Garsington Opera and at the Three Choirs Festival. In each of these residencies, the Orchestra is deeply embedded in the community. Projects with primary and secondary schools, children in foster care, people living with dementia and their careers, young people learning instruments, and adults who face barriers to experiencing the arts, all testify to the many ways music enriches our lives.

This season the Philharmonia celebrates its 80th birthday with initiatives including offering 80 free tickets for first-time bookers to every concert in its London season; recruiting a team of 80 volunteers to help provide a warm welcome; reaching 80 schools with Orchestra Unwrapped, its programme of schools' concerts and teacher training; and establishing Philharmonia Social, a chance for audience members to meet and find out more about the orchestra.

The Philharmonia tours extensively throughout Europe and has performed in China, Colombia, Japan, Mauritius and the United States. In October 2025 the Orchestra embarks on a major US tour, culminating in two performances at Carnegie Hall. The season also includes a tour of Korea, and performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Musikverein in Vienna, and many other leading European venues.

The Philharmonia is known for embracing innovative technology. The Orchestra's recordings include benchmark LPs, more than 150 film and videogame soundtracks, and streamed performances. Its recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 is travelling through interstellar space on board the Voyager spacecraft, and its immersive installations and virtual reality (VR) experiences have introduced many thousands of people to orchestral music.

The Philharmonia Records label was established in 2023. The Orchestra has released live recordings of major works by Strauss, Mahler, Stravinsky and Shostakovich, with Santtu at the helm.

The Philharmonia's Emerging Artists Programme nurtures and develops the next generation of instrumentalists and composers, with a focus on increasing diversity within the classical music industry.

The Philharmonia is a registered charity. It is proud to be supported by Arts Council England and grateful to the many generous individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations who make up its family of supporters.

# **Marin Alsop**

One of the foremost conductors of our time, Marin Alsop is the first woman to serve as the head of major orchestras in the United States, South America, Austria, and Great Britain. A "formidable musician and a powerful communicator" (*New York Times*), she is internationally recognized for her innovative approach to programming and audience development, and is the first and only conductor to receive a MacArthur Fellowship.

The 2025-26 season marks Alsop's third as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony; her third as Principal Guest Conductor of London's Philharmonia Orchestra; and her second as Principal Guest Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is also Chief Conductor of the Ravinia Festival; the first Music Director of the National Orchestral Institute + Festival; and Honorary Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra.

The highlight of Alsop's season is her Carnegie Hall *Perspectives* series, opening with the Philharmonia Orchestra and a program of symphonic staples, featuring pianist Alexandre Kantorow. She curates and conducts a program of new music with Ensemble Connect, and later returns with two programs for Carnegie Hall's *United in Sound: America at 250*. With the Philadelphia Orchestra she presents the New York premiere of John Adams' *The Rock You Stand On -* a new work dedicated to Alsop - and performs with pianist Hayato Sumino. She then leads the Juilliard School's music and drama divisions in an exploration of the American spirit, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a Joan Tower premiere. Her *Perspectives* series ends with a National Orchestral Institute Philharmonic concert.

Alsop opens the Philadelphia Orchestra's 2025-26 season with the world premiere of *The Rock You Stand On*, and is joined by pianist Yunchan Lim, with whom she has cultivated a close relationship since conducting his Cliburn Competition-winning Rachmaninoff Third in 2022. Other season highlights include concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall and at Ravinia Festival; Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Houston Symphony; and Washington National Opera's new production of *West Side Story*. She also embarks on a tour to Japan with the Polish National Radio Symphony and pianist Hayato Sumino; leads the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra; conducts the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin; and reunites with the Philharmonia Orchestra in Manchester with cellist Alisa Weilerstein performing Gabriela Ortiz's *Dzonot*.

In the 2024-25 season, Alsop became the first U.S.-born woman to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic. Other highlights included the world premiere of Nico Muhly's Violin Concerto, with soloist Renaud Capuçon and the New York Philharmonic; and a reprise of Julia Wolfe's *Her Story* with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2024, conducting Adams' *El Niño*.

In 2023, a decade after making history as the first female conductor of London's *Last Night of the Proms*, Alsop became the first American to guest conduct three *Last Nights* in the festival's long history.

During Alsop's outstanding 14-year tenure as Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, she led the orchestra on its first European tour in 13 years, released multiple recordings, conducted more than two dozen world premieres, and founded OrchKids, its groundbreaking music education program.

Alsop's discography comprises more than 200 titles, featuring music from the standard repertoire and by contemporary composers. Her 2024 album with John Adams' *City Noir* was nominated for a GRAMMY Award. Her latest album is *Abstractions*, featuring music by Anna Clyne (Naxos).

Alsop founded the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship in 2002 to mentor and support emerging women conductors. Today, all 36 award winners - including 23 music directors or chief conductors - are working to ensure a more equitable future for classical music.

In 2025 Alsop received the Golden Baton Award, the highest accolade from the League of American Orchestras, and, in 2019, the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award. Alsop holds honorary doctorates from Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Juilliard School.

# **Alexandre Kantorow**

In 2019, aged 22, Alexandre Kantorow became the first French pianist to win the Gold Medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, along with the rarely awarded Grand Prix, granted only three times in the competition's history. In 2024, he was recognised once again when he received the esteemed Gilmore Artist Award, solidifying his place as one the world's leading pianists. *Gramophone* magazine has described him as "the real deal, a fire-breathing virtuoso with a poetic charm and innate stylistic mastery". He is in demand at the highest level across the globe, performing in the world's finest halls both in recital and with the most renowned orchestras and conductors.

Highlights of Kantorow's 25/26 season include a tour of Japan with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and Mäkelä, European tours with the Filarmonica della Scala and Chailly and the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Paavo Järvi, a tour of Asia with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and van Zweden, and a tour to the US with the Philharmonia and Alsop which includes a performance at Carnegie Hall. He will also embark on a major recital tour of North America, make his debut with the San Francisco Symphony and return to the Rotterdam Philharmonic and Bavarian Radio Symphony orchestras.

Kantorow performs in recital regularly across the globe, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vienna Konzerthaus, London's Wigmore Hall, Philharmonie de Paris, Tokyo Suntory Hall, and at festivals such as Edinburgh, Salzburg, La Roque d'Anthéron, Piano aux Jacobins, Verbier, Rheingau and Klavierfest Ruhr. Chamber music is one of his great pleasures and he performs regularly with artists such as Janine Jansen, Renaud Capuçon, Gautier Capuçon and Matthias Goerne. With Liya Petrova and Aurélien Pascal he is co-artistic director of the Musikfest and "Rencontres Musicales de Nîmes" and the Pianopolis festival in Angers.

In recent seasons, Kantorow has performed with many of the world's finest orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic and Budapest Festival orchestras and with conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Manfred Honeck, Ivan Fischer, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Sir Antonio Pappano.

Alexandre Kantorow records exclusively for BIS. His recordings have received the highest critical acclaim worldwide. In 2024, he was awarded the title of Chevalier of the National Order of Merit by the French President of the Republic, having previously been made a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Minister of Culture. In July 2024, Kantorow performed Ravel's *Jeux d'eau* at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games. Alexandre Kantorow studied with Pierre-Alain Volondat, Igor Lazko, Frank Braley, and Rena Shereshevskaya.

Intermusica represents Alexandre Kantorow in the UK, Ireland, North America and AustralasiaNights in the festival's long history.

**COMING UP...** 

# THE NUTCRACKER



SAT **DEC 13** | 12pm & 4pm SUN **DEC 14** | 12pm & 4pm

The Pennsylvania Youth Ballet's magical production of The Nutcracker with a live orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's masterpiece is a holiday tradition for the whole family! Enjoy the beauty of dancing snowflakes, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Clara's dream come to life, with guest artists from the world's finest ballet companies and a cast of nearly 100 dancers.

**FESTIVE HOLIDAY EVENTS!** 

# **VIENNA BOYS CHOIR**



# FRI **DEC 19 |** 7:30PM

This holiday season, the Vienna Boys Choir returns for a finely tuned performance in Baker Hall. Admired across the globe for their pure sound, heavenly voices and technical mastery, the cherubic ensemble features boy sopranos and altos from eight to 14, representing 31 countries, harmonizing their incredible vocals for an unforgettable night. Built on six centuries of tradition, the choir counts Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert among its illustrious alumni. The group's yuletide program has something for everyone: Baroque classics, contemporary popular hits, Christian hymns, Austrian folk tunes, polkas, waltzes and more!

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Maureen Valente Beatrice Vassil

Susan A. 'F/S and Anthony C. Verbalis, Jr. '67

Susan Vitez

Sydney E. Weaver '25

Judith O. Pennington and Steven H. Weintraub 'F/S

Rosemarie Wertman

Vassie C. Ware 'F/S and William J. Taylor

Susanna Williams

Gretchen M. Vasquez 'F/S

Craig Wurst

Karen & Edwin E. Yeakel '79G

# **Advisory Council**

Anne Baum Marc Falato '87

Oldrich Foucek III '72 '05P '09P, chair

Ellen Baker Ghelardi Michele McGrath

Maddie H Scheler '08 '09G

#### **ENDOWMENTS:**

Anne R. Kline '81 Endowed Fund for Creatively Integrated Programming Marc A. Falato '87 Presenting Series Endowment Fund

The Long Family Endowment for Community Outreach in the Arts Claire and Ted Diamond '37 '85H Endowment

Zoellner Arts Center Opportunity Fund

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The Arnan '58 & Marlene Finkelstein Endowment Fund Zoellner Arts Center Endowment

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# INFORMATION

# CAN'T MAKE IT? EXCHANGE OR DONATE YOUR TICKETS.

Contact us before the show to either exchange for another event, or convert the value of your tickets to a charitable contribution to Zoellner Arts Center. Subscribers and Friends may exchange for free, just \$1 per ticket for all others. Patrons are responsible for any difference in ticket price, exchanges must occur within event category (e.g., Music Dept. ticket for Music Dept. ticket). Excludes rental events. No refunds.

PARKING IS FREE in the garage attached to the center for all Presenting Series, Lehigh University Music Dept. and Dept. of Theatre events (excluding some weekday morning events, Christmas Vespers in Packer Chapel and Dolce in Lamberton Hall). Please note, there may be a parking charge for non-Zoellner sponsored events.

**GROUPS SAVE UP TO 15%** Just buy 10 or more tickets to a performance. Orders incur a one-time per-performance fee of \$6 per group order in lieu of per-ticket fees.

# **TAXES AND FEES**

Single tickets ordered by phone or online carry fees ranging from \$2.25-\$8.50 per ticket. Tickets purchased in-person may carry fees of up to 50 cents per ticket. The City of Bethlehem Amusement tax is 5% on tickets above \$10, with a cap of \$2 per ticket. Additional delivery charges may apply, check online for details.

# **OUR GIFT CERTIFICATES NEVER EXPIRE.**

Purchase these at Ticket Services or online in any amount and give the gift of entertainment.

Certificates cannot be redeemed for rental events.

# CONNECT WITH US!

ZoellnerArts

zoellnerartscenter

**o** zoellnerarts

inzactix@lehigh.edu



zoellnerartscenter.org

#artshaveimpact

# **HOUSE** NOTES

Concessions: Food and beverage service will likely be limited. Check the "Know Before You Go" email sent to ticket holders the week of the show. Be sure to give Ticket Services your email.

Please silence all mobile devices upon entering the theatre.

To leave theatres during performances, use the rear doors, if you are able, to minimize disruption of performance.

Late seating occurs at suitable intervals. While waiting, you may watch performance on lobby monitors.

Lost & Found: Contact Ticket Services. Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

#### Families with Children:

We welcome children of all ages to our Family Series shows. For performances not listed as Family Series in our brochure, we recommend that attendees be ages four and over. Everyone entering the theatre must have a ticket, and sit quietly in a seat throughout the performance. There are closed-circuit monitors in the lobby which supervised children may use to watch performances if they need a break.

**Accessible seating** can be requested when purchasing tickets. Accessible parking is on levels 1 and 3 in the parking garage.

Free assistive-listening devices are available through Ticket Services for amplified performances.

Free Sensory Kits are available to checkout, please inquire at the box office or with an usher.

# Questions about your tickets?

**Contact Ticket Services:** Phone: 610-758-2787 ext. 0

Email: inzactix@lehigh.edu

**Box Office Hours:** 

TUE 12-6: WED-FRI 12-5 For ticketed events: SAT 2 hours prior to curtain, 90 mins. all other days.

All programs and artists are subject to change. In the event of a cancellation or material change, we will make every effort to contact all ticket holders. We must reserve the right to make any changes whatsoever in the event owing to any unforeseen or unavoidable cause or to cancel the event for any reason beyond our control without being liable to pay any ticket holder compensation for damages other than a ticket of comparable value to an event (based on availability).

Video recording or photography may occur for this performance that might include images of audience members. Your attendance at today's performance grants permission for further usage of such images.

# ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER at LEHIGH UNIVERSITY 2025 FALL SEASON AT A GLANCE

LUVME	SAT SEP 6
THE BACON BROTHERS	SUN SEP 7
MORGAN FREEMAN'S SYMPHONIC BLUES EXPERIENCE	FRI SEP 12
HELL'S KITCHEN FUNK ORCHESTRA	SAT SEP 13
ATTACCA QUARTET	
NOLI TIMERE	SAT SEP 20
PASSAGE	OCT 3 - 11
SPHINX VIRTUOSI	FRI OCT 3
KURBASY	SUN OCT 5
SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR	
MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP	FRI OCT 17
FREQUENCY STRING QUARTET	SUN OCT 19
CHORAL ARTS	FRI OCT 24
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA	
DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! THE MUSICAL!  FAMILY DAY  Reilly Children's Hospital  FAMILY SERIES	
STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT	SAT NOV 1
SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX	
THE FLICK	
WIND ENSEMBLE	
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA	
ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS	
PHILHARMONIC	FRI DEC 5, SAT DEC 6
CHORAL ARTS REE	SUN DEC 7
THE NUTCRACKER	•
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR	
SEÁN HEELY'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS	SAT DEC 20

KEY: PRESENTING SERIES | MUSIC DEPARTMENT | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE









