



That Moves You.

2026-2027 SEASON | SHEBOYGAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Join Us

in our 108th season of music,
artistry, and community with the
Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra.

Chamber Music at the Loft

Chamber music with tasting flight and appetizers
Thursday, September 10
5:30 PM | Black Pig

Epic

Leshnoff *Score*
Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major / Roman*
Rabinovich
Brahms *Symphony No. 4 in E minor*
Saturday, October 10 | 7:30 PM
Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

Chamber Music at the Loft

Chamber music with tasting flight and appetizers
Thursday, October 29
5:30 PM | Black Pig

Messiah

Handel *Messiah*
Sheboygan Symphony Chorus
Saturday, December 12 | 7:30 PM
Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

All-American

Harbach *American Solstice for Chamber Ensemble*
Stephenson *Persephone for 13 Players*
Copland *Appalachian Spring Suite*
Thursday, January 14 | 7:30 PM
John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Chamber Music at the Loft

Chamber music with tasting flight and appetizers
Thursday, January 21
5:30 PM | Black Pig

Passion

Chilcott *Saint John Passion* featuring soprano Chelsea Betz,
tenor Jeremiah Cawley, baritone Joel Rathmann and the
Sheboygan Symphony Chorus
Sunday, February 21 | 3:00 PM
Holy Name Catholic Church

Education Concerts: Link Up - The Orchestra Moves

Tuesday, March 16 | 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM
Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

Colors

Herron *Spun*
Sibelius *Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47 / Grace Park*
Torke *Oracle*
Stravinsky *The Firebird Suite* (1911/1919) with animated film
Frozen Forest
Saturday, March 20 | 7:30 PM
Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

Resurrection

Mahler *Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection"*
featuring soprano Laura Strickling, mezzo soprano Victoria
Vargas and the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus
Saturday, May 1 | 7:30 PM
Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

Welcome

to your Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra's 108th season! We will feature an exciting expansion of performances that feature an amazing array of music and musicians.

In partnership with the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Ernesto will lead a chamber orchestra of 13 musicians in a program of all American music. This concert will take place in the JMKAC Matrix and present yet another facet of the SSO. The program is structured around Aaron Copland's Pulitzer Prize-winning score for the ballet *Appalachian Spring*, which was composed for the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The Sheboygan Symphony Chorus will be featured three times this season, and especially in a program scheduled in late February at Holy Name Catholic Church. Chorus Director Jonathan Laabs will conduct the Chorus along with eight instrumentalists in Bob Chilcott's powerful and moving work *Saint John Passion*.

We are continuing the Chamber Music at the Loft series at The Berkshire/Black Pig - these events are so much fun, and Rob Hurrie, owner/chef at Black Pig, always creates delicious tasting menus - so give one a try if you missed them!

Masterworks programs - the core of what we do - open with the fabulous pianist Roman Rabinovich, who will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, followed by Johannes Brahms's monumental Symphony No. 4.

December will feature the Chorus and four soloists in Handel's *Messiah*, arguably the most beloved piece for the Sheboygan community. Two years ago, *Messiah* attracted the largest audience in the Symphony's long history, with a sold out house at the Weill Center.

In March, the sublime violinist Grace Park will perform Sibelius' stunningly virtuosic concerto, and the Symphony will perform two newer works, including one by Wisconsin native Michael Torke, and conclude the program with a multi-media experience - an animated feature that will accompany Stravinsky's *The Firebird*.

Closing the season will feature a work that is unquestionably one of the most powerful in the entire repertory ... Mahler's Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection." The piece requires an enormous orchestra and chorus, along with two vocal soloists. One cannot overstate how this music affects people. It is must-hear!

With warmest regards,



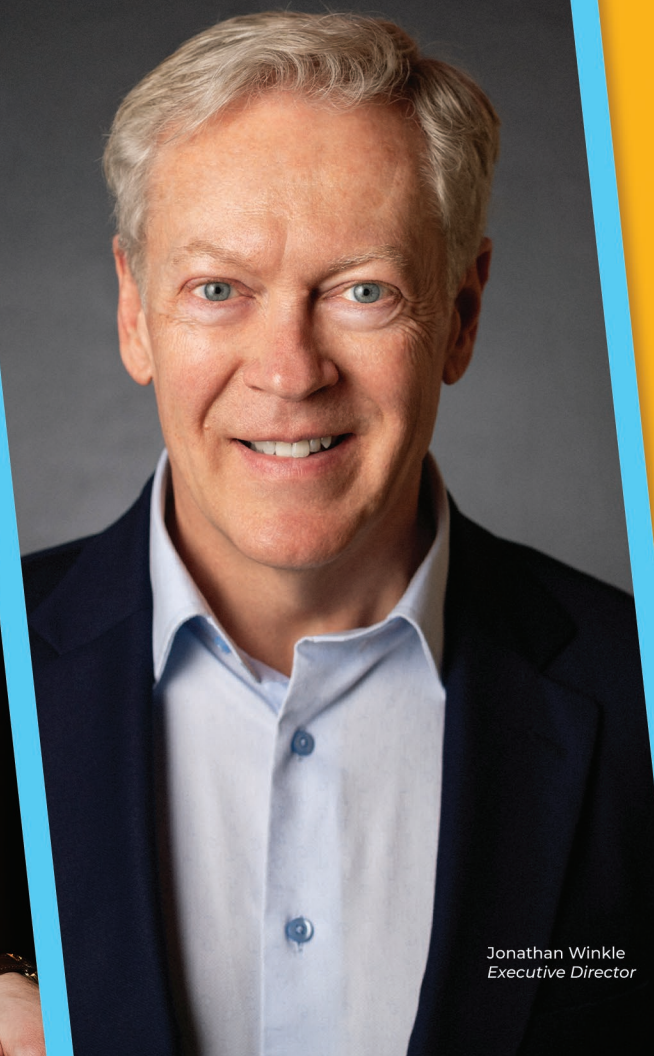
Ernesto Estigarribia Mussi, Music Director



Jonathan Winkle, Executive Director



Ernesto Estigarribia Mussi
Music Director



Jonathan Winkle
Executive Director

CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE LOFT

Up Close. Unforgettable.

Enjoy a thirty-minute concert featuring Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra musicians performing chamber music in a more intimate and casual setting with tasting flights and appetizers in the upper level Berkshire Loft of the Black Pig.

BOURBON & BITES

Explore Bourbon Cocktails with paired Appetizers
Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 5:30 PM

WINE & SWINE

Explore Wine Tasting with Pork inspired Appetizers
Thursday, October 29, 2026 | 5:30 PM

ISLAND VIBES

Explore the Caribbean Islands with bold flavors and spices with a variety of Tropical Cocktails and Appetizers
Thursday, January 21, 2027 | 5:30 PM



Epic

Featuring **ROMAN RABINOVICH**, piano

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 10, 2026 | 7:30 PM | STEFANIE H. WEILL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Score Jonathan Leshnoff

Jonathan Leshnoff is a GRAMMY-nominated composer known for his use of striking harmonic language and compelling melodies. *Score*, premiered in 2022, is a brief, ebullient piece that is ideally suited to serve as the season's opening music.

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58 Ludwig van Beethoven
Roman Rabinovich, piano

Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 was first performed by the composer in 1807. Its three movements are surprisingly different from one another - in particular the slow, second movement. Our guest artist is pianist Roman Rabinovich. Winner of the 2008 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, he has performed at such distinguished venues as Wigmore Hall, the Gewandhaus, Carnegie Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98 Johannes Brahms

The monumental fourth symphony composed by Johannes Brahms - his last - is one of the most remarkable works of music ever created. The inventiveness throughout all four movements feels and sounds so purely organic that it belies the skill and effort required to create it. One notable example in the final movement is the use of an eight-measure chaconne theme from one of Bach's cantatas and how it is altered 30 times!

Praised by The New York Times for his "uncommon sensitivity and feeling," Roman Rabinovich is an internationally acclaimed pianist known for performances that blend technical brilliance with bold artistic vision. Winner of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, he has appeared at leading venues including Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall, and with major orchestras across Europe and North America.

Roman Rabinovich

A photograph of a choir performing in a church. The choir members, of various ages and ethnicities, are dressed in black and are holding black music books. They are looking down at their books and singing. The background shows the wood-paneled walls of the church and a stained glass window on the right side.

Messiah

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 12, 2026 | 7:30 PM | STEFANIE H. WEILL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Messiah, HMV 56

George Frideric Handel

George Frideric Handel's oratorio *Messiah* is now considered one of the singularly most popular works of Classical music, but its premiere in April 1742 took place in Dublin, Ireland and had only a modest public reception. Many different iterations of how to perform this work have occurred throughout the 280-plus years since then, from re-orchestrations to having several hundred singers, to a return to more historically accurate performance practices. This is a large-scale work. The oratorio is comprised - in full - of three large parts, 16 scenes, and 53 smaller recitatives/movements. Its popularity, and mutability for how to approach its performance, are a testament to the greatness of this music and to Handel.

All-American

THURSDAY | JANUARY 14, 2027 | 7:30 PM | JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

American Solstice

Barbara Harbach

Persephone for 13 Players

James Stephenson

Appalachian Spring

Aaron Copland

In collaboration with the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, we are presenting a chamber orchestra in the Matrix featuring 13 of our musicians in a program of all American composers. Structured around Aaron Copland's now iconic score for the Martha Graham ballet *Appalachian Spring*, James Stephenson's 2023 work *Persephone for 13 Players* was, in fact, intended to be a companion piece. Rounding out this program is Barbara Harbach's 2006 piece *American Solstice* for *Chamber Ensemble*. Experiencing a smaller-scale orchestra in the intimate Matrix space at JMKAC is yet another way to come together with friends and family to hear great quality music.



**John Michael
Kohler Arts Center**



Passion

Featuring **JONATHAN LAABS**, director

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 21, 2027 | 3:00 PM | HOLY NAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saint John Passion Bob Chilcott

This concert is a special showcase for the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus and its Director Jonathan Laabs. Accompanied by eight instrumentalists, this 70-minute, 2013 work composed by Bob Chilcott, is a setting from the Gospel of Saint John, and an uplifting retelling of the Passion story.

Most often an orchestra chorus director's role is behind the scenes, preparing the choir over a period of weeks for a public concert where the orchestra's music director serves as conductor. For this concert, Dr. Jonathan Laabs will conduct. The Chorus will be joined by soloists Chelsea Betz, Jeremiah Cawley, and Joel Rathmann.

The architectural and spiritual beauty of Holy Name Catholic Church is the perfect venue to hear this music and experience the communal power of listening together.

Join us in what is sure to be a very special
musical experience filled with reflection
and emotion with our very own
**Director of the Sheboygan
Symphony Chorus,
Jonathan Laabs.**



Jonathan Laabs

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red strapless dress, is holding a violin and bow. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a vibrant, abstract painting with swirling colors of orange, red, yellow, and green.

Grace Park, violin

“... *performed*
with verve and
highly polished virtuosity.”

- *Boston Music Intelligencer*

Colony

Featuring **GRACE PARK**, violin

SATURDAY | MARCH 20, 2027 | 7:30 P.M. | STEFANIE H. WEILL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

There are two short, newer works on this program that are noteworthy. The first is *Spun* by Molly Herron. Herron has described her compositions “as a collision between old compositional ideas (such as those of Vivaldi and Haydn) and my contemporary ears.” This work was inspired by the poems of Jean Gallagher, who shares a similar artistic sensibility. The second is by Wisconsin-native Michael Torke. *Oracle* has a distinctly dignified character, but clearly highlights Torke’s inventiveness of instrument combinations and harmonies, eliciting a kaleidoscope of sonic colors.

The major works for this concert are the Sibelius Violin Concerto and Stravinsky’s *The Firebird Suite*.

The Sibelius concerto is by turns emotionally turbulent and ecstatic. The soloist must not only possess prodigious technical command of the instrument, but also must be able to simply and purely “sing” the soaring melodic lines. Our guest artist, Grace Park, is that very sort of musician, and we are indeed fortunate to have her joining us in Sheboygan.

Stravinsky’s score to the ballet *The Firebird* was originally composed for the 1910 season of the Ballet Russes, under the direction of Sergei Diaghilev. Its immediate success led to international fame for Stravinsky, and then two subsequent ballet productions, *Petrushka* and *Rite of Spring*. Music from all three ballets is now in the standard repertory for stand-alone orchestra concerts - and for very good reason. The music is emotionally dramatic, the orchestration brilliant in its use of the orchestra, and organized as a composition in strikingly different ways than the Germanic school. Stravinsky created three concert suites of the music from *The Firebird*. The 1919 version will be performed here. A new animated feature entitled *Frozen Forest* will accompany the orchestra’s performance.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Shaping Musicianship with Purpose and Precision

SHEBOYGAN SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

In the early 1980s, the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra and the Sheboygan Area School District partnered to form the Sheboygan Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra has a rich history of talented musicians, dedicated conductors, and tireless volunteers. Many of its former musicians have performed with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras, regionally and nationwide.

MASTER CLASSES

The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra invites internationally-renowned guest soloists to perform at its concerts, but these artists also teach. By invitation, students may perform for a guest artist-teacher in a master class setting, or observe these classes. These are invaluable opportunities to learn from true masters of their craft.



Link Up

- THE ORCHESTRA MOVES

TUESDAY | MARCH 16, 2027 | 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM | STEFANIE H. WEILL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sound travels, it moves. Music moves. Music is highly organized sound, and is temporal, moving through time and space slowly or quickly, from low frequency to high frequency, structured through myriad patterns. Composers create these organized sounds that stimulate us intellectually, move us emotionally, and even dance.

This program was designed by Carnegie Hall, and in partnership with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra, two concert performances at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts are dedicated to the region's fourth grade students, who will encounter the many facets of how music — and an orchestra — moves.

ONE OF THE MOST
MAGNIFICENT
WORKS IN THE
CLASSICAL
REPERTOIRE

I Am The Resurrection is a painting by Mike Moyers

Resurrection

SATURDAY | MAY 1, 2027 | 7:30 PM | STEFANIE H. WEILL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection" Gustav Mahler
soprano Laura Strickling, mezzo soprano Victoria Vargas
Sheboygan Symphony Chorus

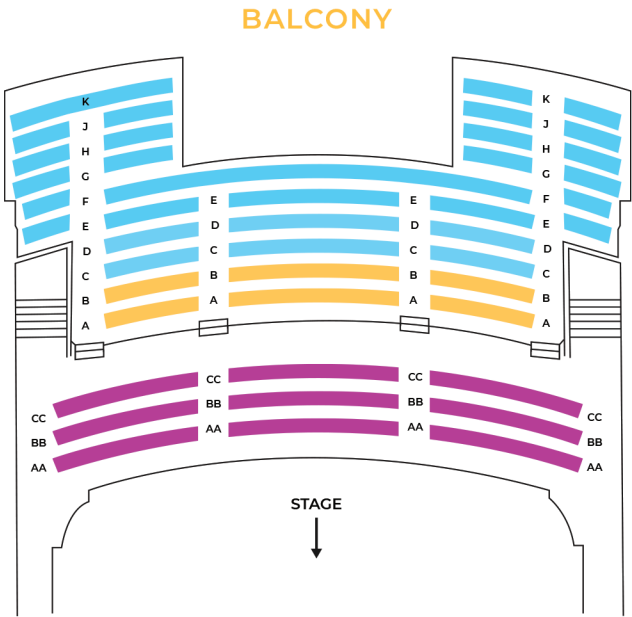
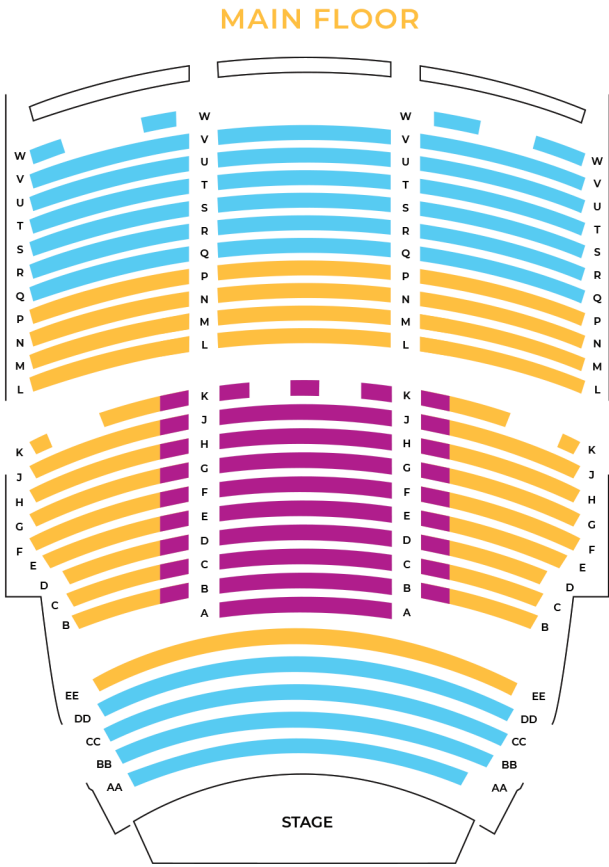
Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor, also known as the "Resurrection" symphony, is a gigantic work of five movements that explores life, death, and spiritual rebirth. The orchestra is enormous, requiring extended brass, woodwind, and percussion sections. Judiciously utilized are two vocal soloists and large chorus to sing text from Friedrich Klopstock's poem "Die Auferstehung" ("The Resurrection"). The final inspiration for Mahler was his presence at his friend and world-famous conductor Hans von Bülow's funeral where the Klopstock poem was recited.

As with much of Mahler's symphonic writing, the music vacillates between emotional states - sometimes wildly - and highly complex music contrasting with the simplest of folk songs. It is always a journey ... and one well worth taking.

Victoria Vargas

Laura Strickling

WEILL CENTER SEATING CHART



ROW COLOR	SECTION	SUBSCRIPTIONS (SAVE MORE THAN 20%)
	A	MASTERWORKS CONCERTS TIER A \$230
	B	MASTERWORKS CONCERTS TIER B \$135
	C	MASTERWORKS CONCERTS TIER C \$85

TICKETS

BE PART OF THE MUSIC

— *Your seat awaits.*

Subscriptions go on sale May 16 (*save more than 20-percent*) and must be purchased directly through the Weill Center ticket office via telephone **(920) 208-3243**, or in person at the **Weill Center 826 N 8th Street**. Office Hours **Tuesday - Friday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**.

Single tickets for Chamber Music at the Loft and “Passion” may be purchased by subscribers at the time of subscription purchase.

Single tickets for Masterworks concerts, Chamber Music at the Loft, or the special Chorus concert “Passion” at Holy Name Parish may be purchased online at sheboygansymphony.org/purchase-tickets, or Weill Center ticket office **(920) 208-3243**, or in person at the **Weill Center 826 N 8th Street**. Office Hours **Tuesday - Friday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**.

Single tickets for “All-American” at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center may be purchased directly through **JMKAC** at jmkac.ticketspice.com or **(920) 458-6144**.

SINGLE TICKETS	A	B	C
SEPT 10 CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE LOFT	\$75		
OCT 10 MASTERWORKS: EPIC	\$75	\$45	\$29
OCT 29 CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE LOFT	\$75		
DEC 12 MASTERWORKS: MESSIAH	\$75	\$45	\$29
JAN 14 ALL-AMERICAN - JMKAC	\$25		

SINGLE TICKETS	A	B	C
JAN 21 CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE LOFT	\$75		
FEB 21 PASSION - HOLY NAME PARISH	\$35		
MAR 20 MASTERWORKS: COLORS	\$75	\$45	\$29
MAY 1 MASTERWORKS: RESURRECTION	\$75	\$45	\$29

** Prices do not include additional fees and sales tax.*



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Sheboygan, WI 53081

Office Hours Tuesday - Friday,

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra

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DON'T JUST HEAR IT.
Feel It.