

MSO

MILWAUKEE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



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PRELUDE SEASON

Dvořák's Seventh Symphony Oct. 10, 2025

The MSO welcomes Eric Jacobson, "an interpretive dynamo" (The New York Times) to conduct Dvořák's Seventh Symphony, a work of tragic grandeur flecked with sunlight. MSO Principal Tuba Robyn Black takes center stage for Vaughan Williams's Tuba Concerto, which begins with a brisk march, ends with an energetic flurry of sound, and showcases the unique qualities of the instrument throughout. This dynamic program opens with Tchaikovsky's delightful Serenade for Strings, featuring a memorable waltz and spirited Russian folk tunes.



Nov. 14, 2025

Paul Lewis Plays Grieg

"Music is Life, and like it, it is inextinguishable." Composer Carl Nielsen penned these words across the top of the score of his Fourth Symphony, now best known as "The Inextinguishable" — the Fourth sets out to "express what we understand by the spirit of life or manifestations of life, that is: everything that moves, that wants to live." Nielsen never provides a clear story, instead unleashing the music to express a range of pure feeling, both primal and pleasantly chaotic; guest conductor Rune Bergmann is perfectly suited for this ambitious symphony.



Saint-Saëns "Organ" Symphony Feb. 6, 2026

"Paul Jacobs is one of the great living virtuosos ... he is utterly without artifice," declares The Washington Post. Witness the musicianship of the first and only organist to win a Grammy Award as Jacobs performs Saint-Saëns's "Organ" Symphony, a work so expressive the composer claimed, "I have given all that I had to give." Jacobs also performs Samuel Barber's exuberant Toccata Festiva. Beethoven penned four unique overtures to his opera Leonore; the MSO performs the sumptuous third iteration here, as well as brand new music by composer Edmund Finnis.



Feb. 20, 2026

Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty

Undoubtedly one of the finest cellists performing today, Johannes Moser returns to the MSO stage to play composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir's Before we fall, fresh off its world premiere with the San Francisco Symphony. "Before we fall centres around the notion of teetering on the edge," says the composer; Moser's cello "generates the atmospheric progression of the world it inhabits." Alpesh Chauhan, "a charismatic, balletic conductor" (The Guardian), leads this energetic new work, as well as a romantic suite from Tchaikovsky's iconic Sleeping Beauty.

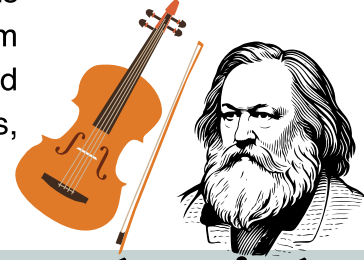


Hadelich Brahms

Mar. 6, 2026



Hailed as one of the greatest violinists of our time, Augustin Hadelich returns to the MSO to perform Brahms's soulful Violin Concerto. Music Director Ken-David Masur conducts Brahms's Third Symphony, a nostalgic work with a recurring musical theme of "free but happy;" wrote Clara Schumann, "All the movements seem to be of one piece, one beat of the heart, each one a jewel!" The program opens with a companion piece to Brahms's Third Symphony: Glanert's Vexierbild ("Hidden Image") draws direct inspiration from the Third, but in Glanert's words, "it's my own Brahms."



Apr. 10, 2026

Wincor Conducts Shostakovich



"This is an artist we need to hear more of," says The New York Times of pianist David Fray; Fray joins the MSO to perform Mozart's sprightly "Jeunehomme" concerto, dedicated to the talented young pianist who inspired its music. Guest conductor Katharina Wincor leads a masterwork by another bright young talent, Shostakovich — his mischievous First Symphony, penned when he was a conservatory student, launched the composer's career and remains one of his most celebrated contributions to music.



Copland & Twain: An America 250 Celebration May 8, 2026

This exciting new theatrical concert from director Bill Barclay and Concert Theatre Works marries Aaron Copland's stirring incidental music with Mark Twain's poignant observations of a changing America. Copland's compositions, including Music for Movies and Music for the Theatre, meet excerpts from Twain's essays, apocryphal stories, speeches, and articles. Music Director Ken-David Masur leads the full orchestral power of the MSO, joined by six costumed actors and enhanced by projected visuals. The merging artistry of two critical pillars of American identity provides a soothing & thought-provoking take on the polarizing questions vexing our body politic today using majesty, tolerance, wisdom, and humor.



June 5, 2026

Rachmaninoff & Saint-Saëns

MSO Concertmaster Jinwoo Lee steps into the spotlight to perform Saint-Saëns's Third Violin Concerto, a veritable showpiece for the instrument's sparkling character and color. Conductor Iván López Reynoso, who made his U.S. orchestral debut with the MSO, returns to conduct Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony, rife with deliciously heartbreaking tunes and romantic melancholy.



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